AMERICAN ENGLISH · FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS · LEVEL A1 CORE GUIDE

Seasons of the Year & Weather

Essential vocabulary, American English usage (*Fall* vs. *Autumn*), phonetic sound guides, and core sentence formulas.

SEASONS PREPOSITION	DUMMY SUBJECT
IN (the) ...	**IT IS / IT'S**

1 The 4 Seasons of the Year

Preposition: **IN** or **IN THE**

SEASON	US STANDARD TERM	PHONETIC SOUND (SPANISH BASE)	PRONUNCIATION TIPS & TRAPS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
Spring	Spring	SPRING	**No "E" sound at the start:** Do NOT say *espring*. Start with a direct hissing *ssss* sound: *sss-pring*.	*"Flowers bloom in the spring."*
Summer	Summer	SA-mer	The **u** is an open, relaxed vowel /ʌ/ (like in *sun*), never a closed Spanish *su*.	*"It is very hot in the summer."*
Fall	**Fall** (US Standard)	FAHL	Americans say **Fall** (from "falling leaves"). *Autumn* is formal. Pronounce like open *fahl*.	*"School starts in the fall."*
Winter	Winter	WIN-ter	Initial **W** rounds lips like Spanish *hu* in *hueso*. In natural US speech, the *t* softens (*win-ner*).	*"It snows a lot in the winter."*

2 Weather Vocabulary: Noun → Adjective (+Y Rule)

Add **-y** to form adjectives

CONDITION	NOUN	ADJECTIVE	PHONETIC SOUND & TRAPS	MODEL SENTENCE
Sun	sun	sunny	SA-ni	*"It is a bright, sunny day."*
Cloud	cloud	cloudy	CLAU-di	*"The sky is cloudy this afternoon."*
Rain	rain	rainy	REI-ni	*"Bring an umbrella; it's rainy."*
Wind	wind	windy	WIN-di	*"It is very windy in Chicago today."*

CONDITION	NOUN	ADJECTIVE	PHONETIC SOUND & TRAPS	MODEL SENTENCE
❄ **Snow**	snow	snowy	SNOU-i • No "E": hiss *sss-nowy*.	*"December in Colorado is snowy."*
Fog	fog	foggy	FAH-gi	*"Drive slowly; it's foggy outside."*
⚡ **Storm**	storm	stormy	STOR-mi • No "E": say *sss-tormy*.	*"The weekend will be stormy."*

3 Temperature Scale (°F vs. °C)

US uses Fahrenheit

Hot	Warm	Cool	Cold	Freezing
HAHT	WORM	KOOL	KOHLD	FREE-zing
85°F — 100°F+	68°F — 80°F	50°F — 65°F	33°F — 48°F	32°F or below
30°C — 38°C+	20°C — 26°C	10°C — 18°C	1°C — 9°C	0°C or below

American Culture Tip: In the US, weather forecasts always use Fahrenheit: **70°F** is pleasant room temperature, **32°F** is freezing point (water turns to ice), and **90°F** is beach weather.

4 Exam Pitfalls & Traps for Spanish Speakers

TRAP 1: NEVER DROP "IT"!

#1 Mistake

In Spanish: *"hace calor"* o *"está nublado"* (no subject). In English, you **MUST** use the dummy subject **IT** + verb *to be*:

✓ It is hot today. / It's cloudy.

~~✗ Makes heat today. / Is cloudy.~~

TRAP 2: "I AM COLD" VS. "I HAVE A COLD"

Vocabulary Trap

In Spanish, you say *"tengo frío"* with the verb tener. In English, use the verb **TO BE** for bodily sensations:

✓ I am cold: Tengo frío (sensación física).

★ I have a cold: Tengo un resfriado (enfermedad).

TRAP 3: DESCRIBING ONGOING WEATHER (-ING)

Action verbs

For precipitation happening right now, use the continuous form:

It is raining.	It is snowing.
Está lloviendo.	Está nevando.

TRAP 4: S-CLUSTERS (NO "E" SOUND!)

Phonetic Rule

Spanish words never begin with *s + consonant*, so Spanish speakers instinctively add an "E". In English, start with pure friction:

ssss-now	ssss-pring	ssss-tormy
Not "es-now"	Not "es-pring"	Not "es-tormy"