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978-0-521-17871-6 - Flightpath: Aviation English for Pilots and ATCOs Student's Book
Philip Shawcross
Frontmatter
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Flightpath

AVIATION ENGLISH FOR PILOTS AND ATCOs

STUDENT'S BOOK

Philip Shawcross

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Author Introduction

In aviation, language is inseparable from safety. Contributing to the enhancement of safety is the ultimate objective of *Flightpath*. So, this course is less about learning English than about learning how to perform communicative tasks in English effectively in non-routine and unexpected operational situations.

Flightpath is intended to assist pilots and Air Traffic Controller Officers in reaching and maintaining a robust ICAO Operational Level 4, keeping in mind that language proficiency is soon eroded over time and considerably reduced in stressful situations. It has been written not only for initial training, but also with a view to recurrent training, proficiency enhancement and life-long learning, which I believe is the only realistic and responsible perspective from which this safety-critical language proficiency should be viewed.

The *Flightpath* Student's Book, with its audio and video material is part of a comprehensive suite of materials. It is supported by a website at **www.cambridge.org/elt/flightpath/** which contains an extensive aviation glossary and additional articles, case studies and classroom resources. The accompanying Teacher's Book is designed for teachers at all levels of experience. Equal attention has been given in the book's activities to the needs of pilots, Air Traffic Control Officers, and mixed classes.

ICAO Standard Phraseology is the cornerstone of radiotelephony. Standard phraseology, then, is widely used in *Flightpath* for reasons of contextual authenticity and to allow students to practise the transition between phraseology and plain language. However, the object of this book is *not* phraseology, but plain language in an operational context.

I am extremely grateful to Airbus, Air New Zealand, Eurocontrol, the Flight Safety Foundation, ICAO, Jeppesen and NATS for their kind permission to use their publications, internet and video media, which make up such a significant part of the content of this book. They have enabled a book to be produced which I trust is not only consistently relevant for the language skills required by professional flight crews and controllers, but whose content is of intrinsic value to them.

I am deeply indebted to Elizabeth Mathews, all the other members of the ICAO PRICESG (Proficiency Requirements in Common English Study Group) and to the Air Navigation Bureau as a whole for their seminal work in developing an international framework of English language proficiency for pilots and controllers which will make the skies a safer place.

I would also like to thank all those distinguished subject-matter experts whose remarks and suggestions have contributed so much to making this a better book. Moreover, my sincere thanks go out to Caroline Thiriau and Keith Sands, at Cambridge University Press and freelance editors Will Capel and Ben Gardiner whose friendly advice, expertise and support have been invaluable.

Finally, I dedicate *Flightpath* to my wife, Jackie, who made it all possible.

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Contents

Unit	Operational topics	Communication functions	Language content
		Introduction	
1 Language and communication in aviation page 7	• Types of RT communication situations • Examples of miscommunication • Managing communication	• Standard phraseology and plain language • Misunderstanding • Readback • Communication errors: Omitted or incorrect call sign • Types of transmission • Requesting clarification and making requests • Saying why unable	• Easily confused words • Word endings • Interrogative words and phrases • Abbreviations • Using glossary definitions • American and British English
		PART A: Hazards on the ground	
2 Ground movements page 17 DVD: Danger on the runway	• Airport markings and signs • Airport layout and areas • Ground equipment • Turnaround incidents • Start-up and push-back approval • Hot spots	• Communication errors: failure to acknowledge correctly (ATCOs) • Confirming and clarifying • Requesting confirmation • Describing the seriousness of a situation • Giving instructions and resolving problems • Detailed taxi instructions • Handling turnaround incidents	• Location and movement • Alphabet and numerals • Adverbs • Abbreviations • Physical characteristics (colour, shape, size) • Incident vocabulary • Word endings
3 Communication on the ground page 29	• Turnaround • Ramp safety • Handling incidents involving engineering, ambulance, security, firemen, tow vehicles etc. • 'We're now at take-off.' • Managing a fire emergency	• Communication errors: failure to acknowledge correctly (pilots) • Reporting anomalies • Describing what you can see, hear and feel • Asking for clarification • Responding to problems • Managing a departure • Coordinating actions	• *-ing*: current actions and functions in word groups • Expressing compliance • Ground equipment vocabulary • Perception: describing what you think is happening • Having something done • Pronunciation: verbs ending in *-ing*; • States and changed states
4 Runway incursions page 39 DVD: When attention is diverted	• Runway confusion • The causes of runway incursions • Incident precursors • Taxiing best practice • ICAO recommendations for avoiding runway incursions (ATC) • Low-visibility operations • Sterile cockpit • Distractions • Situational awareness • SMG	• Call signs • Readback • Communication errors: failure to seek confirmation • Dealing with garbled messages • Reporting past actions • From phraseology to plain language • Conditional clearances	• Safety vocabulary and synonyms • Modal verbs • Taking notes • Describing events in the past • Pronunciation, phrasing and fluency
PART A REVIEW (Units 2–4) page 50			
		PART B: En-route	
5 Environmental threats page 53 DVD: Volcanic ash hazard	• Environmental phenomena • Pilot reports • METAR, TAF and ATIS • Weather radar • Effects on flight paths • Windshear • Responding to weather conditions • Icing • Volcanic ash clouds • Handling abnormal conditions in flight	• Communicating weather information • Communication errors: Expectation bias (1) • Correcting • Describing a flight path • Reading back and confirming • Clarifying and rephrasing • Using coded/numerical sources • Saying why you are unable to do something	• Environmental phenomena • Adjectives for describing environmental conditions • Met abbreviations • Changing conditions • Same words used in different ways • Interrogatives • Stress and intonation • Word recognition and context • Paraphrasing • Describing consequences

