

Weather Forecasts

Here in sunny moderate southern California, we sometimes forget that the rest of the country has winter weather. Rather than the snow storms of the east, the most we usually experience is some rain showers. Nonetheless, language about wet, cold, and stormy weather has taken on broader and more common meanings and become a part of our everyday idiomatic language. So you aren't *left out in the cold* not knowing *which way the wind blows*, button up your overcoat, and enjoy this short story while reviewing your weather idioms.

Every year many *dewy eyed, wet behind the ears* young people with their *heads in the clouds*, come to California to take Hollywood by storm. Once here they may make many *wishy-washy, fair weather friends* whose compliments *drown out* any personal doubts. However as the stars-to-be often *cool their heels* at interviews or *get the cold shoulder* at parties, they find out that the world is not *as right as rain*, but actually *when it rains, it pours*. The promises of stardom begin to *give them cold feet*. After a while some of the star wannabes feel *washed up*, and then they begin to look for *any port in a storm*. Yet others refuse to let dashed hopes *rain on their parades*; they know that will keep their *heads above water*. Perhaps they will succeed, perhaps not, but even as they keep *walking on thin ice*, their refusal to *throw in the towel* is certainly admirable.

- To be out in the cold means to be left out of something.

- To know which way the wind blows means to have needed information to make a decision.
- To be dewy eyed means to be naïve or childlike.
- To be wet behind the ears means to be naïve or inexperienced.
- To have one's head in the clouds means to think unrealistic thoughts.
- To take Hollywood by storm means to be suddenly successful.
- To be wishy-washy means to change one's mind often.
- Fair weather friends are only friends during the good times.
- To drown out means to stop.
- To cool one's heels means to be forced to wait.
- To get the cold shoulder means others are unfriendly for no obvious reason.
- To be right as rain means to feel good about something.
- When it rains, it pours means when one bad thing happens, others will soon follow.
- To get cold feet means to get discouraged and letdown.
- To feel washed up means to feel discouraged or defeated.
- To look for any port in a storm means to take any help that is offered even if the source is undesirable.
- To rain on the parade means to ruins one's plans.
- To keep one's head above water means to have enough resources to be sufficient.

- To walk on thin ice means to take risks where failure often seems imminent.
- To throw in the towel means to admit defeat.