

**Cirrus**

Cirrus show that there is a lot of wind high in the atmosphere which means that the weather is probably about to change. Often seen before a warm or occluded front.

**Cirro Cumulus**

Often called mackerel sky. Formed when the top of the troposphere is colder than what is underneath. Often found in the warm sector before a cold front arrives.

**Aeroplane contrails**

Aeroplane trails form when the upper air is very cold which makes the water in the gas coming from the engines condense and form cloud. Often seen in an anticyclone

**Cirro Stratus**

Cirrostratus is like cirrus but thicker and it tells us that the weather is about to change. Often seen towards the end of a ridge and before a warm or occluded front.

**Altostratus**

Forms when large areas of air are moving slowly upwards. Can be seen before a warm or occluded front.

**Stratocumulus**

Forms when the air high up is warmer than it might normally be. This happens during anticyclones. These clouds are responsible for anticyclonic gloom.

**Alto cumulus**

Forms when the air in the middle of the troposphere is much colder than the air below. Often seen in the warm sector before a cold front.

**Nimbostratus**

Formed when large areas of the troposphere are moving gradually upwards. This is the cloud which makes the rain in warm, occluded and cold fronts.

**Stratus**

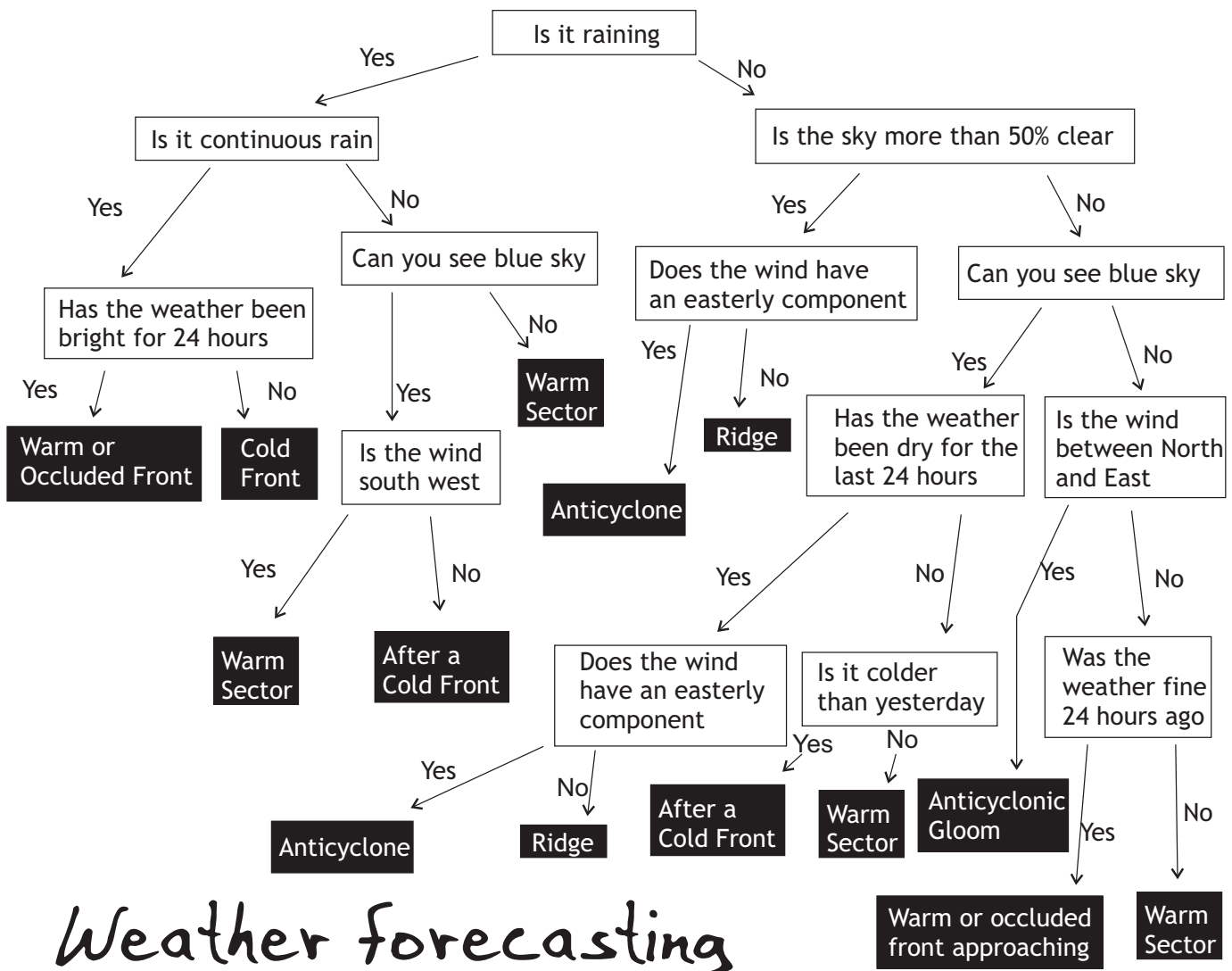
Formed when the air is very humid and often produces drizzle. Usually found in the warm sector.

**Cumulonimbus**

Formed when the surface of the Earth is much warmer than the air above it. Often found after a cold front, but also at the end of an anticyclone or ridge in the summer

**Cumulus**

Fair weather cloud. Found when there is a ridge of high pressure in the warm sector or near the coast during an anticyclone where they show that there is a sea breeze



# Weather forecasting

## Warm or Occluded Front

The rain will continue for a few hours before being replaced by a period of bright and breezy weather with the possibility of showers. The weather will continue to be unsettled for the next day or so

## Cold Front

The rain should soon clear. To be replaced by sunny, blustery colder conditions with fairly frequent and heavy rain showers. The outlook is for a spell of cold bright weather before rain comes in once again from the west

## After a Cold Front

The theme of occasional heavy showers will continue until the showers die away and the wind eases to make way for a spell of fine weather

## Warm Sector

Present weather will continue for a while until heavy rain and strong winds come in from the west this will clear after about six hours to be replaced by a spell of bright blustery and showery weather

## Anticyclone

The fine weather is set to continue for the foreseeable future bringing warm days and cool nights.

## Ridge

The fine weather is set to continue for the next day or so before the sky fills with high cloud which will thicken to give a prolonged period of heavy rain

## Warm or occluded front approaching

The layers of high cloud will thicken and it will begin to rain within the next few hours. The rain will last approximately eight hours before clearing to give a spell of brighter dryer weather

## Anticyclonic Gloom

The gloomy weather is likely to persist for the next few days. However some lucky areas may occasionally see the sun

