

IN ENGLISH, PLEASE



L'anglais pour voler
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par **DOMINIQUE DEFOSSEZ**

Author of *L'anglais pour voler*

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Now on the **Appstore**, the collection of "In English, please" articles from June 2007 to July 2015, with audio recordings when available. The "In English, please" app has been upgraded for iOS 10 and the articles from August 2015 all the way through December 2016 have been added, bringing the total to over 110 articles. Don't forget to visit the App Store for a free update.

THE JERSEY CHRONICLES PROLOGUE

Eliot has a friend, let's call her Héléne. You can't be Eliot's friend without also being an aviation buff, but Héléne has another great interest, and that is English. So, when she starts thinking about learning to fly, she quite naturally tries to find a way to do so in English. As she lives only a hundred kilometers from Saint Malo the first place that comes to mind is Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, lying just 22 kilometers from the French coast in the Bay of Saint Malo.

Jersey

The island is a great getaway, right on Brittany's doorstep. It's roughly the size of Paris but its landmass increases by one fifth when the tide - one of the largest in the world - goes out. The climate is like that of the UK, but generally warmer and sunnier, pretty much like in Brittany. Officially named the Bailiwick of Jersey, the island is divided into parishes, with its own independent government that answers to the Queen. Jersey is part of Great Britain, but not of the United Kingdom and although it's not part of the European Union it's nonetheless a member of the EEC ... So confusingly British!

The 100,000 or so residents are called 'Cra-pauds' by other Channel Islanders, because Jersey has toads and Guernsey does not. They speak English, of course, however the native

language, Jèrriais, can still be heard in some rural areas. They drive on the left and talk in mph. The Pound Sterling is the legal tender, but they also have their own banknotes and coins, with the image of a Jersey cow, the revered local breed of dairy cattle, as the one-pound notes' watermark.

Bookings

Still unsure about the feasibility of her rather unusual project, Héléne sits in front of her computer and starts making enquiries. She begins with the Jersey Aero Club website found at www.jerseyaeroclub.com. Browsing through the site, she finds all the information she needs. The aero club offers a "learn the basics" introductory lesson that consists of a briefing, a preflight inspection, a full hour of flying training and a debriefing; the training aircraft is a PA28.

Then, if this trial flight is successful, there is the possibility to sign up for a prepaid PPL package that includes: 45 hours of flying, unlimited ground school, a study pack, a headset, all exams and skill test and the first year of Aero Club membership. The price of this package doesn't seem over the top, considering that it also includes - as a bonus - some intensive aeronautical English training. It is also worth noting the fact that the whole thing is 15% cheaper than it would have been a year ago, prior to the Brexit referendum.

Before going any further on the aviation aspect of the project, Helen checks the available means of transportation. Jersey being an island, it's either by sea or by air. The plane option is quickly ruled out as totally inconvenient; therefore leaving the boat crossing. From Saint Malo, Condor Ferries sails all year round almost daily to the Channel Islands and to the UK. The boat leaves in the morning at 8 am from the harbour located a few hundred meters from the Grand Bé islet, where

Chateaubriand was buried in 1848, to arrive at Saint Helier, Jersey's capital city, at 8:20 am local time. The time of the return crossing varies from around 5 pm to as late as 8:30 pm. The day trip for a foot passenger costs on average 50 €.

After a few email exchanges with the aero club flying ops, a trial flight is booked on Tuesday 11th April. A visit to the Condor Ferries site at www.condorferries.fr/ferry/jersey and a few clicks later, a crossing is booked as well. From then on, there is nothing else to do but hope that the weather will be suitable.

Getting there

In the few days before her trip, Héléne becomes an addict of www.gov.je/weather/Pages/Jersey-Forecast.aspx where she checks regularly the weather forecast.

On D-Day, the alarm clock goes off quite early: foot passengers are requested to be at the ferry terminal 40 minutes before the departure time and Héléne has a little over an hour's drive to reach Saint-Malo. So, you do the math! There is no time for breakfast, but the boat is fully equipped for that, having a full English breakfast will even help pass the 1 hour and 20 minutes needed to sail across.

On the other side, customs and immigration formalities are tighter than on the continent, and Helen is ready to show her passport or a valid ID. Once through customs, it's a short 10-minute walk to Liberation station, the hub of the island's bus network. Héléne keeps reminding herself that she must look right before crossing a street!

There are several bus lines available to go the aero club. Line 9, which stops at the Jersey Aero Club is an hourly service, but lines 15 and 22 are also options. They stop at the airport, which is only a short walk away to the aero club.

Next month, Chapter 1 - days 1 to 4

Vocabulary

A BUFF.....	un expert, un fan
A BAILIWICK.....	un baillage
THE LEGAL TENDER.....	la monnaie légale
A BREED.....	une race
DAIRY CATTLE.....	des vaches laitières
A WATERMARK.....	un filigrane
A SKILL TEST.....	un test en vol
TO GO OFF.....	sonner
TIGHTER.....	plus strict
HOURLY SERVICE.....	1 par heure