



Guess the wind speed.

Have you ever noticed how a gentle breeze can make an otherwise unbearably hot day almost pleasant? Or how a brisk wind in winter will send you scurrying for cover?

Wind velocity is measured on a scale of 0 to 12, known as the Beaufort scale. It is named for Sir Francis

Beaufort, an English rear admiral who devised this method of determining wind speed in the early 1800s. (We have since added the figures in miles per hour.) The box on this page offers the visual clues to look for to determine the wind's speed. Can you guess how fast the wind is blowing today?

Blow ye winds, blow!



Calm
Smoke rises
0 mph



Light air
Smoke drifts
1-3 mph



Slight breeze
Leaves rustle; vanes move
4-7 mph



Gentle breeze
Leaves and twigs move
8-12 mph



Moderate breeze
Branches move; flags flap
13-18 mph



Fresh breeze
Small trees sway; white caps on water
19-24 mph



Strong breeze
Large branches move; flags beat
25-31 mph



Moderate gale
Whole trees move; flags extend
32-38 mph



Fresh gale
Twigs break; walking is difficult
39-46 mph



Strong gale
Signs, antennas blow down
47-54 mph



Whole gale
Trees uproot
55-63 mph



Storm
Much general damage
64-72 mph



Hurricane
Wide-spread destruction
72+ mph