

Lesson 1:

Basic grammar and vocabulary

Objectives:

- Final exam introduction
- Basics in grammar
- Basic vocabulary
- Autonomous work introduction

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I. Air English final exam

i. Written subpart

At the beginning of the exam, you'll be given a laptop on which you'll have to answer 15 questions, consisting in multiple choice questions, reading and listening comprehension questions. These are basic questions and according to the number of accurate answers you've given, you'll get one of the 6 ICAO levels. At the end of the previous questions, you'll have to watch a short video [2 min max] and make notes about its content. Your notes will be useful when you reach the oral subpart.

ii. Oral subpart 1

After the written subpart, you will be divided in groups of 2 candidates. Then, group by group, you will face two examiners. Generally, one is an English teacher, assessing the language level, and the other is an aeronautic professional, assessing the accuracy of the phraseology amongst other things.

First of all, you'll be asked to introduce yourself, and you will have to talk for a few minutes. After your introduction, the examiners will ask you questions about anything. Their goal is to see how you can interact with other people, thus assessing your interaction skills.

Then, you will be asked to describe the small video you made notes on to your partner. After your description, he will have to explain what was on your video, according to your own description. Then you will switch the roles and you will have to listen to his description and then explain what was on his video.

iii. Oral subpart 2

After both your introduction and the video description, you will be asked to perform a virtual flight. You'll be provided with an aircraft registration, a situation [on the ground...] and your intentions. Then, you'll be guided by the examiner who will act as the ATC. At some point, you will have to perform an emergency situation written on the paper you will have been given.

Don't worry, you'll be prepared for this exam all along this course, as we will do all these exercises.

II. Air Exam final exam

i. Written subpart

The first part of the exam is very similar to Air English, with 15 multiple choice questions as well.

The following percentages of success have to be achieved:

- Between 60 and 80 % in order to be able to receive level 4
- Over 80 % for level 5 and higher

ii. Oral subpart 1

Again, it's pretty similar to Air English. During 15 min, the candidate has to take notes about an image and an audio or a video. He will then develop its notes to the examiner.

iii. Oral subpart 2

You'll be asked to perform a fictitious flight. The only difference with Air English is that you don't have an emergency situation to play

III. Basic grammar

i. Introduction:

In this lesson, we won't try to speak the perfect English, but we'll just see some basic rules about tenses, possession, passive voice and little words.

First, you need to know what's **ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN!** English and French aren't comparable languages as they have different origins. One is a Germanic language and the other is a Latin Language. So, you can't translate a sentence from one language to the other word by word.

ii. The tenses:

In English, there are different “variations” for each notion of past, present and future. One thing easy to do to understand which tense is to use is to draw a timeline of the events.

✚ The past:

- Past simple / preterit: Action at a precise time of the past, completed

→ Construction: B.V. +-ed [or preterit if irregular verb] | Auxiliary: Did

Example:

[+] I worked very hard yesterday

[-] He didn't go abroad last month

[?] What did you do last weekend?

- Continuous past: Action happening in the past, often interrupted by another event in the past as well

→ Construction: BE+-ing | Auxiliary: BE conjugated to the preterit

Example:

[+] I was working when the phone rang

[-] They weren't playing when I arrived

[?] What were you doing yesterday at 8 p.m.?

- The past perfect / pluperfect: Action of the past that happened before another action of the past

→ Construction: Had+PP. | Auxiliary: Had

Example:

[+] She had received my letter when I called

[-] In 1300, America hadn't been discovered

[?] Had you forgotten?

✚ The present:

- Present simple: Repetitive action, opinion, taste, general truth

→ Construction: B.V. [-s with HE, SHE, IT] | Auxiliary: Do / Does

Example:

[+] She gets up at 6 every morning

[-] I don't like Math

[?] Do dog eat sugar?

- Continuous present: Action happening right now, near future

→ Construction: BE+-ing | Auxiliary: BE conjugated to the present simple

Example:

[+] Listen! He's playing the piano

[-] I am not working at the moment

[?] What are you doing next Sunday?

✚ The present perfect:

- Present perfect simple: Action began in the past, that still goes on nowadays
→ Construction: Have / Has+Past Participle | Auxiliary: Have / Has

Example:

[+] We have lived here for 5 years

[-] I haven't finished yet

[?] What has he just done?

- Continuous present perfect: Same as present perfect simple but insists on the duration of the action

→ Construction: BE+-ing [conjugated to the present simple] | Auxiliary: Have / Has

Example:

[+] He has been waiting for hours

[-] They haven't been sleeping for days

[?] How long has it been raining?

