

## Versant Aviation English *Certification* Test Instructions

The Versant Aviation English *Certification* Test is delivered over the telephone using the Ordinate® automated testing system. It is designed to assess your ability to understand and use ICAO phraseologies as well as common English. The test is intended to measure the six subskills in the ICAO language proficiency scale (Pronunciation, Structure, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension, and Interactions).

**Procedure:** First, take time to read the whole test paper. If there are words or sentences that you don't understand, you may use a dictionary or ask someone for help. When you are ready to begin the test, use an appropriate telephone to call the telephone number printed on the test paper. When asked, you should enter the Test Identification Number using the buttons on your telephone keypad. You should take the test on your own by following the instructions given over the telephone. Relax, concentrate, and do your best. If you do not know how to respond to a test item, just be silent or say “*I don't know.*”

**Test Sections:** The test has eight sections (Part A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H) as follows:

### **Part A: AVIATION READING**

You will be asked to read three aviation specific messages in a random order from among those printed in Part A. Read the messages out loud smoothly and naturally.

### **Part B: COMMON ENGLISH READING**

You will be asked to read three sentences in a random order from among those printed in Part B. Read the messages out loud smoothly and naturally.

### **Part C: REPEAT**

You will hear 16 sentences in this section, one at a time. Repeat each sentence you hear – exactly as you hear it. If you can't repeat the whole sentence, repeat as much of the sentence as you can.

**Example:** When you hear: “My next flight is on Saturday.”  
You say: “My next flight is on Saturday.”

### **Part D: SHORT ANSWER QUESTION**

In this section, you will hear 24 short questions. Answer each question with a single word or a short phrase of two or three words.

**Example:** When you hear: “Where in the airplane do the pilots control the aircraft?”  
You say: “cockpit” or “in the cockpit”

### **Part E: READBACK**

You will hear 12 radio messages in this section, one at a time. The radio messages use ICAO phraseologies. When you hear a message, say an appropriate readback using ICAO phraseologies.

**Example:** Cessna 29 (The call sign is printed on the test paper.)

When you hear: “Cessna two niner, exit taxiway Hotel.”  
You say: “Exit taxiway Hotel, Cessna two niner.”  
Or: “Exiting taxiway Hotel Cessna two niner.”

**Part F: CORRECTIONS and CONFIRMATIONS**

You will hear 12 radio communication exchanges between two speakers, Speaker 1 and Speaker 2. These speakers are a pilot and an air traffic controller. You need to respond to Speaker 2’s response as if you were Speaker 1. Speaker 2’s response may contain wrong information, a question, or a request. If the response contains wrong information, correct that information. If the response includes a question or request, respond appropriately. Depending on the situation, you may answer the questions using only ICAO phraseologies or a combination of ICAO phraseologies and common English.

**Example:** East Global Air 295 (The call sign is printed on the test paper.)

When you hear: (Speaker 1) “East Global Air 295, contact Atlanta Radar 122.15.”  
 (Speaker 2) “Atlanta Radar 122.5, East Global Air 295.”  
 You say: “East Global Air, negative, contact Radar 122.15.”  
 Or: “East Global Air 295, I say again, 122.15.”

**Part G: STORY-RETELLING**

You will hear four stories. After each story, retell it as best you can in your own words in English. Each story will be read only once. After you hear a beep, you will have 30 seconds to retell the story.

**Part H: OPEN QUESTIONS**

You will hear two questions. After you hear a beep, speak your opinion as fully and clearly as you can. You will have 30 seconds to answer. Express your opinion and supporting reasons in clear, coherent English. Try to speak for the whole 30 second period.

**Demographic Questions:** After Part H, you will hear “*This is the end of the Versant Aviation English Test. Thank you for calling the Ordinate Testing System.*” After this message, you will be asked a few questions about yourself. We do not ask for your name or phone number. Please also answer these questions. Your answers to these questions will NOT affect your test results.

**How the test is scored:** The Versant Aviation English Test scores are based on the exact words that you speak, as well as the pace, fluency, and pronunciation of those words as combined in phrases and sentences. Give quick, smooth, loud responses. Note that some test items have more than one correct answer.

When you hear: “*Thank you for calling the Ordinate Testing System.*” again, the test is complete; you may hang up.

**Suggestions:** Place your call to the Ordinate testing system on a good telephone in a suitable location. Choose a location that is quiet and where you will not be interrupted. Hold the phone as shown in the figure below and speak in a loud, steady voice. Use a land-line, push-button telephone in good working order that is set to “tone” (not “pulse”). Newer phones are generally better than older phones. Do not use a cordless, cellular phone, or VOIP phone.



**NO**  
too low, too far away



**YES**  
in front of mouth



**YES**  
a good distance