

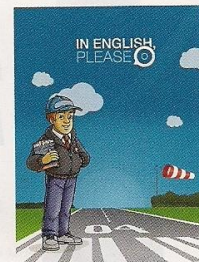
IN ENGLISH, PLEASE



L'anglais pour voler
disponible sur



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IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ADVENT OF SPRING BUT NOBODY TOLD THE WEATHER MAN

What is spring, exactly? The first answer that comes to mind is that spring is the transition season between winter and summer. It begins on the vernal, or spring, equinox - from the latin «equi» meaning «equal» and «nox» meaning «night» - when the length of day and night is nearly equal. It ends with the summer solstice, around June 21st. The vernal equinox this year in the Northern Hemisphere was on Tuesday, March 20th at 16:15 UTC. This definition corresponds to the astronomical spring. There are others, such as the meteorological spring, which starts on March 1st and lasts through March, April and May. In some countries, for example Finland, seasons are defined by daily mean temperatures and their lengths vary greatly from north to south and from year to year. Also, keep in mind that in the Southern Hemisphere the seasons are reversed.

Below is the transcript of some ATIS and VOLMET extracts recorded around the 20th of March, the first day of this year's astronomical spring. Listen to the audio version on www.anglais-pour-voler.com and fill in the blanks. For practice, some numbers have been deleted as well. One dash is a word or a number.

ATIS

surface wind 0-9-0; 1-8 (- 1) 2-8 knots
visibility (- 2) meters
(- - 3) of snow
scattered (- - 4) (- 5) feet; broken (- 6) feet;
overcast (- 7) feet
temperature (- 8) 1; dewpoint (- 9) 3

(- 10) Bravo 5 on 1-9L closed
(- 11) on final
met report
runway 1-9R wind 2-0-0 degrees 5 knots
runway 1-9L wind 2-0-0 degrees 6 knots
(- 12)
temperature (- 9) 1-5; dewpoint (- 9) 1-9
QNH 1-0-1-4
(- 13)
(- 14) information Hotel on first contact

VOLMET

wind 0-7-0 degrees 1-9 knots (- 1) 3-2, (- 15)
between 0-4-0 and 1-1-0 degrees
visibility (- 16) meters
(- 17) snow, (- 18) snow
clouds scattered at (- 19) feet, overcast at (- 6)
feet
temperature (- 9) 4; dewpoint (- 9) 6
(- 20) visibility (- 21) meters, snow, clouds
broken at (- 22) feet

Automated weather observations

automated weather information 0-9-1-1 Zoulou
wind 3-6-0 at 0-7
visibility 3 (- 23)
(- 17) snow, (- 24)
sky condition: (- 25) visibility (- 26)

wind 0-2-0 at 0-9
visibility 3
(- 17) (- - 27), (- 24)
Sky condition: broken (- 26), broken (- 28),
broken (- 6), overcast (- 29)
temperature (- 9) 0-1 celsius; dewpoint (- 9)
0-1 celsius

wind 0-1-0 at 0-9
visibility 3
(- - 30), (- 24)
sky condition: overcast (- 26)
temperature (- 9) 0-1 celsius; dewpoint (- 9)
0-2 celsius
altimeter 2-9-6-4
(- 31) (- - 32) information (- - 33)

wind (- 34)
visibility 1 (- 35)
(- - 36)
sky condition: (- 25) visibility (- 37)
temperature (- 9) 0-4 celsius; dewpoint (- 9)
0-6 celsius

Runway surface condition

runway surface condition: runway 0-6/2-4
90% bare and (- 38), 10% bare and dry
(- 39)
runway 0-6
touchdown (- 40) 2 mm, braking action (- 41)
good
midpoint (- 40) 2 mm, braking action (- 41)
good
stop end (- - 42) 2mm, braking action (- 41)
good

runway 2-4R: (- 43) feet 5% (- - 44); 95% bare
and dry
(- 45) 50% (- - 46), 0 decimal 2-5 inches; 50%
bare and dry
runway 2-4L: (- 47) feet 5% (- 48); 95% bare
and dry
(- 45) 30% (- 48); 70% bare and dry

ANSWERS 1 - GUSTING; 2 - 4000; 3 - SLIGHT SHOWERS; 4 - TOWERING CUMULUS; 5 - 600; 6 - 1400; 7 - 2400; 8 - PLUS; 9 - MINUS; 10 - EXIT; 11 - TAILWIND; 12 - CAIRO; 13 - NOSIG;
14 - ACKNOWLEDGE; 15 - VARIABLE; 16 - 3500; 17 - LIGHT; 18 - LOW DRIFTING; 19 - 800; 20 - TEMPORARILY; 21 - 21 - 2500; 22 - 400; 23 - QUARTERS; 24 - MIST; 25 - VERTICAL; 26 - 700;
27 - FREEZING DRIZZLE; 28 - 1200; 29 - 2000; 30 - UNKNOWN PRECIPITATION; 31 - REMARKS; 32 - FREEZING RAIN; 33 - NOT AVAILABLE; 34 - CALM; 35 - QUARTER; 36 - FREEZING FOG; 37 - 100;
38 - DAMP; 39 - SANDED; 40 - SLUSH; 41 - ESTIMATED; 42 - WET SNOW; 43 - 180; 44 - ICE PATCHES; 45 - REMAINING; 46 - DRY SNOW; 47 - 170; 48 - ICE