

# Hair with a Mind of Its Own?

*Kristine Khealie*

**BEFORE YOU READ:** Does the weather affect your hair? If so, how?

At certain times of the year, our hair seems to have a mind of its own. However, this is not the case. The real problem is the climate we live in. A lot of people have bad hair days due to the weather. For some people, the heat and humidity makes their hair frizz up or even curl. When it's cold and dry, their hair might maintain a straighter look.

I myself have struggled with how the weather affects my hair. But now I have a strategy for how to deal with it. I am African-American and Indian, so my natural hair is soft curls. As soon as spring

## Heat and humidity makes hair frizz up.

starts, I keep my natural curly hair all the way to the end of summer. I choose to do this because if I were to straighten

my hair, it would automatically frizz up and turn into curls. The only time I get to straighten my hair is when it's fall or winter. When the temperatures start to get colder, that's the great time for my hair to stay straight.

**AFTER YOU READ:** What does the author mean when she says our hair "seems to have a mind of its own"? Try using that phrase in a sentence. For example: "It makes no sense why the car won't start; it seems to have a mind of its own." Explain in your own words when it is appropriate to use that phrase.

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**Sources:** <[www.beautyheaven.com.au](http://www.beautyheaven.com.au)>; <[www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/why-humidity-makes-your-hair-curl-21127724/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/why-humidity-makes-your-hair-curl-21127724/)>.

## Your Hair Can Tell You the Weather?

"If you have long hair, you probably don't need to look up a weather report to get an idea of how much humidity is in the air: You can simply grab a fistful of hair and see how it feels. Human hair is extremely sensitive to humidity—so much that some hygrometers (devices that indicate humidity) use a hair as the measuring mechanism, because it changes in length based on the amount of moisture in the air."

—Excerpted from: <[www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com)>



*A hair hygrometer. Photo from Museo Galileo catalog, Italy. How do you think a hair hygrometer works? Look up hygro and meter. List other words that have meter in them. Who was Galileo, and why is there a museum named after him?*