Teaching Aviation English

An Overview of Requirements, Training, & Application
Requirements

- Teachers need:
  - high level English proficiency
  - excellent communication and
  - linguistic skills
Requirements

- Teachers need to:
  - Know how industry works
  - Be familiar with subject matter
  - Understand unique needs of adult learner and various learning styles
Requirements

- Students need:
- Solid foundation in English
- To be familiar with formal as well as colloquial English
- To have some prior training in field of aviation
Students include:

- Pilots
- Air traffic controllers
- Cabin crew
- Maintenance engineers
- Ground staff
- Flight dispatchers
Topics

- Topics may include:
- Weather
- Navigation
- Phases of flight
- Documents on board
- Emergency equipment
- Disease, illness, and symptoms
Vocabulary may include:

- Parts of aircraft
- Cockpit instruments
- Items in cabin
Vocabulary

- Runways
- Airport structures
- Vehicles
- Passenger terminals
Language Study

- Grammar
- Verb tenses
- Forming questions
- Modal verbs
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Nouns and pronouns
- Numbers
Oral Skills

- Pronunciation
  - rhythm and stress
- Listening
  - variety of accents
- Speaking for fluency
  - learn terminology
Focus on Communication

- Authentic and in context
- Technically accurate
- English specific to aviation as well as General English
- Prepare for both normal and unpredictable/stressful situations
Course Material

- Teach in context
- Challenge and engage students
- Vary exercises and activities
- Generate interest with meaningful exchanges
- Consider different learning styles
Course Material

- Set learning objectives
- Know what students are learning and why
- Include current proficiency requirements
Potential problems include:

- approach delays
- fire on board
- health problems
- passenger behavior
- take-off /landing incidents
Conclusion

- Teachers need to be fluent in English and familiar with aviation
- Students need to meet language proficiency requirements
- There is little published teaching material available and few language testing systems
Sources

- sixthings.net (Six things about teaching aviation English)
- macmillanenglish.com
- Aviation English Teaching Materials and Resources by Fiona Robertson