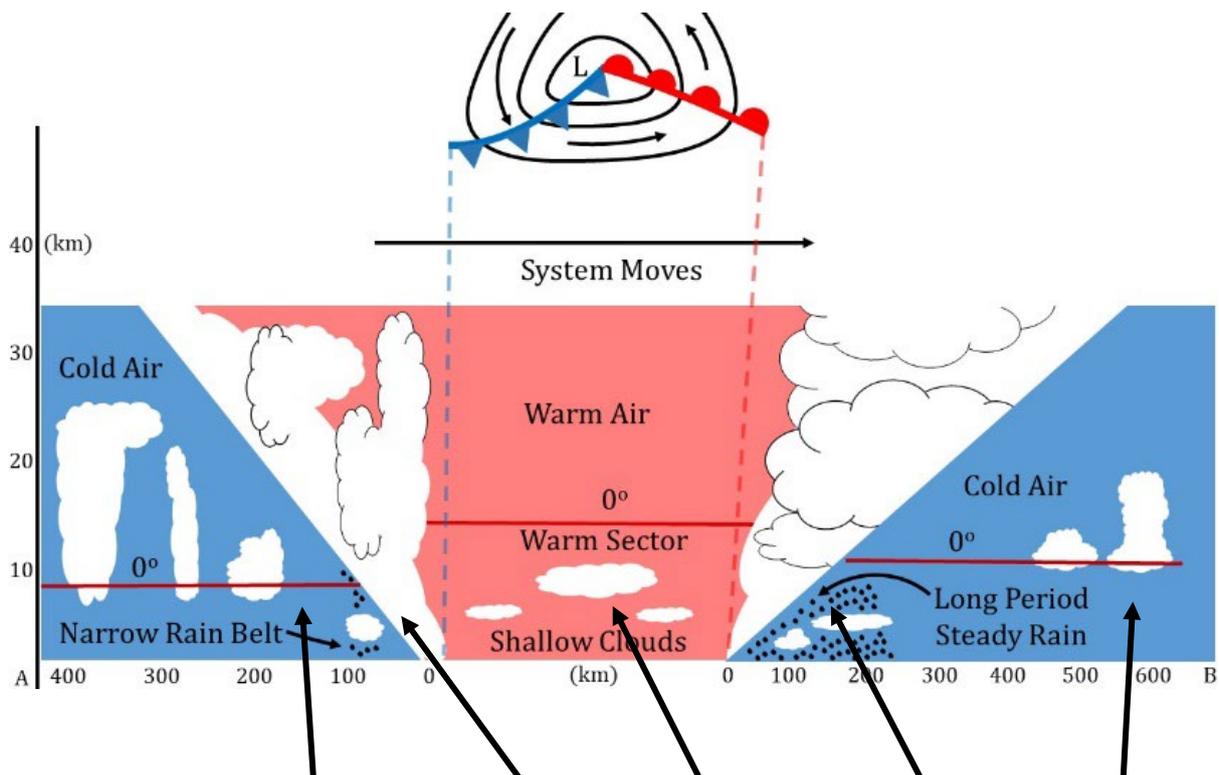


Passage of a depression

Most depression have a warm and cold front – this diagram shows a cross-section through a depression, showing the associated fronts and an indication of the associated weather.



	Cold sector	Passage of the cold front	Warm sector	Passage of the warm front	Ahead of the warm front
Pressure	Continues to rise	Starts to rise	Steadies	Continues to fall	Starts to fall steadily
Temperature	Remains cold	Sudden drop	Quite mild	Continues to rise	Quite cold, starts to rise
Cloud cover	Clouds thin with some cumulus	Clouds thicken (sometimes with large cumulonimbus)	Cloud may thin and break	Cloud base is low and thick (nimbostratus)	Quite cold, starts to rise
Wind speed and direction	Winds are squally	Speeds increase, sometimes to gale force, sharp veer	Remain steady, backs slightly	Veers and becomes blustery with strong gusts	Speeds increase and direction backs
Precipitation	Showers	Heavy rain, sometimes with hail, thunder or sleet	Rain turns to drizzle or stops	Continues, and sometimes heavy rainfall	None at first, rain closer to front, sometimes snow on leading edge