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Unit	Operational topics	Communication functions	Language content
6 **Level busts** page 65 DVD: Level best	◆ Level bust situations ◆ ATC abbreviations ◆ Causes of level bust ◆ Reasons for communication breakdown ◆ Memorisation ◆ Recommendations for pilots and controllers for avoiding level busts ◆ Negotiating level changes	◆ Reporting incidents ◆ Communication errors: readback and hearback errors ◆ Distinguishing call signs, frequencies and settings ◆ Identifying causes ◆ Managing separation and level changes	◆ Verb forms: active and passive in the past; Use of infinitive and present participle ◆ Prepositions ◆ *Fail to* ◆ Word stress and intonation ◆ Describing incidents ◆ Homophones ◆ Enunciation, intonation and phrasing ◆ Conditionals
7 **Decision making** page 76 DVD: Loss of communication	◆ US Airways Flight 1549 ◆ ETOPS diversion at night ◆ Cardinal points ◆ Decision making role plays ◆ Decision making and the language barrier ◆ The effects of stress ◆ Managing abnormal situations	◆ Incident and action reporting ◆ Expressing uncertainty ◆ Communication errors: failure to question instructions ◆ Dealing with a lack of language proficiency ◆ Asking about and expressing feasibility and intention	◆ Use of simple past and present continuous ◆ Phrasing, pronunciation and fluency ◆ Stressed syllables ◆ Useful phrases for dealing with a lack of language proficiency ◆ Cause and effect: asking for reasons and explaining why
PART B REVIEW (Units 5–7) page 89			
PART C: Approach and landing			
8 **Approach and landing incidents** page 92 DVD: Call sign confusion	◆ Expectation ◆ Runway friction coefficients ◆ Runway excursions ◆ Stabilised approach ◆ Loss of situational awareness ◆ Approach hazards ◆ Landmarks, terrain and obstacles ◆ Jeppesen approach chart ◆ On short final ◆ Go-around	◆ Correcting erroneous expectations ◆ Asking about availability ◆ Communication errors: uncorrected erroneous readback ◆ Expressing concern ◆ Describing precautions ◆ Expressing urgency ◆ Relaying information	◆ *Should* ◆ Giving advice using *should* ◆ *Will*: future, intention and undertaking ◆ Relaying information using reported speech ◆ Describing position ◆ Distance
9 **Handling a technical malfunction** page 105 DVD: NZ60, a free lesson (Part 1)	◆ ATC technical failures ◆ Aircraft system failures ◆ Consequences of a technical failure ◆ Flight crew discussions ◆ Electrical failure during approach ◆ Monitoring a situation ◆ ILS malfunction	◆ Summarising ◆ Suggesting action ◆ Communication errors: failure to request clarification ◆ Announcing a change ◆ Self-correcting ◆ Asking and answering about consequences and reasons	◆ Describing technical conditions ◆ Talking about consequences ◆ Phrasal verbs (1) ◆ Conjunctions and function words ◆ Using context to distinguish between similar words
10 **Reducing approach and landing risks** page 116 DVD: NZ60, a free lesson (Part 2)	◆ Avoiding action ◆ TCAS ◆ Visual References ◆ Landing hazards ◆ Do-lists and checklists ◆ VOR DME procedures ◆ Crew and Team Resource Management ◆ ATC functions ◆ Threat and error management ◆ ALAR ◆ Problem solving	◆ Saying unable ◆ Announcing a compulsory action ◆ Announcing a (nearly) completed action having an effect on the present ◆ Announcing an avoided problem ◆ Communication errors: Expectation bias (2) ◆ Reporting a previous communication ◆ Describing procedures	◆ Phrasal verbs (2) ◆ Present perfect tense ◆ *Still* and *yet* ◆ Summarising ◆ Expressing preferences ◆ Reported speech ◆ Phrasing, stress and intonation
PART C REVIEW (Units 8–10) page 128			

Pairwork Activities page 131 **Answer key** page 166 **Audioscript** page 174 **Glossary** page 191

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