English for
Aviation
for Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers

Sue Ellis
Terence Gerighty

EXPRESS SERIES

Includes CD ROM and Audio CD

OXFORD

English for Aviation

for Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers

EXPRESS SERIES

Sue Ellis & Terence Gerighty

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

ICAO Operational Level 4

PRONUNCIATION

Assumes a dialect and/or accent intelligible to the aeronautical community.
Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation but only sometimes interfere with ease of understanding.

STRUCTURE

Relevant grammatical structures and sentence patterns are determined by language functions appropriate to the task.
Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are usually well controlled. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning.

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary range and accuracy are usually sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Can often paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances.

FLUENCY

Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency on transition from rehearsed or formulaic speech to spontaneous interaction, but this does not prevent effective communication. Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is mostly accurate on common, concrete, and work-related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users. When the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events, comprehension may be slower or require clarification strategies.

INTERACTIONS

Responses are usually immediate, appropriate, and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming, or clarifying.

Contents

About the book

English for Aviation has been developed specifically for people who work in the aviation industry and need to comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO's) language proficiency requirements. It supports standard phraseology and builds upon it to help improve plain English in the skill areas specified by ICAO: pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and interactions.

English for Aviation covers a range of subjects associated with flying and the aviation industry. The book is organized in the sequence of a flight, starting with an introductory unit, followed by pre-flight, ground movements, departure, cruising, en route events, contact and approach, landing, and end-of-flight ground movements. Pilots and air traffic controllers will find the book useful for improving their plain English, but anyone working in aviation – ground staff, emergency services, or administrators, for example – who wants to improve their English ability will benefit from **English for Aviation**. Units from the book work independently and can be selected according to the needs and interests of the course participants. **English for Aviation** is also ideal for self-study.

Each unit begins with a **Starter**, which consists of a short exercise or a quiz and serves as an introduction to the topic of the unit. Practical exercises, listening extracts, industry-specific texts as well as numerous photos and illustrations help you to acquire key vocabulary and expressions. Realistic role-plays give you the opportunity to put all you have learned into practice. Each unit closes with an **Output** activity, an article related to the topic of the unit followed by questions for reflection and discussion. The book finishes up with a fun quiz to **Test yourself!** on some of the facts and figures discussed over the previous eight units.

English for Aviation is accompanied by two disks. The **Audio CD** contains all the listening for the book. The **Audio CD** can be played through the audio player on your computer or through a conventional CD player. The **CD ROM** contains interactive exercises to practise **structure**, **vocabulary**, and **listening comprehension**. There is also an A–Z word list with all the key words that appear in the book. Visit www.oup.com/elt/express for ICAO compliancy practice tests.

In the appendix of **English for Aviation** you will find the **Partner Files** for the role-plays and the **Answer key** so that you can check your own answers if you are working alone. There are also **Transcripts** of the listening extracts.

1 Introduction to air communications

Use arrows (⟷) to link the people who talk to each other.

PILOT G-SC27

PILOT FLIGHT 71

CABIN CREW FLIGHT 71

TOWER CONTROLLER

CO-PILOT FLIGHT 71

PASSENGERS FLIGHT 71

AUDIO
2

COMPREHENSION

1 Air communications are vital for the safety of air travel. Listen to the two exchanges and answer the questions.

1 a Which stand is 363 on?
   b Where does the controller think 363 is?
   c Which numbers and letters are incorrectly pronounced?
2 a Which flight level is X7420 climbing to?
   b What is the altitude of X7420?
   c What two words does the controller confuse?

Look at the six language areas on page 2. Listen again to the two exchanges and look at the transcripts on page 84. Find an example of a difficulty with each language area.

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1   Have you had any similar experiences?
2   What communication problems have you had when talking to foreign pilots or controllers?

PRONUNCIATION

2   Listen and repeat.

ICAO ALPHABET AND NUMBERS					
A	Alpha	K	Kilo	U	Uniform
B	Bravo	L	Lima	V	Victor
C	Charlie	M	Mike	W	Whiskey
D	Delta	N	November	X	X-ray
E	Echo	O	Oscar	Y	Yankee
F	Foxtrot	P	Papa	Z	Zulu
G	Golf	Q	Quebec		
H	Hotel	R	Romeo		
I	India	S	Sierra		
J	Juliett	T	Tango		
0	zero	4	fower	8	ait
1	wun	5	fife	9	niner
2	too	6	six		
3	tree	7	seven		

oo (hundred) hundred
ooo (thousand) tousand
. (decimal) dayseemal

British CAA	ICAO/Global
FL 100 = flight level one hundred	FL 100 = flight level one zero zero

3   Listen to the sample message and repeat.

> *London Control, Express 164. Flight Level 100. Heading 345. ETA Belfast 0839.*

INTERACTIONS

Work with a partner to pass and record messages. If you are not sure about the message, ask for clarification. Repeat *Say again* until you have understood.

ASKING FOR REPETITION	
Repeat entire message	**Repeat specific item**
Say again.	Say again flight level.
	Say again all before heading.
	Say again all after flight level.
	Say again flight level to ETA.

Listen and check. Then compare what you wrote with the information your partner read.

QUESTIONS AND SHORT ANSWERS

Are you on stand C63 or C61?	I'm/We're on stand C61.
Is the radio on the correct frequency?	Yes, it is./No, it isn't.
Have you set the QNH?	Yes./Yes, I have./No, I haven't.
Has the weather improved?	Yes, it has./No, it hasn't.
Do you have the flight plan?	Yes, I've got it here./No, I don't.
Do you know where John is?	Yes, I do./No, I don't.
Did the bird strike cause any damage?	Yes, it did./No, it didn't.

4 **Put the words in the right order to make questions. Then answer them.**

1 you a a controller pilot Are or ?
2 speak other languages you Do any ?
3 abroad ever you been Have ?
4 plane travel last When by you did ?
5 your provide training company courses English Does ?
6 English in minutes the ten your last improved Has ?

American English	British English
airplane	aeroplane

5 **Match the two parts of the sentences to make six reasons why international communications may be difficult.**

1	ATCOs and pilots may speak	a	English words are used.
2	There may be very poor reception	b	in their own language.
3	Extra and unnecessary	c	or no standard phraseology.
4	ATCOs or pilots may sometimes	d	on the radio.
5	Non-routine situations have little	e	use plain English.
6	ATCOs or pilots may not understand	f	standard English phraseology.