

IN ENGLISH, PLEASE



L'anglais pour voler
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• www.anglais-pour-voler.com



Now available on the **Appstore**, the collection of "In English, please" articles from June 2007 to December 2016, with audio recordings when available.

PREPARE FOR NEXT SEASON'S INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH IN 10 EASY STEPS

As is often said in this column, acquiring – and maintaining – a level of English high enough to contemplate a flight abroad cannot be achieved overnight. It is more synonymous with hard and regular work than with ingrained knowledge. So here is a recap, in no particular order, of what can be done to reach ICAO level 4, maintain it, or even upgrade to higher levels if you feel like taking on the extra work.

1 – Improve your speaking skills

Oral interaction with an English teacher can be achieved in classroom courses. They are now widely available, but if you are afraid they will not fit in your schedule, you can arrange for 1-on-1 meetings – for example over tea and scones with a foreign student – or telephone training. These last two possibilities are more flexible both in place and time. Furthermore telephone training, which means listening to a voice coming out of a headset, places you in a situation reminiscent of a cockpit environment. Aeronautical English classes can be organized at your local aeroclub, if enough members are sharing your interest. They can also be found on the internet where sites, such as www.fcl-1028.aero, offer various programs.

2 – Use internet resources

Bookmark a few websites offering free lessons, exercises or podcasts such as: www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish. Wikipedia's aviation portal at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Aviation> and Eurocontrol's Skybrary at www.skybrary.aero offer an unlimited number of articles on aviation topics. They are great for expanding your aviation-related vocabulary.

3 – Sign up for newsletters

On www.pilotworkshop.com/tip-of-the-week you can sign up for a free "pilot's tip of the week" which consists of a short article with its audio recording. The tip is also followed by a discussion where pilots share their experiences. www.boldmethod.com is a treasure trove of articles, quizzes, podcasts, and videos and so are their frequent newsletters. These two sites are excellent for improving both your English and your flying skills.

In the general English corner, www.dictionary.com is a good pick. Sign up for their "Word of the Day" to receive a new word each day with its definition, audio pronunciation, origin and examples of its use. One click leading to another, you'll also find interesting quizzes and slideshows. Try this one on acronyms <http://www.dictionary.com/e/s/y-e-s-words-acronyms/#base-jumping> and discover what a backronym is, why Pakistan was named that way, or what Humvee stands for.

4 – Watch TV and videos in English

Set your television box on "English" and also select this language when watching DVDs, preferably without turning on the subtitles, unless they are in English (please).

5 – Read in English

Reading is a great way to improve your English: it helps broaden vocabulary and acquire grammar. Electronic versions of books are now easy to find. You can also subscribe to a monthly publication such as The Connexion. The Connexion is an easy-to-read newspaper published for English-speaking expats living in France. It is also an interesting source of information for French readers who can learn a lot about their own country. Visit their site at www.connexionfrance.com and sign up for their free weekly newsletter to get an idea of their editorial line.

6 – Listen to live traffic

Try www.liveatc.net for an access to live feeds from ATC facilities around the world, and to their impressive audio archives data-bank. Practice non-standard situations at www.faa.gov/data_research/accident_incident/ where you can download files of pilot-controller communications recorded during emergencies.

7 – Learn the phraseology

The SIA's "Procédures de radiotéléphonie" associated with the "Manuel de formation à la phraséologie" and its British equivalent, CAP 413, are available online and will give you the standard practices on air-ground communications.

8 – Practice listening and noting down ATIS information

It is quite easy to find ATIS phone numbers, for example in AIPs. UK ATIS phone numbers are listed on page 32 of the Met Office's "GetMet 2016" booklet available at: www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/ga.

9 – Practice at your local airport

Traffic permitting, on your next training flight, communicate in English with ATC. You can always revert to French if you feel that you are becoming too much of a drag ... and come back for more later.

10 – Work on Eliot's Practice Papers

Every two weeks – hopefully later once a week – a practice paper consisting of 4 or 5 exercises covering the different language skills is posted at www.anglais-pour-voler.com/practice/. By the time you receive this issue of the magazine, Practice Papers #1 to #6 will be available. Sign up for Eliot's newsletter to be informed as soon as a new a practice paper is added to the list.

Ideally, you should exercise a little every day. Try weaving various activities into your daily routine: read your English newsletters when you check your e-mails, listen to a 24-hour English-language news channel while having breakfast, listen to audio recordings in your car, read an article in a newspaper or a magazine over lunch, have your afternoon tea with a native English speaker, watch an undubbed movie or TV series in English in the evening ... Move English practice to the top of your priority list and let motivation do the rest!

VOCABULARY

A DRAG	un boulet, un frein
A BOOKLET	une brochure
TO BOOKMARK	mettre dans la liste des favoris
INGRAINED	inné
REMINISCENT OF	qui fait penser à
TO SIGN UP	s'inscrire
TO SUBSCRIBE	s'abonner
A TREASURE TROVE	une mine d'informations
TO UPGRADE	améliorer
TO WEAVE	tisser