



How to talk about the weather in French

KS4 FRENCH Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

Why weather matters in French

Weather is one of the first things people talk about when they meet. Whether you're in **France**, **Belgium**, or any French-speaking country, being able to describe the weather helps you start conversations and understand what's happening around you. Learning weather words in **French** is super useful for real-life situations like planning trips, chatting with pen pals, or understanding weather forecasts.

The key weather words you need

The most important phrase in French is "**Quel temps fait-il?**" which means "**What's the weather like?**" To answer, you use "**Il fait**" (it is) followed by the weather condition. For example:

"**Il fait beau**" means it's nice weather. "**Il fait mauvais**" means it's bad weather. "**Il fait chaud**" means it's hot, and "**Il fait froid**" means it's cold. "**Il fait du vent**" describes windy conditions.

Think of it like having a recipe for talking about weather — you always start with "**Il fait**" (the base ingredient) and then add the weather word (the flavour) to make it specific.

Rain, snow, and storms

Different weather needs different words. When it rains, you say "**Il pleut**" (it's raining). For snow, use "**Il neige**" (it's snowing). A thunderstorm is "**un orage**", and lightning is "**un éclair**". You might also hear "**nuageux**" for cloudy or "**ensoleillé**" for sunny.

Using weather in real sentences

Once you know the basic words, you can build full conversations. You could say "**Aujourd'hui, il fait froid et il pleut**" (Today, it's cold and raining). Or try "**Demain, il fera beau**" (Tomorrow, it will be nice). Notice how French changes the verb when talking about future weather — "**il fera**" instead of "**il fait**."

Think of weather verbs like shape-shifters — they change their form depending on whether you're talking about now, tomorrow, or yesterday.

Seasons and temperature

The **seasons** in French are **le printemps** (spring), **l'été** (summer), **l'automne** (autumn), and **l'hiver** (winter). Temperature is **la température**, and you might hear "**degrés Celsius**" used to measure it. Each season brings different weather patterns worth learning about.

Once you've mastered these basics, you'll be amazed how natural weather conversations become. Practice with French weather apps, watch French weather forecasts, or chat with French speakers about today's conditions!