

# THE FLATMATES

Language point:  
Weather vocabulary



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



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# BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

## The Flatmates – Weather vocabulary

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[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/2009/06/090623\\_fm\\_202\\_lp.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/2009/06/090623_fm_202_lp.shtml)

### Background

Here are some common expressions you can use to talk about **unpredictable weather**, as well as some **weather idioms**.

### Unpredictable weather

**sunshine one minute, rain the next**

weather that changes often - from warm to rainy

I never know what to wear in London in the summer. It's **sunshine one minute, rain the next** here. You have to be prepared for anything!

**changeable**

not consistent, often changing

I don't know if we should have a picnic next week or not. The weather's been so **changeable** recently. We just can't be sure we'll have nice enough weather to be outside.

**sunshine and showers**

a mixture of sunny weather and light rain

Bring your suntan lotion and your umbrella. The forecast is for **sunshine and showers**.

### Rain idioms

**come rain, come shine / come rain or shine**

it's predictable, whatever happens

I said I'd be there. **Come rain or shine** I will be. Trust me!

**it never rains but it pours**

when things go wrong, they go very badly wrong

Honestly, **it never rains but it pours!** First I woke up late, then I missed my train. Then, when I got to work, I realised someone had stolen my purse on the train!

**save / keep (money) for a rainy day**

save money for a time in the future when you might need it unexpectedly

Her parents always taught her to **save for a rainy day**. So when she was made redundant, at least she was OK financially.

### Thunder and lightening idioms

**steal someone's thunder**

do something to take success or praise away from someone else by focusing on what you've done, rather than what they've done

I was just about to tell everyone I was getting married, when Stella walked in and announced she was having twins! Talk about **stealing my thunder!**

**a face like thunder**

look very angry

She knew she was in trouble when the boss walked in with a **face like thunder**.

**like greased lightening**

very quickly

As soon as I asked for some help, she went out the door **like greased lightening**.

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### Cloud idioms

#### be under a cloud

not be trusted or popular because people think you have done something wrong  
Roger was accused of shoplifting once. When some money went missing in the office, he was **under a cloud** until they found the person who stole it.

#### be on cloud nine

be extremely happy and excited  
I've been on **cloud nine** for days. I can't believe I got the top job!

#### have your head in the clouds

be unrealistic or impractical  
She always has her head in the clouds, daydreaming about being a famous film star!

### Storm idioms

#### weather the storm

deal successfully with a difficult problem  
It'll be interesting to see which businesses manage to **weather the storm** of this economic crisis.

#### the calm before the storm

a quiet or peaceful period before a period during which there is a lot of activity or argument  
Whenever we have a party for the children, my husband and I like to have a moment to ourselves before all the kids arrive. That peaceful cup of coffee is **the calm before the storm**.

### Vocabulary:

#### unpredictable

likely to change suddenly and without reason

#### mate

(informal) friend

#### hand them up to me

give them to me

#### see

understand

#### get it

understand it

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