

Reading the Weather

Practical skills

Cloud types, pressure and the signs that precede a change.

Clouds are named by height and form. Their sequence is what forecasts.

Cloud	Height	Means
Cirrus	High, wispy	Change within 24 hours
Cirrostratus	High, veil	Rain in 12–24 hours
Altostratus	Mid, grey sheet	Rain approaching
Nimbostratus	Low, dark	Steady rain now
Cumulus	Low, puffy	Fair, if they stay small
Cumulonimbus	Towering anvil	Storm — take shelter
Stratus	Low, flat	Drizzle or fog

Falling pressure means unsettled weather coming; rising means settling.
The rate matters more than the number.