

## Climate and Weather



What is the difference between climate and weather?

- A** Climate refers to long-term records, trends and averages; what one would expect the weather to be like. This is usually determined by examining weather conditions over a long period of time.
  
- A** Weather is the day-to-day experience of what is actually happening at a particular time.

### Talking about the weather

People in Ireland like talking about the weather because it changes a lot.

### Expressions people use

What's the weather like today?

It's a nice day, isn't it?

Is it going to rain today?

It's really warm/cold/rainy/cloudy today.

The weather was lovely/great/awful/terrible at the weekend.

### Ireland's climate

Ireland's climate is mild and varied. Ireland is in the path of the Atlantic Gulf Stream, and this, along with the prevailing Atlantic south - westerly winds, tends to moderate the climate. In summer, temperatures are rarely above 25° Celsius while in winter, temperatures are mostly above freezing point.

Rain is a major factor of the Irish climate and overcast conditions frequently prevail. It can rain at any time of year, although rainfall tends to be heavier in winter: March, April and May are the driest months. Heatwaves happen occasionally in summer, as do heavy falls of snow in the winter. The Irish weather is only predictable in its unpredictability.

<http://kildare.ie/touristguide/information/weather.asp>

## Reading

Read the text on Ireland's climate and answer the questions below

1. Ireland's climate is mild, what does this mean?
2. Is the temperature in summer often more than 25° Celsius?
3. Is the temperature in winter usually more than 1° Celsius?
4. Does it rain a lot in Ireland?
5. When does it not rain a lot?
6. What happens sometimes in summer?
7. Does it snow in the winter?

## Speaking

### What's the weather like in your country?

1. Is the weather in your country very different to the weather in Ireland?
2. Do you have 4 seasons...spring/summer/autumn/winter?
3. What's the weather like during each season?
4. What kind of natural disasters affect your country or region?

## Vocabulary

### Natural Disasters

Decide which words match the descriptions below

a flood      a hurricane      a volcano      an earthquake      a drought

- 1 A sudden strong shaking of the ground \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A word to describe too much rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A long time when there is not enough rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A mountain with a hole in the top where fire, gas and hot liquid rock sometimes come out. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A storm with very strong winds \_\_\_\_\_