

Weather Expressions

Remember, an idiom is an expression that cannot be immediately understood by analyzing its literal meaning. A few examples of idioms in English are:

- to "drive someone crazy"
- to "lose it"
- to be "raining cats and dogs"

Spanish also has many idiomatic expressions. Although their literal translations sound odd to English speakers, they sound perfectly natural to native speakers. Here is one example:

- Idiom Hace mucho frío
- Literally It makes much cold
- True Meaning It is very cold

In Spanish, there are a number of idiomatic expressions that employ the verb hacer (literal meaning: to do or to make), and are used to describe the weather.

- ¿Qué tiempo hace? ... What's the weather like?
- Hace frío It's cold.
- Hace calor It's hot.
- Hace viento It's windy.
- Hace sol It's sunny.
- Hace buen tiempo The weather is good.
- Hace mal tiempo The weather is bad.
- Hace fresco It's brisk.

Like the idioms that use tener, these idioms also contain a noun.

- el frío
- el calor
- el viento
- el sol
- el tiempo

Because the idioms use nouns, they are modified by adjectives, not adverbs.

- Hace mucho frío It's very cold.

There are also weather expressions that use the verb hay:

- Hay niebla It's foggy.
- Hay neblina It's misty.
- Hay sol The sun is shining.
- Hay luna The moon is out.
- Hay relámpagos It's lightning.
- Hay humedad It's humid.
- Hay nubes It's cloudy.
- Hay lluvias torrenciales It's pouring.
- Hay un vendaval There's a windstorm.
- Hay granizo It's hailing.
- Hay lloviznas It's sprinkling.

Other weather expressions use the verb *estar* along with an adjective:

Está oscuro It's dark.
Está nublado It's cloudy.
Está lluvioso It's raining.

Other weather expressions simply use a single verb:

Llueve.

It is raining, or It rains.
From the verb **llover** (to rain)

Nieva.

It is snowing, or It snows.
From the verb **nevar** (to snow)

Truena.

It is thundering, or It thunders.
From the verb **tronar** (to thunder)

Llovizna.

It is drizzling, or It drizzles.
From the verb **lloviznar** (to drizzle)

Here are some common ways to ask about the weather:

¿Qué tiempo hace?
¿Qué clima hace?
¿Cómo está el clima en...?
¿Cómo está el tiempo?
¿Cómo está el clima hoy?

The first practice exercise and test will cover ten of the most common and useful of these expressions:

¿Qué tiempo hace?
Hace frío.
Hace calor.
Hace viento.
Hay niebla.
Hay granizo.
Hay relámpagos.
Llovizna.
Nieva.
Llueve.

Practice exercises 2–4 and test 2 will cover all of the expressions in this lesson.