✚ The future:

- Future action

→ Construction: Will+B.V. | Auxiliary: Will

Example:

[+] They will go to Spain next month

[-] I won't come tomorrow

[?] Will he be there when we arrive?

✚ The conditional:

- Action defined by a condition

→ Construction: Would+B.V. | Auxiliary: Would

Example:

[+] If they were rich, they would buy a car

[-] If I were you, I wouldn't leave now

[?] What would you do if you were a star?

iii. The possession

There are different ways of indicating the possession, depending on the possessor. We have two options:

1. The possessor is a human or a common pet:

To indicate the possession, we use an 's. For instance:

La bague de Martha = Martha's ring. *Le s se prononce bien à l'oral.*

[Note: If the word already ends with an s, we just add the ': Mathews' house]

2. The possessor is something else:

We use the word "of". For instance:

The tail of the cow [instead of ~~the cow's tail~~]

iv. "Useful little words":

In this subpart, we'll see how to use some very useful words:

- Who /whom / whose:

Who: Subject of a sentence / Can be replaced by "he" or "she"?

Whom: The object of a verb or a preposition / Can be replaced by "him" or "her"

Whose: Refers to a person

Ex:

Who is going to do the dishes? [*He is*]

Whom were you running away from? [*I was running away from him*]

You know, he's the father whose daughter died last year

- This / These | That / Those

This / These: SING / PLUR, used to talk about something close to you

That / Those: SING / PLUR, used to talk about something pretty far away from you. Also used to depreciate someone or something

Ex:

In this house where I'm standing. / Do you see that house across the street?

I don't speak to those people; I can't bear them!

- Here / There

Very easy to understand it when we translate it: Here = ici / There = là

Ex:

What are you doing here? / She's going there on Saturday.

v. Passive voice

Once more, you have to use the Past Participle.

The cat eats the mouse / The mouse is eaten by the cat

vi. Must, should, have to, ...

Obligation:

To express an obligation, you can use "must" and "have to" according to this rule:

- "Must" is more personal than "have to" which is more situational
- "Must" is much more formal than "have to". When speaking, use "have to" and when writing formally, write "must"

Ex:

You have to go to work tomorrow: the situation creates the obligation

I must pay him back like I promised earlier: *you created the obligation*

Negation:

- Don't have to: expresses the fact that something is not mandatory
- Mustn't: expresses the fact that something is forbidden

Advice / opinions:

To express an obligation, you can use "must", "have to" and "should"

- Should is smoother, neutral, whereas must is much more strong
- Must: can be used to express an advice as well

Ex:

You must try the fish: you really have to try the fish. It's much more effective than just saying: you should try the fish

Negative advice:

Shouldn't is the only possibility

IV. Basic vocabulary

i. The airfield

Runway:

Holding point:

Control tower:

APU / GPU:

Refueling vehicle:

Jet bridge / air bridge:

Upwind:

Downwind:

Final [leg]:

Taxiway:

Apron / ramp:

De-icing bay:

Pushback truck:

Catering vehicle:

Circuit pattern:

Crosswind:

Base [leg]:

ii. The airplane

Ailerons:

Spoilers:

Slats:

Flaps:

Rudder:

Elevator:

Trim tab:

Steerable nosewheel:

Propeller:

Spinner:

Oil cooler:

Engine exhaust [pipe]:

Engine cowling:

V. Autonomous work

In order to prepare for next week lesson, you need to start listening to some ATC/pilot exchanges videos. The two material providers we recommend are:

Lingaero website: <https://lingaero.com/>

VASAviation YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/victor981994>

The links for the elements written down below are accessible through the website under “Les documents”, “Cours d’anglais aéronautique”.

For next week, you have to:

- Go to Lingaero, on the top menu, “Cours gratuits”, “Module 1”

This will take you to the first of the 3 online modules made by Lingaero. We want you to go through the entire page, and to write down the eventual questions you have.

- On the YouTube search bar, search for the following videos and listen to them:

“Transavia’s Captain passes out during flight | Returns to Porto”

“Harrison Ford crosses a runway while another aircraft lands | FAA INVESTIGATING”

“[FUNNY ATC] Pilot makes Passenger Announcement on frequency at busy JFK!!”

“Cirrus PASSES UNDER AN A320 WING WHILE PUSHBACK at Orlando”

In total, this can be completed in less than 2 hours. We can’t force you to do this, but 2 hours in a week seems like a reasonable amount of time and its essential if you want to pass the exam with flying colors.

Once more, if you have any question, you can send an e-mail to these addresses:

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