



L'anglais pour voler  
disponible sur



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• [www.anglais-pour-voler.com](http://www.anglais-pour-voler.com)

## Work your way up to level 4 ... and beyond.

### General English

Let's pretend that you took to heart some of the suggestions made over the years in this page to improve your general English. But just in case you misplaced the relevant magazine issues, here is a quick recap, listed in no particular order, of what you were supposed to do: sign up for a classroom course at your local language center, attend classes on a regular basis and do your homework; subscribe to a magazine about your favorite hobby and read each issue thoroughly; select English as your preferred language on your television box; watch undubbed movies on DVDs - next step for these last two items: no subtitles; **bookmark** a few websites offering free lessons, exercises or podcasts such as [www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish) or [www.esl-lab.com](http://www.esl-lab.com); boldly engage in conversation with native speakers during your vacations in English speaking countries, regardless of your natural tendency to **keep to yourself** in such circumstances.

Yes, let's pretend that you did all that. And as a result, your general English has dramatically improved. **Kudos** for that! Yet, keep in mind that a language is as elusive as **quicksilver**. You think you have **got the hang of it**, you let your guard down a little, and next time you check, you realize your level is slipping away. So keep up the good work! And by the way, language-learning websites and applications can be a great help. They are available everywhere and anytime, as long as you are carrying your smartphone or tablet with you: in waiting

### VOCABULARY

a Booklet.....	une brochure
to Bookmark.....	mettre dans les favoris
to Get the hang of sth.....	maitriser
Go for it.....	lancez-vous
to Keep to oneself.....	rester dans son coin
Kudos.....	félicitations, chapeau !
to Lag behind.....	être à la traîne
Quicksilver.....	vif argent, mercure
a Skill.....	une compétence
User-friendly.....	convivial

rooms, on public transports, during your lunch break, or when you are waiting for little Benjamin to finish his soccer practice.

### Aeronautical English

That being said, general English is only the foundation of your FCL 055. Knowing the difference between "may" and "can" when you are 2000' above water en route to Jersey might not be enough to impress ATC. Quick understanding and efficient responses are more likely to do it. The first step is to study phraseology. It is easier to understand something you are expecting to hear and your answers will be swifter and more adequate. The SIA's Procédures de radiotéléphonie associated with the Manuel de formation à la phraséologie<sup>(1)</sup> and its British equivalent, called CAP 413<sup>(2)</sup>, will tell you everything you need to know about air-ground communications. A lighter version of these documents was published by the European General Aviation Safety Team (EGAST), a working group established by EASA to promote safety in general aviation. The 50-page **booklet** entitled "A guide to phraseology for general aviation pilots in Europe" covers all aspects of VFR communications in a **user-friendly** presentation<sup>(3)</sup>. To diversify and expand your vocabulary, Wikipedia's aviation portal and Eurocontrol's Skybrary are great sites to read about aviation-related subjects.

### Listening comprehension

There are quite a few sites available on the internet to improve your listening comprehension **skills**. The well-known [www.liveatc.net](http://www.liveatc.net) gives access to many live feeds from ATC facilities around the world or to interesting recordings in the ATC audio archives. A data base of tapes related to incidents or accidents that happened in the US can be found on [www.faa.gov/data\\_research/accident\\_incident](http://www.faa.gov/data_research/accident_incident). Typing "ATC conversations" on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

leads to numerous (often very funny), pilot-controller communications. On [www.pilotworkshop.com](http://www.pilotworkshop.com) you can sign up for a free "pilot's tip of the week" with an audio file that can be downloaded. And last, but not least, audio exercises of "In English, please" are available on a regular basis on [www.anglais-pour-voler.com](http://www.anglais-pour-voler.com).

You may also want to use Skype to practice listening and noting down ATIS information as most are now available by phone. For example, UK ATIS phone numbers are listed on page 19 of the Met Office's "get met 2012" booklet<sup>(4)</sup>.

### Communications

Over the past few years internet sites, such as [www.fcl-1028.aero](http://www.fcl-1028.aero) or [www.level6.aero](http://www.level6.aero), have developed aeronautical English learning programs. They come at a cost, but it can be the solution if you don't have access to classes organized by an aeroclub. They offer written or listening comprehension exercises, 2 or 3-day courses, one on one classes, or telephone training. The latter is quite adapted to radio communications practice: not facing the person you are talking to and wearing a headset reminds you of a cockpit environment. Moreover, telephone classes are flexible in place and time, and can fit more easily in a busy schedule. A new concept by [www.flyvhf.com](http://www.flyvhf.com) is in its final stages of development to provide a "multiplayer airfield traffic circuit simulator", in which multiple pilots may join on line to practice aerodrome phraseology using their internet browser.

Once you have built some confidence, **go for it**, practice with your local ATC. Choose a time when the traffic is light, make the first contact in English and see how it goes. You can always revert to French if you feel that you are lagging behind ... and come back later after some more practice, which, as everybody knows, makes perfect. ●

(1) [www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/asp/frameset\\_fr.asp?m=26](http://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/asp/frameset_fr.asp?m=26) - (2) [www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=33](http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=33)  
- (3) [easa.europa.eu/essi/egast/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/EGAST\\_Radiotelephony-guide-for-VFR-pilots.pdf](http://easa.europa.eu/essi/egast/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/EGAST_Radiotelephony-guide-for-VFR-pilots.pdf) - (4) [www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/4/1/Get\\_Met\\_2012\\_amends\\_tag\\_Artwork.pdf](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/4/1/Get_Met_2012_amends_tag_Artwork.pdf)

