

wind

The movement of air relative to the surface of the earth.

breeze

A light wind.

leeward side

backing wind

A wind that changes its direction in a counter clockwise motion. For example, a northwest wind changing to a west wind.

hurricane

Intense storms with swirling winds up to 150 miles per hour, usually around 300 miles across, and 1,000-5,000 times larger than tornadoes. Known by different names around the world. In Japan they are typhoons, while Australians call them willy-willys.

Saffir-Simpson Scale

Beaufort Wind Scale

A system of estimating and reporting wind speeds.

land breeze

A breeze blowing toward the sea from the land, especially at night, because of the relative warmth of the sea.

sea breeze

<p>The drier side or the side where the trade winds pass after they hit a mountain.</p>	<p>A hurricane intensity scale that relates hurricane damage to wind speeds and central air pressures.</p>	<p>A breeze blowing toward the land from the sea, especially during the day because of the relative warmth of the land.</p>
<p><u>anemometer</u></p>	<p><u>Fujita Scale</u></p>	<p><u>shear</u></p>
<p>This device is used to measure wind speed.</p>	<p>The scale that measures the strength of tornadoes based upon wind speed.</p>	<p>A variation in the wind speed or direction over a short distance.</p>
<p><u>small craft advisory</u></p>	<p><u>tornado</u></p>	<p><u>trade winds</u></p>
<p>A type of warning issued by the National Weather Service, most frequently in coastal areas. Issued when winds have reached, or are expected to reach within 12 hours, a speed marginally less than that which is considered gale force, usually 25-38 mph.</p>	<p>Begins as a funnel cloud with spinning columns of air that drop down from a severe thunderstorm. Between 300 and 2,000 feet wide and travel at speeds of 20 to 45 miles per hour, usually only last a few minutes, but its spinning winds can lift houses into the air and rip trees from the ground.</p>	<p>Winds which blow from tropical high pressure belts toward the equatorial region of low pressure. In the Northern Hemisphere, the trade winds blow from the northeast.</p>

typhoon

The term for a hurricane in the western Pacific Ocean.

wind chill

What the temperature feels like on a cold day when the wind is taken into account.

veering wind

A wind that changes its direction in a clockwise motion. For example, a west wind changing to a northwest wind.

waterspout

A tornado occurring over water.

windward side

The wetter side.

sandstorm

A strong wind which carries sand through the air, and usually occurs in desert regions, often among sand dunes.

macroburst

microburst

dust devil

A large downdraft of air with an outflow diameter of 2.5 miles or greater and damaging winds lasting from 5 to 20 minutes. It may reach tornado intensity.

A small downdraft of air with an outflow diameter of less than 2.5 miles with the peak winds lasting from 2 to 5 minutes. This can affect a plane's performance.

Small whirlwinds of dust that form in dry areas like deserts. They may look like tornadoes, but are not formed by thunderstorms and do not drop from the sky.

jet stream

zonal flow

meridional flow

A strong high level wind found in the atmosphere that can reach speeds in excess of 200 mph, usually occurring 6 to 9 miles above the ground. These winds often steer the movement of surface air masses and weather systems.

When the winds in the upper levels of the atmosphere blow from coast to coast, in straight lines or with little or no deviation.

When the winds in the upper levels of the atmosphere blow from north to south, which usually creates a buckling effect in the jet stream.

subtropical ridge

Intertropical convergence zone

cyclone

Belt of atmospheric high pressure located around the latitudes of 30°N in the Northern Hemisphere and 30°S in the Southern Hemisphere. Characterized by calm winds.

Known by sailors as the doldrums, is the area encircling the earth near the equator where the northeast and southeast trade winds come together.

Large scale air mass that rotates around strong centers of low pressure, characterized by inward spiraling winds that rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

wind vane

gust

gale

A device that indicates from which direction the wind is blowing.

A sudden, brief increase in the speed of the wind followed by a lull.

Wind with speeds between 50 to 102 kilometers per hour.