

Lightning

Lightning is a sudden [electrostatic discharge](#) that occurs during an [electrical storm](#). This discharge occurs between [electrically charged](#) regions of a [cloud](#) (called intra-cloud lightning or IC), between two clouds (CC lightning), or between a cloud and the ground (CG lightning). The charged regions in the atmosphere temporarily equalize themselves through this discharge referred to as a [strike](#) if it hits an object on the ground, and a **flash**, if it occurs within a cloud. Lightning causes light in the form of [plasma](#), and sound in the form of [thunder](#). Lightning may be seen and not heard when it occurs at a distance too great for the sound to carry as far as the light from the strike or flash.