


The Beaufort Scale

"Over thousands of years sailors have learnt to estimate the speed of the wind just by looking about. This technique matured into what we now call the Beaufort scale. The universe tells you everything you need to know about it as long as you are prepared to watch, to listen, to smell, in short to observe"


.....Howtoons 2006

FORCE 0	SPEED 0 Knots 0 mph 0 km/h	SEA Sea like a mirror
		LAND Smoke rises vertically



"Calm"

FORCE 1	SPEED 1-3 Knots 1-3 mph 1-6 km/h	SEA Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests
		LAND Direction of wind shown by smoke but not by wind vanes




"Light Air"

FORCE 2	SPEED 4-6 Knots 4-7 mph 7-11 km/h	SEA Small wavelets. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break
		LAND Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind




"Light Breeze"

FORCE 3	SPEED 7-10 Knots 8-12 mph 12-19 km/h	SEA Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance.
		LAND Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag



"Gentle Breeze"

FORCE 4	SPEED 11-16 Knots 13-18 mph 20-29 km/h	SEA Small waves, becoming longer, fairly frequent white horses
		LAND Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved




"Moderate Breeze"

FORCE 5	SPEED 17-21 Knots 19-24 mph 30-39 km/h	SEA Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed.
		LAND Small trees in leaf begin to sway; wavelets form on inland waters




"Fresh Breeze"

FORCE 6	SPEED 22-27 Knots 25-31 mph 40-50 km/h	SEA Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere.
		LAND Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas use difficult.




"Strong Breeze"

FORCE 7	SPEED 28-33 Knots 32-38 mph 51-62 km/h	SEA Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves starts to blow in streaks with wind.
		LAND Whole trees in motion; umbrellas discarded; inconvenience felt when walking




"Near Gale"

FORCE 8	SPEED 34-40 Knots 39-46 mph 63-75 km/h	SEA Moderate high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift.
		LAND Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress



"Gale"

FORCE 9	SPEED 41-47 Knots 47-54 mph 76-87 km/h	SEA High waves. Crests of waves begin to tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility
		LAND Slight structural damage occurs; chimney pots and slates removed




"Strong Gale"

FORCE 10	SPEED 48-55 Knots 55-63 mph 88-102 km/h	SEA Very high waves. Surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. Visibility affected
		LAND Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs



"Storm"

FORCE 11	SPEED 56-63 Knots 64-72 mph 103-117 km/h	SEA Exceptionally high waves. The sea is covered with long white patches of foam.
		LAND Very rarely experienced on land; accompanied by widespread damage.



"Violent storm"

FORCE 12	SPEED over 63 Knots over 72 mph over 117 km/h	SEA Huge waves; air is filled with foam and spray. Sea white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected
		LAND Countryside is devastated



"Hurricane"