

I'm not robot!

Weather is the day-to-day state of the atmosphere in a region and its short-term (minutes to weeks) variations, whereas climate is defined as statistical weather information that describes the variation of weather at a given place for a specified interval. They are both used interchangeably sometimes but differ in terms of the length of time they measure and what trends affect them. Weather is the combination of temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, visibility, and wind. In popular usage, climate represents the synthesis of weather; more formally, it is the weather of a locality averaged over some period (usually 30 years), plus statistics of weather extremes. In a 2012 survey, a majority of Americans blamed global warming (or "climate change") for erratic weather patterns in the country, especially heat waves.[1] The difference between weather and climate is a measure of time. Weather refers to the atmospheric conditions of a specific place over a short period of time, usually 24 hours. Climate refers to the average atmospheric conditions over relatively long periods of time, usually 30 years. In other words, when one talks about the climate, then they're talking about the pattern over a long term while when weather is referred to then the conditions of short term are being spoken of. Components of weather and climate There are several aspects to weather. Weather includes sunshine, rain, cloud cover, winds, hail, snow, sleet, freezing rain, flooding, blizzards, ice storms, thunderstorms, steady rains from a cold front or warm front, excessive heat, heat waves and more. Climate may include precipitation, temperature, humidity, sunshine, wind velocity, phenomena such as fog, frost, and hail storms over a long period of time. Changes in climate vs. weather Weather may change from minute-to-minute, hour-to-hour, day-to-day, and season-to-season. Climate, however, is the average of weather over time and space and changes in overall climate tend to be gradual. Forecast and Measurement Weather forecasts are made by collecting data that describe the current state of the atmosphere (particularly the temperature, humidity and wind) and using physically-based mathematical models to determine how the atmosphere is expected to change in the future. The chaotic nature of the atmosphere means that perfect forecasts are impossible, and that forecasts become less accurate as the range of the forecast increases. Climate is measured based on the weather statistics. A general period of 30 years is taken to forecast climate of an area as patterns over a period of time have to be observed. The standard classification of the earth's climatic zones is mainly based on the annual cycles of temperature and rainfall. The time frame makes it possible for weather forecasts to usually be easier and more accurate than forecasts about climate change. Human impact and changes on climate and weather There is extensive evidence that human activity such as agriculture and industry results in inadvertent weather modification. Acid rain, caused by industrial emission of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, adversely affects freshwater lakes, vegetation, and structures. Anthropogenic pollutants reduce air quality and visibility. The effects of inadvertent weather modification over the long term may pose serious threats to many aspects of civilization, including ecosystems, natural resources, food and fiber production, economic development, and human health. Climate change caused by human activities that emit greenhouse gases into the air is expected to affect the frequency of extreme weather events such as drought, extreme temperatures, flooding, high winds, global warming and severe storms. Global Warming is often euphemistically referred to as "Climate Change". Study of climate vs. study of weather Climatology is the study of climate, scientifically defined as weather conditions averaged over a period of time and is a branch of the atmospheric sciences. Meteorology (from Greek: *μετέωρον*, meteoron, "high in the sky"; and *λόγος*, logos, "knowledge") is the interdisciplinary scientific study of the atmosphere that focuses on weather processes and forecasting. References Share this comparison: If you read this far, you should follow us: "Climate vs Weather." Diffen.com. Diffen LLC, n.d. Web. 21 Jul 2022. < > "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get." This pithy quote by famed science fiction author Robert A. Heinlein (among earlier variations) nicely frames the basic difference between climate and weather: climate refers to average, long-term conditions, while weather refers to specific, short-term conditions. Of course, it's more complicated than that. We talk a lot about climate these days, especially in the context of climate change. The distinction between climate and weather can be especially confusing when extreme cold weather events like blizzards or record low temperatures are falsely presented as evidence that global warming isn't real. This is one of the reasons behind the shift toward use of the term climate change, which better reflects a situation that may seem counterintuitive—a change in climate involving an overall warming of the average temperature can lead to an increase in extreme weather events, including, in some cases, extreme cold weather. To shed some light on the confusion that clouds the complex relationship between weather and climate, we need to go into more detail. ⚡ Quick summary: Weather refers to short-term atmospheric conditions—the temperature and precipitation on a certain day, for example. Climate refers to the average atmospheric conditions that prevail in a given region over a long period of time—whether a place is generally cold and wet or hot and dry, for example. What does weather mean? Weather is "the state of the atmosphere with respect to wind, temperature, cloudiness, moisture, pressure, etc." So, in other words, weather is how the atmosphere is acting—Is it hot? Is it cold? Is it raining or super dry? Is the sun out or are there clouds? So, you might open up the weather forecast for the day and discover that it's going to be rainy and cold. Or you might say something like, We had some really hot weather yesterday. People love talking about the weather because it affects our lives each and every day. Meteorology is popularly defined as the study of weather, and the weatherperson who delivers the weather forecasts on your local