

## 32 The weather

### A Cold weather

In Scandinavia, the **chilly** (1) days of autumn soon change to the cold days of winter. The first **frosts** (2) arrive and the roads become icy. Rain becomes **sleet** (3) and then snow, at first turning to **slush** (4) in the streets, but soon **settling** (5), with severe **blizzards** (6) and **snowdrifts** (7) in the far north. Freezing weather often continues in the far north until May or even June, when the ground starts to **thaw** (8) and the ice **melts** (9) again.

(1) cold, but not very (2) thin white coat of ice on everything (3) rain and snow mixed (4) dirty, brownish, half-snow, half-water (5) staying as a white covering (6) snow blown by high winds (7) deep banks of snow against walls, etc. (8) change from hard, frozen state to normal (9) change from solid to liquid under heat

### B Warm/hot weather

close /kləʊs/ [warm and uncomfortable] **stifling** [hot, uncomfortable, you can hardly breathe] **humid** [hot and damp, makes you sweat a lot] **scorching** [very hot, often used in positive contexts] **boiling** [very hot, often used in negative contexts] **mild** [warm at a time when it is normally cold] *Note also:* We had a **heatwave** last month. [very hot, dry period]

### C Wet weather

This wet weather scale gets stronger from left to right.

**damp** → **drizzle** → **pour down / downpour** → **torrential rain** → **flood**

Autumn in London is usually **chilly** and **damp** with rain and **drizzle**.

It was absolutely **pouring down**. *or* There was a real **downpour**.

In the Tropics there is usually **torrential rain** most days, and the roads often get **flooded**.

*or* There are **floods** on the roads.

This rain won't last long; it's only a **shower**. [short duration]

The **storm** damaged several houses. [high winds and rain together]

We got very wet in the **thunderstorm**. [thunder and heavy rain]

**Hailstones** were battering the roof of our car. [small balls of ice falling from the sky].

*Note also* **hail** (uncountable).

The sky's a bit **overcast**; I think it's going to rain. [very cloudy]

We had a **drought** /draʊt/ last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

### D Mist and fog

Nouns and adjectives: **haze/hazy** [light mist, usually caused by heat] **mist/misty** [light fog, often on the sea, or caused by drizzle] **fog/foggy** [quite thick, associated with cold weather] **smog** [mixture of fog and pollution (smoke + fog)]

### E Wind

There was a gentle **breeze** on the beach, just enough to cool us.

There's a good **wind** today; fancy going sailing?

It's a very **blustery** day; the umbrella will just blow away.

There's been a **gale** warning; it would be crazy to go sailing.

People boarded up their windows when they heard there was a **hurricane** on the way.

32.1

32.2

32.3

32.4

32.5