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cy·clone  (sī klōn')

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n.

1. Meteorology

a. An atmospheric system characterized by the rapid inward circulation of air masses about a low-pressure center, usually accompanied by stormy, often destructive weather. Cyclones circulate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

b. A violent tropical storm, especially one originating in the southwestern Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean.

2. A violent rotating windstorm, especially a tornado.

3. Any of various devices using centrifugal force to separate materials.

[From Greek *kuklōn*, present participle of *kukloun*, to rotate, from *kuklos*, circle; see *k^wel-*¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cy·clon ic (-klōn ĭk), **cy·clon i·cal** *adj.*

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