

English for Stressful Situations Aviation English Course

Course Outcomes

By the end of the one-week course participants are:

- Familiar with talking about non-routine situations in English
- Able to control their emotions and stress levels when dealing with non-routine situations
- Able to use more accurate and precise vocabulary, grammar and functional language relevant when confronted with non-routine situations
- More confident in speaking in high stress situations
- More knowledgeable about UK aviation having attended three off-site aviation activities
- Aware of clear and measurable on-going development targets for themselves, developed through personal coaching

Course Outline

The English for Stressful Situations Course develops participants' skills and language firmly in the context of non-routine aviation English situations. Each day is divided into four sessions (60-90 minutes) with an opening plenary and three aviation-related activities. Each specific session has a set focus to target participants' English needs precisely and the duration of lessons ensures lessons are fast-paced and clear objectives are achieved.

Plenary

The day begins with a whole-school presentation led by teachers, the Principal or Academic Manager and students. It is an inspirational 15-minute session to kick start the day and focus students' attention on themes to broaden horizons, to increase world knowledge and develop learning strategies.

Aviation Lexis

This session develops functional language lexis and structures necessary for pilots, air traffic controllers and other aviation personnel to communicate accurately in their day-to-day situations. Lexical topics include: coordinates and navigation, weather conditions, technical failures, communications, measurement, medical emergencies, movement and manoeuvring.

Aviation Scenarios and Case Studies

The next session of the day uses scenarios, case studies and role play to replicate the stressful conditions of non-routine situations for pilots and air traffic controllers. Participants are actively engaged in the task as they analyse a set scenario and/or real life case study and use their judgement to take appropriate action to achieve an end result. Sub-skills of giving opinions, decision-making, reaching agreements, assigning tasks and problem-solving are developed throughout the week.

Authentic Listening

The session after lunch focuses on both listening and speaking skills in the context of non-routine aviation English. There is an emphasis on recognising features of international accents in order for those in the aviation industry to successfully communicate with colleagues and clientele across the world. It also provides development of non-linguistic strategies needed to cope with non-standard situations.

Accent Management

The final session activates the participants' new language and vocabulary hand-in-hand with pronunciation and accent management. These sessions enable participants to apply voice control techniques in stressful situations through real recordings and self-monitoring.

Aviation and Cultural Activities

A number of aviation-specific cultural activities are organised during the week including any of the following (subject to availability): a trip to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford (the UK's largest aviation museum), a visit to Cranfield University Air Traffic Management Laboratory and control tower (the first digital tower in the UK), a visit to Cambridge Airport and control tower, a trip to Cambridge American Cemetery and War Memorial. Regent Cambridge also invites local aviation professionals to join participants for a long working lunch to discuss their role in an authentic conversational environment. Participants can also join our regular school cultural activities including a first day tour of Cambridge's historical centre, punting and a Thursday social event such as a group dinner in a traditional English pub.

Coaching

All students receive a 15-minute coaching session each week with their teacher in which they discuss their goals and are supported in achieving them. This is a unique opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and receive expert guidance for further language development.

Sample Timetable*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aviation Lexis 9:00 - 10:30	Technical Malfunctions	Medical Emergencies	Risk and Safety	Excursion to IWM Duxford (historic airfield and museum)	Excursion to Cranfield Control Tower or American RAF Cemetery and Museum
10:30 - 10:45	Break				
Aviation Scenarios & Case Studies 10:45 - 12:00	Pilot Shortages	The Future of Aviation	The Threat of Lasers		
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch	Working Lunch with an aviation professional	Lunch		Lunch and Coaching Sessions
Authentic Listening 13:30 - 14:30	Pronunciation Features I	Pronunciation Features II	International Accents I		International Accents II
14:30 - 14:45	Break				Break
Accent Management 14:45 - 15:45	Vocal Patterns	Patterns Under Stress	Pronunciation in Routine and Non-Routine Situations		The Assertive Voice
Social Programme 16:00 - 17:00	Walking Tour of Cambridge	Punting on the River Cam	English Afternoon Tea		Traditional English Pub

*Precise days and times of activities is subject to change based on local alterations beyond our control