



emery-roberts

Aviation English Consultants



MACMILLAN

Language functions in aviation radiotelephony

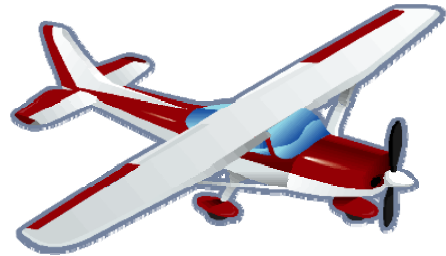
Henry Emery, Co-author, *Aviation English*

- The ICAO requirements
- Radio communications
- Language functions
- Teaching functions in *Aviation English*
- Questions and answers

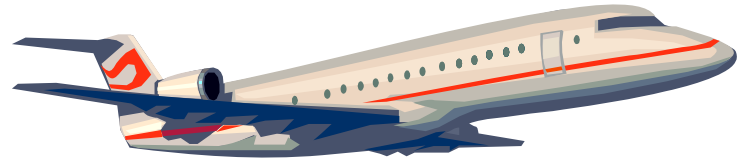
Why the requirement?

- Pan Am Boeing 747, KLM Boeing 747, Spain, 1977. **583 fatalities**
- Avianca Boeing 707, USA, 1990. **73 fatalities**
- American Airlines Boeing 757, Columbia, 1995. **159 fatalities**
- Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747, Air Kazakhstan Ilyushin IL-76, India 1996 (mid-air collision). **349 fatalities**

Who does it affect?



Private pilots



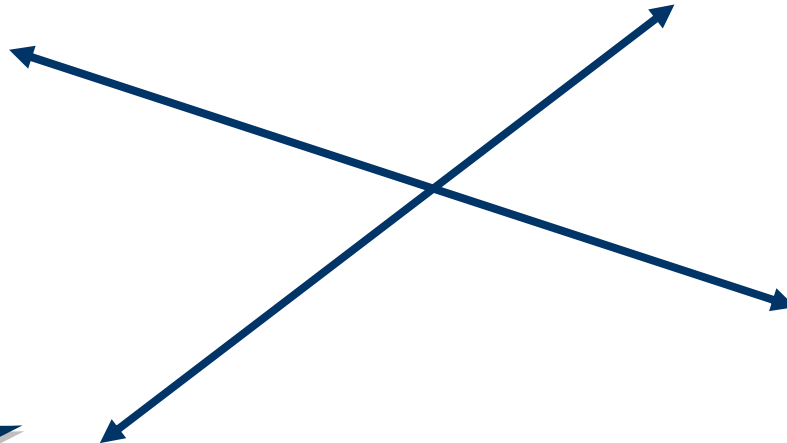
Commercial pilots



Helicopter pilots



Air Traffic Controllers





The ICAO requirements

- a) stipulate the use of ICAO phraseology specifically;
- b) clarify that both phraseology and plain language proficiency are required; and
- c) strengthen the provisions that English be made available.



Plan

Deliver

Package



ETAS, Chur, Sunday 18th January 2009

Accept

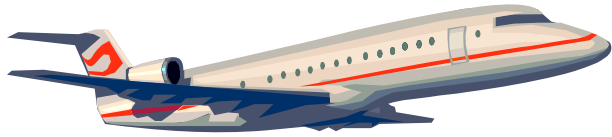


Identify

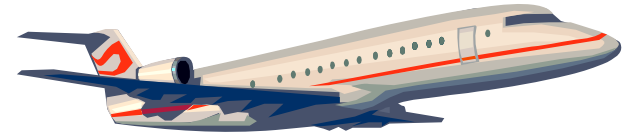
Readback

Process → Update

Respond



MacAir 0109, FL 270

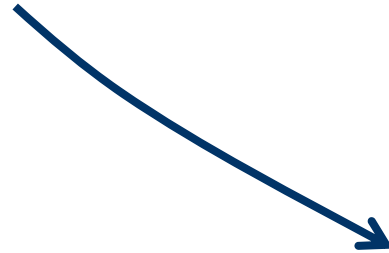
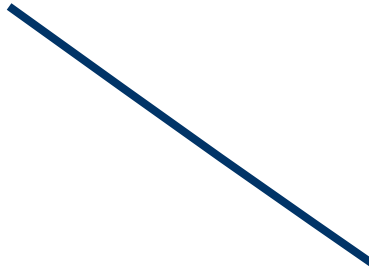


FL 310



Climbing flight level three one zero MacAir 0109

MacAir 0109 climb flight level three one zero

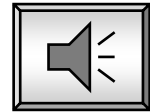


Centre

Standard RT Phraseology:

Fastair 345, cleared straight in ILS approach runway 28, descend to altitude 3000 feet QNH 1011, report established on the localiser.

Fastair 345, climb and maintain flight level 310.



Plain English:

Tower, we are having problems with our hydraulic system. We're struggling to maintain level flight. QA 911.

