

L45 — Clouds and Weather Patterns

Read Aloud Passage

A cloud is made of tiny water droplets, ice crystals, or both, suspended in the atmosphere. Fog is a cloud sitting on the ground. There is invisible water vapor in the air all the time. A cloud forms when rising air cools and that water collects into droplets.

Most clouds mark a place where air is rising. The gaps between puffy clouds are where air is sinking. Rain happens when droplets bump and join until they are too heavy for the rising air to hold up.

Weather arrives rather than appears. Most of it comes from fronts, where one air mass shoves another upward.

Activity 1

Match each word from the word box to its definition. Write the word in the blank.

Word Box: *water vapor condensation cumulus stratus and cirrus air mass*

1. ____ — Water as an invisible gas mixed into the air. It is there even on a clear day, and you cannot see it.
2. ____ — Water vapor turning into liquid droplets. It happens when air cools, and it is what makes a cloud.
3. ____ — Puffy heaped clouds with flat bottoms and blue sky between them. The word means heap. They mark columns of rising air.
4. ____ — Stratus means layer: flat gray sheets covering the sky. Cirrus means curl of hair: thin wispy streaks very high up, made of ice.
5. ____ — A large region of air that has taken on the temperature and moisture of wherever it has been sitting, and then travels.

Activity 2

Each phrase below is a fragment, not a full sentence. Add what is missing to make a complete sentence.

1. *and you cannot see it*

2. *and it is what makes a cloud*

Activity 3

Combine the short sentences below into one smooth sentence.

1.

- Weather arrives rather than appears.
- Most clouds mark a place where air is rising.

Combined sentence:

2.

- There is invisible water vapor in the air all the time.
- A cloud is made of tiny water droplets, ice crystals, or both, suspended in the atmosphere.

Combined sentence:

Activity 4

Each sentence below is a run-on. Rewrite it correctly.

1. A cloud is made of tiny water droplets, ice crystals, or both, suspended in the atmosphere there is invisible water vapor in the air all the time.

Correction:

2. Most clouds mark a place where air is rising rain happens when droplets bump and join until they are too heavy for the rising air to hold up.

Correction:
