

Aviation English: Mastering ICAO Phraseology

Build safe and clear radiotelephony skills for pilots and controllers with real-world examples and 2026 ICAO standards.

Languages Instructor: Alex Thompson • 5 sections • 51 lessons • 19.50h total

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About this course

Global aviation safety relies on precise communication. Misunderstandings in radio transmissions have caused serious incidents, making standardized phraseology essential for every flight. This course tackles the core challenges of ICAO phraseology to help you communicate accurately in high-stakes environments. You'll progress from basic terminology to advanced scenarios through video lessons, case studies, and hands-on simulations, all updated to reflect current 2026 ICAO practices.

Course curriculum

Foundations of Aviation English

- **Introduction to ICAO and Aviation Communication (12m)**
Overview of ICAO's role in setting communication standards to improve global aviation safety.
- **ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements in 2026 (18m)**
Key aspects of LPRs focusing on clarity, accuracy, and how they apply to your training.
- **Aircraft Terminology: Parts and Functions (25m)**
Step-by-step guide to essential aircraft terminology used in radio communications.
- **Weather Terms in Aviation English (18m)**
Learn to describe and interpret weather conditions using standard aviation terms.
- **Navigation Aids and Their Abbreviations (15m)**
Common navigation aids and how to reference them accurately in transmissions.
- **Communication Protocols in Air Traffic (20m)**
Basic rules and etiquette for initiating and maintaining radio contact.
- **Case Study: Miscommunication Incidents (30m)**
Real-world examples where phraseology errors led to issues, and lessons learned.

Radiotelephony Basics

- **Mastering the ICAO Phonetic Alphabet (25m)**
Practice pronouncing Alpha through Zulu with drills for speed and accuracy.
- **Number Pronunciation in Aviation (15m)**
Correct ways to say numbers, altitudes, and speeds to avoid confusion.
- **Callsigns and Aircraft Identification (20m)**
How to use callsigns properly in initial contact and throughout communications.
- **Starting and Ending Radio Transmissions (18m)**
Standard phrases for beginning and concluding calls with ATC.
- **Readback and Acknowledgment Procedures (22m)**
Technique for accurately repeating instructions and confirming receipt.
- **Initial Contact Dialogue Structure (20m)**
Build your first radio call with a step-by-step framework.
- **Position Reporting Using Standard Format (18m)**
Learn to report your position clearly with latitude, longitude, or fixes.
- **Frequency Changes and Handoffs (15m)**
Phraseology for switching frequencies and transferring control.
- **Practical Drills: Phonetic Alphabet and Numbers (30m)**
Hands-on exercises to reinforce pronunciation and recall.
- **Simulated Radio Calls for Routine Operations (35m)**
Practice common radio scenarios in a controlled environment.

Standard Phraseology for Routine Operations

- **Pre-Flight Clearance Delivery (20m)**
How to obtain and read back your flight clearance before departure.
- **Taxi Instructions and Ground Movement (25m)**
Navigate the airport with clear taxi instructions and ground control communications.
- **Takeoff Procedures and Phraseology (18m)**
Standard phrases for takeoff clearance, abort procedures, and departure.
- **Climb and Cruise Communications (22m)**
Maintaining contact during climb and cruise, including altitude changes.
- **Descent and Approach Clearances (25m)**
Receive and confirm approach instructions for landing.
- **Landing and Post-Landing Phrases (15m)**
Communication during landing roll, exit, and taxi to ramp.
- **Holding Patterns and Delay Procedures (20m)**
Phraseology for entering, maintaining, and exiting holding patterns.
- **Frequency Changes in Routine Flights (12m)**
When and how to switch frequencies during normal operations.
- **Case Study: Routine Flight Communications (30m)**
Analyze a complete flight's radio communications from start to finish.

Non-Routine Communications and Emergencies

- **Weather Avoidance Communications (18m)**
How to request deviations and report weather issues to ATC.
- **Reporting Technical Issues to ATC (20m)**
Phraseology for declaring technical problems and seeking assistance.
- **Managing Air Traffic Delays (15m)**
Communications for holding, diversions, and schedule changes.
- **Declaring MAYDAY: Emergency Procedures (25m)**
Step-by-step guide to issuing a MAYDAY call with all necessary information.
- **PAN-PAN Urgency Communications (20m)**
How to declare urgency situations and coordinate with ATC.
- **Safety Messages and Alerting Services (18m)**
Using safety communications for potential hazards and alerts.
- **Medical Emergency Phraseology (22m)**
Communications for onboard medical emergencies and ground support.
- **Security-Related Communications (25m)**
Handling security threats, hijack procedures, and discreet phrases.
- **Contingency and Diversion Communications (20m)**
Phraseology for alternate airports and contingency plans.
- **Coordinating with Ground Services (15m)**
Communications with ground crews during emergencies.

- **Real-Case Emergency Scenarios (30m)**
Study actual emergencies to understand communication best practices.
- **Simulations for Non-Routine Situations (35m)**
Practice handling emergencies in simulated radio environments.

Advanced Mastery and Complex Scenarios

- **High-Traffic Environment Communications (25m)**
Phraseology for busy airspaces, rapid sequencing, and congestion.
- **Multi-Leg Flight Planning and Comms (22m)**
Managing communications across multiple flight segments and legs.
- **International Airspace Transitions (30m)**
Coordination and phraseology when crossing national boundaries.
- **Integration with CPDLC Systems (28m)**
Using data link communications alongside traditional radio.
- **ADS-B and Modern Communication Tools (20m)**
How ADS-B data influences phraseology and situational awareness.
- **Updated ICAO Practices for 2026 (18m)**
Recent changes and additions to ICAO phraseology standards.
- **Advanced Phraseology for Complex Procedures (25m)**
Handling unusual approaches, special operations, and precise maneuvers.
- **Role-Playing: Pilot-Controller Dialogues (40m)**
Engage in simulated conversations to build fluency and confidence.
- **Handling Multiple Simultaneous Communications (30m)**
Techniques for prioritizing and managing concurrent radio calls.
- **Assessment Preparation for ICAO LPR Test (35m)**
Tips and practice for passing the ICAO Language Proficiency test.
- **Case Studies: Advanced Communication Challenges (25m)**
Examples of complex scenarios and how to address them.
- **Continuous Practice and Improvement Resources (15m)**
Tools and methods to keep your skills sharp beyond the course.
- **Final Simulation and Course Review (45m)**
Comprehensive simulation putting all skills to the test, followed by feedback.

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