UP English Center

Name: _____

Class: _____

1. Read the text carefully and do the tasks.

The expression "on cloud nine" means very happy. For example, someone might say, "I passed my exam – I'm on cloud nine!" But where does this expression come from?

One common explanation is that the phrase comes from an old system for putting clouds into groups. According to Oxford's Dictionary of Idioms, clouds were once divided into ten groups, and number nine was one of the highest. Because it was so high in the sky, "cloud nine" became a way to show extreme happiness. An older version of the phrase was "on cloud seven", which also meant feeling very happy.

Another explanation comes from the US Weather Bureau in the 20th century. In this system, clouds were divided into groups, and each group had nine types. The ninth type was the highest cloud, so being "on cloud nine" meant feeling on top of the world or very relaxed and happy.

However, not everyone agrees with these explanations. Some language experts say that the origin of the phrase is not clear. They explain that early versions of the expression appeared in the 1930s, such as "on cloud eight", and these were sometimes used to describe people who were drunk. Later, jazz singers helped make the phrase popular as a way to describe feeling "high", either emotionally or because of alcohol.

Another possible reason comes from an American radio program in the 1950s called Johnny Dollar. In the show, a character was often hit and became unconscious, and people said he went to "cloud nine" while he was recovering. This may be one reason why the number nine stayed in the expression.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Over time, the meaning became clearer and more positive. By the 1960s, American dictionaries explained "on cloud nine" as completely happy. Today, the phrase is very common and is used to describe people who feel extremely happy

Task 1: Decide whether each statement is True (T) or False (F) according to the text.

1. The expression "on cloud nine" is used to describe a feeling of great happiness. _____
2. The phrase originally came from a modern cloud classification system used today. _____
3. In the past, people also used the expression "on cloud seven" to talk about happiness. _____
4. According to the US Weather Bureau, cloud number nine was the lowest type of cloud. _____
5. Some language experts are not completely sure about the origin of the phrase. _____
6. In the 1930s, the expression was sometimes connected to being drunk. _____
7. Jazz singers invented the phrase "on cloud nine". _____
8. The radio program Johnny Dollar helped make the number nine more popular in the expression. _____
9. By the 1960s, dictionaries clearly defined "on cloud nine" as being very happy. _____
10. Today, the phrase is mostly used to talk about weather and clouds. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2: Choose the **most accurate title** for the text.

A. Why Clouds Are Important

B. Different Meanings of "Cloud"

C. How "On Cloud Nine" Became Popular

D. Weather and Happiness

2. Match the words with their definitions.

POSITIVE	feeling bad or not hopeful
MISERABLE	very surprised (in a good way)
SATISFIED	Happy because something is good enough
AMAZED	feeling happy or good about something
ANNOYED	very sad and unhappy
NEGATIVE	A little angry or irritated

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Write about a time when you were "on cloud nine" in an unexpected or unusual situation. (More than 250 words)

In your writing, make sure you:

1. Say when and where it happened.
2. Describe what surprising or unusual event made you so happy.
3. Explain how you reacted or what you did.
4. End with how it made you feel afterwards.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS