



1. Cumulus

**LOW
CLOUDS**

1. Cumulus

FACTS:

- Low cloud level
- Fair-weather cloud
- Solid looking
- Cauliflower tops
- Flat bases
- Brilliant white on sunny side
- Shaded on the side that is away from the Sun
- Clumps are individual, not joined into a layer

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Always forms on a sunny day
- The best clouds for finding shapes
- In unsatable conditions, a tiny Cumulus can grow into huge storm cloud





2. Stratocumulus

**LOW
CLOUDS**

2. Stratocumulus

FACTS:

- Low cloud level
- Clumpy layer
- Joined-up or with gaps
- Variety of tones of grey
- Clumps larger than three fingers
- Scrappy in appearance
- Only light precipitation, but sometimes hides storm cloud

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Shades of grey from beneath, sun-lit mountains above (aircraft)
- Disorganised compared to higher clouds
- Sometimes hides storms





3. Stratus

**LOW
CLOUDS**

3. Stratus

FACTS:

- Low-level cloud layer
- Lowest of all clouds
- The sky skyscrapers scrape
- Tends to cover sky in grey
- Made of water droplets
- Called fog or mist at ground
- Can't see the Sun
- Usually no rain but maybe light drizzle or snow

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Makes sky feel very low
- Claustrophobic?
- The only cloud that comes down to visit us as fog
- When you are in fog, the world looks different





4. Altocumulus

**MID-LEVEL
CLOUDS**

4. Altocumulus

FACTS:

- Mid-level clumpy cloud layer
- Often like tray of bread rolls
- Most dramatic sunsets/rises
- Little cloud clumps are called 'cloudlets'
- More neat/orderly than Stratocumulus
- Can cover the whole sky
- Can form 'mackerel sky' when arranged in rows

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Clouds are chaotic, but these bring symmetry
- What makes a sunset or sunrise beautiful?
- 'Mackerel sky' can appear the day before storms





5. Altostratus

**MID-LEVEL
CLOUDS**

5. Altostratus

FACTS:

- Mid-level smooth cloud layer
- The 'boring cloud'
- Typical overcast sky
- Position of Sun is visible – as if through ground glass
- Sunlight does not typically cast shadows
- Can produce light rain or snow

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Not all clouds are fast changing or dramatic
- Even if it is considered unexciting by some, it can look beautiful at sunrise or sunset





6. Cirrus

**HIGH
CLOUDS**

6. Cirrus

FACTS:

- High-level cloud
- Named after Latin for a 'lock' or 'curl' of hair
- Translucent streaks, like long hair flowing underwater
- Made of falling ice crystals
- Highest of the ten main cloud types
- Fastest-moving, but appears graceful due to its distance

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Sometimes people look calm on the outside even though they're moving fast on the inside
- Like the strokes of an artist's paintbrush





7. Cirrocumulus

**HIGH
CLOUDS**

7. Cirrocumulus

FACTS:

- High clumpy cloud layer
- Like tiny grains of salt
- Clumps smaller than width of a finger held at arm's length
- Usually in patches rather than whole sky
- Rarest of the 10 main types
- Short-lived, as changes to Cirrus or Cirrostratus

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- This cloud is rare because it doesn't last long
- Which feelings hang around a long time, and which soon pass?





8. Cirrostratus

**HIGH
CLOUDS**

8. Cirrostratus

FACTS:

- High-level cloud layer
- The most subtle, understated of ten main cloud types
- Often, just a milky whitening of the blue
- Made of ice crystals
- Sun appears very bright (too bright to look at)
- Sun casts shadows

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- Not all feelings are loud and obvious
- This cloud can form before weather changes
- What are the subtle signs of someone's mood?





9. Nimbostratus

**MULTI-LEVEL
CLOUDS**

9. Nimbostratus

FACTS:

- Multi-level cloud layer
- Dark, overcast sky, which is completely featureless
- Precipitating cloud ('Nimbo-')
- Rain/snow is slow to arrive, slow to leave, continuous
- Thick, wet blanket that covers the whole sky
- No direct sunlight so doesn't form rainbows

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- The cloud that gives the others a bad name
- Bad moods aren't always like a big, loud storm
- Positive: rain is steady and so soaks into ground





10. Cumulonimbus

**MULTI-LEVEL
CLOUDS**

10. Cumulonimbus

FACTS:

- Multi-level clumpy cloud
- The storm cloud: sometimes thunder, lightning, hail
- The Queen/King of Clouds
- Produces heavy and brief showers ('-nimbus')
- Tallest cloud: from low, dark base to high, wispy canopy
- Like mushroom from afar. Dark, overcast from below

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION OF FEELINGS:

- When feelings seem huge and overpowering
- Like Nimbostratus from beneath, but makes showers: some people show feelings by actions not words

