

Every cloud is made up of millions of tiny droplets of either water or particles of ice floating together in the air. The air always contains a certain amount of water vapour (that is, water in the form of gas), which is invisible. The amount of water vapour that air can contain depends on the air's temperature; the cooler the air, the less water it can hold.

When air cools, some of the water vapour will eventually condense; that is, it will form tiny, visible water droplets. If these are on the ground we call them dew, if near the ground we call them fog or mist, and if they are up in the sky we call them clouds. When the water droplets are first reduced, they measure only a fiftieth of a millimetre across and are light enough to float in air. If the air goes on cooling, the drops get bigger and may fall as rain.

When air rises it cools, so when warm, moist air is forced to rise, clouds are likely to form. Mountains cause air to rise and thus mountainous lands are often cloudy. Air may also be forced upwards through intense heating of the land or by the meeting of two masses of air, one cold and the other warm and moist. The warm air rises up over the cold air, causing it to cool and clouds to form. Once clouds have formed, they will remain until the air is warmed or rain falls.

866. The amount of water vapour that air can hold depends on .....
- ① tiny droplets
  - ② vapour's temperature
  - ③ temperature of the air
  - ④ particles of ice in the vapour
867. According to the passage, very small visible water drops on the ground are called .....
- ① dew
  - ② fog
  - ③ rain
  - ④ cloud
868. Which statement about clouds is NOT true?
- ① Once clouds have formed, they will remain until the air is warmed and rain falls.
  - ② When air rises, it cools, so when warm, moist air is forced to rise, clouds are likely to form.
  - ③ When the air goes on cooling, water drops get bigger and may fall as rain.
  - ④ When warm air rises up over the cold air, it gets warmer and clouds are formed.
869. According to the reading, mountainous areas are often cloudy because in these places .....
- ① warm air rises up over the cold air
  - ② two masses of warm air meet
  - ③ they are usually on the way of rain carrying winds
  - ④ water droplets are of enough weight for cloud formation