

Cloud Nine

Definition: Extreme happiness, bliss, or euphoria.

Background: Credited originally to the 1896 *International Cloud Atlas*, the most likely basis for the idiom *cloud nine* is from various classifications of clouds. The cumulonimbus, a big, beautiful fluffy cloud, often reaches 40,000 feet in the sky and is classified or rated as level “9.” Clouds are often associated with heaven and angels, a natural connection with extreme happiness.

For example: Jefferson was on cloud nine when he learned of his college acceptance.

Chewing the Fat: A common expression is: *Every cloud has a silver lining*. What do you think this means? Give an example from your life experience.

The Proof Is in the Pudding:

- If you could create a new type of cloud, what would it look like? Keeping in mind all cloud types indicate certain kinds of weather and are given a Latin name, what weather would your cloud indicate and what would you name it? Draw your creation and write a brief description about it.
- Formulate a list of as many synonyms for “happiness” as possible. Make a mobile with a large cloud at its apex from which you dangle smaller clouds with a synonym written on each. Display your work.

Related Idioms for Further Inquiry:

- Dressed to the nines
- Whole nine yards
- Nine lives (cats)
- Nine day wonder