TV station is often referred to as a meteorologist. But meteorology also includes the study of climate and the relationship between the two—you can't properly understand weather without understanding climate. What else does weather mean? As a verb, weather can mean to expose something to harsh conditions (such as by placing it outside, in the weather), often in order to change it in some way, as in We need to weather this leather to soften it. It can also mean to endure a storm or, more metaphorically, a negative or dangerous situation, as in We will simply have to weather the recession. Whether or not you know the many meanings of weather, you should definitely educate yourself on these extreme weather words. Where does the word weather come from? Weather comes from the Old English *weder*, which is related to words for weather in other Germanic languages. The word *weder* ultimately shares the same root with the word *wind*, so wind and weather come from the same source! What does climate mean? Climate is "the composite or generally prevailing weather conditions of a region, as temperature, air pressure, humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness, and winds, throughout the year, averaged over a series of years." This is generally understood to mean 30 years or more. In other words, climate involves the atmospheric conditions that prevail in general in a region, not just the atmospheric conditions messing with your commute today. A place could have a cold, rainy climate (like the United Kingdom), or a hot, sunny, dry climate (like Egypt). The UK could have hot, sunny weather for a stretch, but that wouldn't change the fact that its climate is overall usually pretty cold and rainy. Likewise, the weather in Egypt could occasionally be cold and rainy, but that doesn't change the fact that it has a hot and dry climate. Although climate classification systems vary, Earth's climates are often classified into five general types: tropical, dry, temperate, continental, and polar. Tropical climates are hot, humid, and extremely rainy. Examples: the Amazon rainforest, Thailand, Nigeria. Dry climates are desertlike, getting very little precipitation. Examples: Arizona, the Australian Outback, most of Saudi Arabia. Temperate climates have mild winters and hot, wet, and often stormy summers. Examples: a large part of the US (including much of the Southeast and Midwest), New Zealand, parts of China. Continental climates have warm or cool summers and cold (sometimes very cold) winters. Examples: some northern parts of the US, parts of Canada and Russia. Polar climates are cold all year around, and extremely cold in the winter. Examples: Antarctica, parts of Alaska, parts of Siberia. Of course, not every place on Earth will fit neatly into one of these categories—some locations have a climate that's specific to that place due to a number of unique factors. A person who studies the climate is called a climatologist. Instead of focusing on short-term weather patterns and forecasting, a climatologist is interested in weather patterns spanning long periods of time, often decades and longer. People sometimes try to point to a sequence of cold weather as proof that climate change isn't gradually affecting temperatures. But climatologists know that warming related to climate change occurs over many, many years, and involves the average temperature of a region. Climatologists study these slow, gradual changes—not the change in weather between one week and the next (though an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events can often be traced back to a changing climate). What else does climate mean? Metaphorically, climate can also mean the general (nonliteral) atmosphere or attitude of a place or situation, as in the phrase political climate. You might say something like, "The climate in the office worsened after the layoffs." A not-so-commonly used adjective form of climate is climatic, meaning "related to climate." Don't confuse it with climactic, which means "related to a climax." Take this moment to learn more about the differences between climatic and climactic! Where does the word climate come from? Climate entered the English language in the 1300s. It ultimately comes, via Latin, from the Greek *klima*, meaning "slope." This makes sense, since the "slope" or tilt of Earth contributes to different climate conditions at different latitudes. How to use weather vs. climate Ultimately, both weather and climate are about atmospheric conditions like temperature, precipitation, amount of sun, and other factors. But they differ in scale. Weather involves the atmospheric conditions and changes we experience in the short term, on a daily basis. Rain today, sun tomorrow, and snow next month—that's weather. Climate involves long-term, average atmospheric conditions in a particular place. Is the place where you live consistently rainy and cool? Is it always 72 degrees and sunny? That's climate. So, when you're making small talk about whether it's rainy or sunny that day, you're discussing the weather. If you're complaining that it's always way too hot where you live, all year round, you're discussing your regional climate. Changes to climate—even an average temperature rise of a few degrees—alter the weather patterns that we're accustomed to. These changes may be subtle in some places while producing more drastic effects elsewhere. But because climate shapes weather in complex ways, these changes might not always be the ones we expect. Global climate change is leading to overall average warmer temperatures, even in cold climates. This doesn't mean that winter weather in Minnesota will become mild overnight. In fact, blizzards may become more intense due to the fact that higher temperatures allow the atmosphere to hold more moisture, which eventually falls as precipitation—including snow, under the right conditions. More extreme and more frequent storms, floods, and droughts are some examples of weather events that are being fueled by a change in climate. Examples of weather and climate used in a sentence Check out some examples of how to use weather vs. climate below. This week's hot weather has brought people out to the pool in droves. I've always wanted to live in a place with a sunny climate! Although we live in a hot climate, a freak blizzard brought a couple of days of snowy weather. Our humid climate means we have damp, rainy weather most days.



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