Proficiency levels:

6 Expert

5 Extended

4 Operational

3 Pre-operational

2 Elementary

1 Pre-elementary

Language profiles:

Pronunciation

Structure

Vocabulary

Fluency

Comprehension

Interactions



ICAO Rating Scale

Descriptors for Structure:

Relevant grammatical structures and sentence patterns are determined by **language functions** appropriate to the task

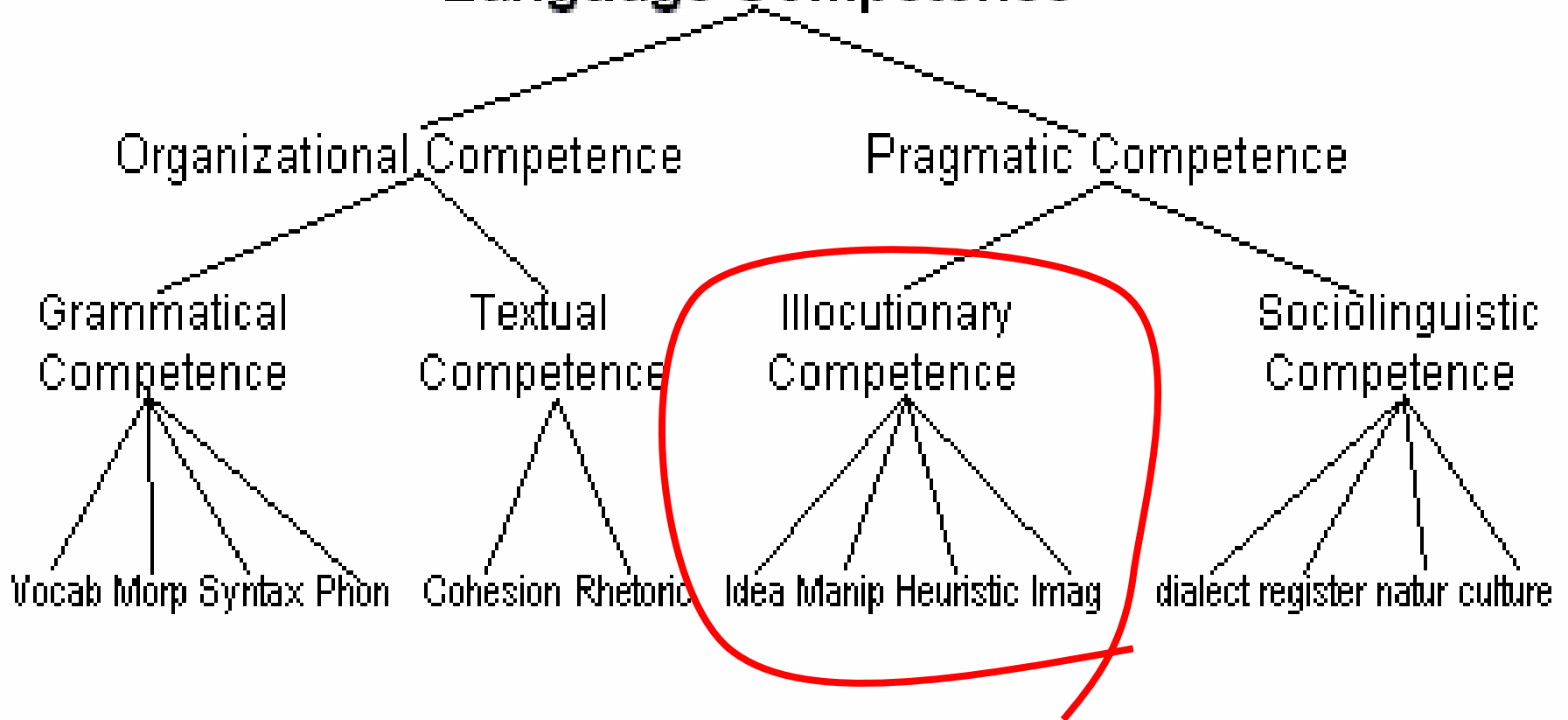


Functions

One way of organizing a communicative language teaching curriculum is through a focus on the communicative functions of language... To aid training organizations in the development of an appropriate English language training curriculum for pilots and air traffic controllers, a subset of those communicative language functions which are of particular relevance to radiotelephony communications has been identified.

