

L'anglais pour voler  
available on



Available on the Appstore, the collection of «In English, please» articles with the audio recordings when available. The application has recently been updated with the articles up to May 2019, offering more than 140 pages of aviation-related English practice right at your fingertips.



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## Learning from home Your daily shot of English practice

**WFH**, or Working From Home, is the latest spring trend. Well, here is a new acronym for you: LFH, for Learning From Home. The shelter-in-place measures have made it necessary for all of us to reinvent our lives. Will several weeks of lockdown be enough to ingrain new behaviors? Let's hope so, especially if among the newly acquired good habits, there is a daily shot of English practice. 21<sup>st</sup> century technology makes it easy to fill vacuous time with meaningful activities: the internet, mobile phones, iPads and their apps become everybody's best friends in stay-at-home enforcement. Below are suggestions on how to make the best use of these tools to improve your English.

A language is about words, and how they can be combined to enable communication. For that reason, during the process of acquiring a language, you have to work on vocabulary, grammar, and in the case of oral communication, pronunciation. Just be reminded that your quest for the FCL.055 Holy Grail starts with a proper level of general English, on which you apply a layer of aviation English. This is why the first paragraphs are focused on general English. The specialized stuff comes at the end.

### Vocabulary

An "In English, please" article entitled "Words are the basic building blocks of language" was published in *Info-Pilote* in June 2018. It stressed the importance of vocabulary, and offered 4 tips to expand it: read, learn from vocabulary lists, sign up for word-of-the-day emails, and play word games. It also provided many internet links inciting you to practice these activities. It is now posted in the reading comprehension section of Practice Paper #33 at <https://anglais-pour-voler.com/practice/2020-pp-30-2/>.

To add fun to the - sometimes - tedious business of learning, go to [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net) to unlock your creativity by making some beautiful word clouds. The general English corner of Practice

paper #28 at <https://anglais-pour-voler.com/practice/practice-2019/> shows a word cloud designed around the concept of ... clouds (ha! ha!) and gives all the details for creating your own on any subject you like.

### Grammar

Grammar is the set of rules you implement so that a string of words put together actually carry some meaning. Grammar learning does not have to be stuffy. Once the basic rules are set, improvement can be made through more enjoyable ways: reading, quizzes, games, and other fun exercises.

Several sites on the internet offer free access to such content.

[www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish) is one of them. Their 6-minute grammar or vocabulary courses provide practice for all levels. Also available from the site: programs for children, quizzes, and even a downloadable App (Android or iOS) to continue learning for when you are on the move. In grammar learning, as in everything else, a little practice on a regular basis goes a long way.

### Transmission/Reception

"Transmission" stands for speaking skills, as opposed to "Reception" which relates to listening comprehension.

Transmission can be the tricky part. Online dictionaries, such as [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) or [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com), provide the pronunciation of most words in their database, but it might not be enough. To really improve your speaking skills from home, there is probably no better way than telephone conversation classes via land lines, mobile phones, or video conferencing software such as Skype.

On the contrary, there are so many ways to practice listening comprehension from home that it is hard to provide a complete list. Television boxes give you access to foreign channels, such as CNN and the BBC. They also allow you to choose

the language in which you want to watch most series and films, and even select - or not select - subtitles.

The internet, again, is also a valuable tool: in addition to the well-known YouTube videos, a few dedicated sites are worth bookmarking. One of them, <https://www.esl-lab.com/>, offers free access to lessons to "boost your English listening skills", with exercises graded by levels.

### Aviation English

Even though there is a difference in meaning between "runway 32 has been closed for 4 months" and "runway 32 was closed for 4 months" (if needed, check the difference in Eliot's Practice Paper #1), grammar is not exactly the main concern in radio communications. It is simplified almost to a "pidgin" level.

Which is not the case for vocabulary. In standard situations, a limited number of words can be enough, but it is when things go sour that you wish you had studied a bit more beyond the basics. Aviation English vocabulary is specific and does not leave room for guesswork. Go back to the article mentioned in the first paragraph for tips to improve your aviation-related vocabulary: sign up for newsletters, learn from dictionaries, and read articles from specialized magazines like *Flyer* ([www.flyer.co.uk](http://www.flyer.co.uk)) or *Flying* ([www.flyingmag.com](http://www.flyingmag.com)), or sites such as [www.skylibrary.aero](http://www.skylibrary.aero) or <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Aviation>.

As is the case for general English, listening comprehension practice for aeronautical English is readily available and is to be found mainly on the internet. [www.liveatc.net](http://www.liveatc.net) and [www.faa.gov/data\\_research/accident\\_incident/](http://www.faa.gov/data_research/accident_incident/) are two sites where you can listen to real life exchanges between pilots and controllers. At [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) watch videos of unusual in-flight situations with ATC transcriptions. And last, but not least, the audio files for the "In English, please" articles and Eliot's Practice Papers can be found at [www.anglais-pour-voler.com](http://www.anglais-pour-voler.com). ●