

# READ THE CLOUDS

Use this cloud spotting guide below and look at the sky to tell whether it's going to rain or not.

## High clouds

Probably no rain today!

Cirrus

Cirrostratus

Cirrocumulus

## Mid-level clouds

It might rain in the next six to twelve hours.

Alto cumulus

The Sun is visible through mid-level clouds.

Altostratus

## Low clouds

Rain is here - or on its way.

Cumulus

The lower clouds are, the sooner the weather will change.

Cumulonimbus

Cumulus clouds grow taller into cumulonimbus clouds when it's stormy.

Stratus

Nimbostratus

Low clouds block out the Sun.

## Cloud shapes

Sometimes clouds have strange shapes that remind you of other things. What shapes can you see in these photographs?



Thornham, August 17



Sousse, July 5

You could keep your own log of the different clouds you see. Record where and when you spotted each one.



Aosta, September 23

"I spy with my little eye, a cloud shape beginning with 'h...'."

- If you're with friends when you spot a cloud that looks like something, you could challenge them to guess what.



Gdansk, September 15

Most cloud names come from five words in Latin. You can tell what their names mean if you remember these five words.

cirrus - curl  
stratus - layer  
alto - high  
cumulus - heap  
nimbus - cloud

So, for example, cirrocumulus means 'a heap of curls'.

## Odd clouds



lenticular clouds are sometimes mistaken for UFOs.



Mammatus clouds look lumpy and sometimes appear before storms.



Nacreous clouds have a pearly sheen.



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