**Dangerous Earth | Tornado rotation | BBC Four**

Dr Helen Czerski explains what creates the rotation of a tornado

**Word Bank**

rotation • wind direction • wind shear • updraft • supercell

**While you watch**

As you watch the clip, note down the following:

* Three factors that contribute to the rotation of a tornado

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Two important things that Dr Helen Czerski says are not visible in the clip

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* One question you would like to know the answer to, based on the clip

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Quiz Time**

Put these words in the correct spaces:

updraft

wind shear

vertical

rotating

supercell

When the wind blows in different directions at different heights it is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
The consequence of wind shear is that air starts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a horizontal column.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means air that comes up from the ground and pushes up into the storm.  
When an updraft acts on rolling air it turns it into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ column of rotating air.  
This is what starts the rotation of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a storm with a rotating updraft.

**Exam-style question**

Explain how wind direction causes the rotation of a tropical storm.

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**Answers**

**While you watch**

As you watch the clip, note down the following:

* Three factors that contribute to the rotation of a tornado

1. **e.g. Wind blowing in different directions at different heights.**
2. **e.g. Wind shear causes air to start rotating.**
3. **e.g. Updrafts turn the rolling air into a vertical rotating column of air.**

* Two important things that Dr Helen Czerski says are not visible in the clip

1. **The direction of the wind**.
2. **Updrafts**.

* One question you would like to know the answer to, based on the clip

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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When the wind blows in different directions at different heights it is called **wind shear**.  
The consequence of wind shear is that air starts **rotating** in a horizontal column.  
**Updraft** means air that comes up from the ground and pushes up into the storm.  
When an updraft acts on rolling air it turns it into a **vertical** column of rotating air.  
This is what starts the rotation of a **supercell**, a storm with a rotating updraft.

**Exam-style question**

Explain how wind direction causes the rotation of a tropical storm.