

WEATHER

Important Terms

We should distinguish between the meanings of the terms weather and climate. These two terms are distinct, and are not interchangeable.

Weather is the environmental conditions that you experience each day. Weather is what you see when you look out your window! Climate is what you would expect to experience in your area at any given season or time of year.

If you step outside to find that it is windy, freezing cold, but there is beautiful, clear blue sky. These conditions that you describe are the weather. When you plan a trip to Barbados to escape the cold Canadian Winter, you are going south because the climate in Barbados during winter is generally considered to be much warmer, and much more pleasant! You are going south because of the environmental conditions you expect to experience. You are going south for the climate! **Climate** may be defined as the average conditions at any given time of the year, and is normally determined by calculating the mean condition taken over several years.

Weather Lore

Many people talk about the weather, and over the years a good deal of folklore, or weather lore has developed. Some is based on fact, some is just coincidence. Here's one to get you thinking:

Red sky at night, sailor's delight

Red sky at morning, sailors take warning!

Can you think of any others? Using the internet or even just talking with someone older can yield a number of these weather sayings. **Your job is to come up with at least 10 for the next class.**