



TEST OF ENGLISH  
FOR AVIATION



## English for Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers

For ICAO compliance







As the skies become increasingly crowded communication has become even more critical to ensure aviation safety; technology, of course, has an important role to play to prevent misunderstanding but the need for aviation personnel to speak English has long been recognized. ICAO's new language proficiency requirements demand that all international pilots and air traffic controllers must now have a minimum level of English – ICAO Operational Level 4.



### Mayflower College . . .

- was founded in 1988 and specialises in teaching English to international students and professionals (approximately 1000 learners per year from 50+ countries).
- trains native-English-speakers to become Teachers of English as a Foreign Language.
- is an IELTS examination centre and many of its teachers are also IELTS examiners - Mayflower College also provides examiner training.
- has been involved in Aviation English since 1992, providing general and aviation-specific courses to air traffic controllers and pilots.
- has used its experience and expertise in testing and Aviation English to develop the Test of English for Aviation (TEA).



## Aviation English for pilots and controllers:

These courses last for 4 weeks and aim to raise the level of English from ICAO Pre-Operational Level 3 to ICAO Operational Level 4.

The courses take place at the Mayflower College in the UK.

The focus is on speaking and listening skills, especially in “plain” English in an aviation context.

The content of the course reflects the requirements of the six areas covered by the ICAO rating scale.

| Pronunciation | Structure          | Vocabulary                      |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Stress        | Basic grammar      | Paraphrasing                    |
| Rhythm        | Sentence patterns  | Succinct and assertive language |
| Intonation    | Tense forms        | Abbreviations and acronyms      |
| Enunciation   | Language functions | Key lexical domains             |

| Fluency  | Comprehension   | Interactions                                  |
|--|---|---|
| Linking words and phrases                      | Understanding through masking (for example, background noise) | Ability to pass on information                |
| Speed of communication                         | Distinguishing similar sounding words/ numbers                | Ability to respond to unfamiliar situations   |
| Moving from familiar to spontaneous situations | Varieties of speech, accents                                  | Checking, confirming & clarifying information |

## Courses for Raters

The objective of the course is to enable experienced Aviation English teachers to understand and apply the ICAO language proficiency scale – in other words, to be able to rate speech samples accurately. Non-native-English-speakers will also need to demonstrate a minimum level of English language competence.

## Courses for Aviation English teachers

This course looks at good practices in preparing pilots and controllers for ICAO Operational Level 4. Areas covered include an analysis of ICAO document 9835 (“Manual on the Implementation of ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements”) relating to best practices in Aviation English teaching and testing, developing Aviation English teaching materials, key language functions and vocabulary in Aviation English and observed teaching practice.





## Online Learning

Studying through the internet can be a very flexible and relatively cheap part of the solution to learning English. The Aviation English programme at **www.study-english-online.com** contains 50 modules delivered over a 50-week period.

Each module contains grammar exercises, vocabulary exercises based on recommendations in ICAO document 9835, video and audio exercises.



## Test of English for Aviation (TEA)

TEA has been developed and is delivered according to recommendations made in ICAO document 9835. TEA is not a test of operational competence – TEA is a test of English language ability in an aviation context. TEA takes the form of a 20-minute, face-to-face interview.

Research indicates that TEA is a valid, standardized, accurate and secure testing solution.



## Consultancy Services

Every airline and ANSP is different – that is why Mayflower College aims to understand the needs and circumstances of its partners to provide a cost-effective and workable solution.

Services may include developing a comprehensive training and testing strategy, developing an “in-house” testing solution, developing “in-house” English training (both General English and Aviation English), “train the trainer” programmes, licensing Mayflower College’s Aviation English course for delivery “in-house”, etc.



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