ICAO Doc 9835, Section 7.4.1

Language Competence



Bachman, 1990

Illocutionary Competence

Ideational

Manipulative

Instrumental

Regulatory

Interpersonal

Heuristic

Imaginative

Bachman, 1990



Dominant Functions in Aviation Radiotelephony

- Triggering actions
- Sharing information
- Managing the pilot-controller relationship
- Managing the dialogue

Mell & Godmet, 2002

Emergency Calls

 Controller	 Controller - Pilot
 Controller	 Pilot
 Pilot	 Controller
 Controller	 Pilot
 Pilot	 Controller A – B – A

1. Triggering actions

1.2 Requests and offers to act

- Request action by other (C/P)
- Agree to act (C/P)
- State reluctance/unwillingness to act (C/P)
- Refuse to act (C/P)
- Offer to act (C/P)
- Accept an offer to act (C/P)
- Refuse an offer to act (C/P)

2. Sharing information

2.2 Information concerning the future

- Announce an expected action/event (C/P)
- Ask about the expected moment/duration of an event (C/P)
- State possible consequences of an action/event (C/P)
- State intentions (C/P)
- Request prediction (C/P)
- Predict a future action/event (C/P)
- Warn (C/P)

3. Managing the pilot-controller relationship

- Express dissatisfaction (C/P)
- Reprimand (C)
- Apologise (C/P)
- Express satisfaction (C/P)
- Express concern/apprehension (P)
- Reassure (C)
- Encourage (C)

4. Management of the dialogue

- Request response (C/P)
- Declare non-understanding (C/P)
- Request confirmation (C/P)
- Give disconfirmation (C/P)
- Give clarification (C/P)
- Relay an order (C)

MAYDAY calls

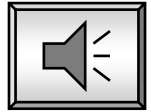
The standard and the reality

- the name of the station addressed,
- the identification of the aircraft,
- the nature of the distress condition,
- the intention of the person in command
- present position, level and heading
- I've got an emergency,
- Short on fuel,
- and I'm steering to the beacon on 112.3,
- and I've been told to tune on to the IFR to get me into an airfield,
- I have less than 15 minutes fuel supply sir



Aviation

ENGLISH

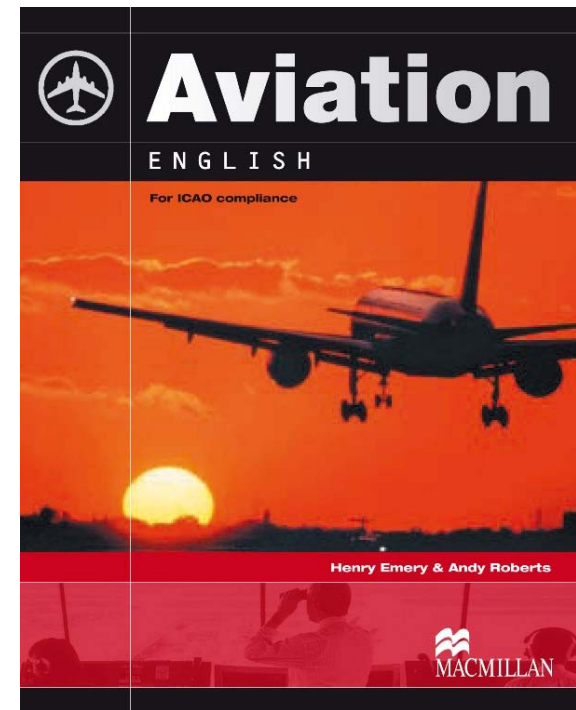


For ICAO Level 4

For pilots and air traffic controllers

12 Units, four sections per unit:

- Reading
- Listening (plain English)
- Listening (non-routine R/T)
- Language practice





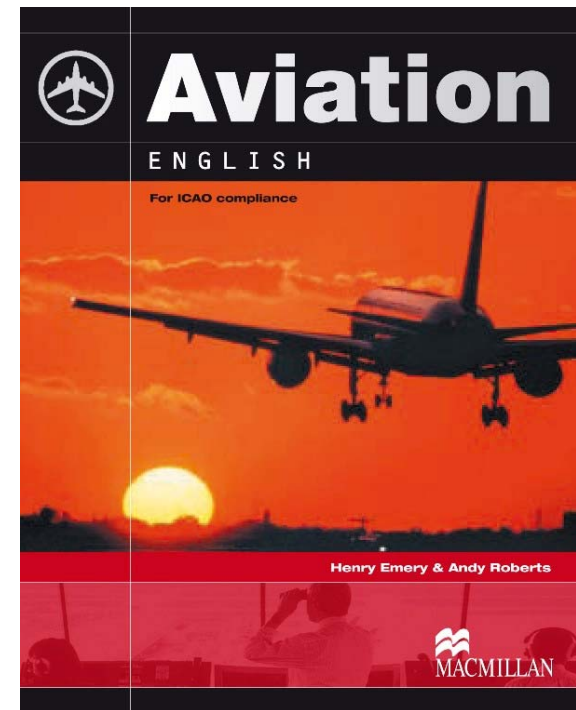
Aviation

ENGLISH



The course includes...

- **Student's Book**
- **Student's Book CD-ROM**
- **Macmillan English Dictionary/
Pronunciation CD-ROM**
- **Teacher's Book**
- **Audio CDs**





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aviation academy

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Benchmark testing and consultancy

Teacher and rater training

Language training

Proficiency testing for licensing purposes

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Questions and comments

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References

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- Mell, J & Godmet, C (2002) *Communicative Functions in the Language of Aviation Radiotelephony* (Published in ICAO Document 9835)
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