



Available on the Appstore, the collection of «In English, please» articles with the audio recordings when available. The application has recently been updated with the articles up to December 2018, offering almost 140 pages of aviation-related English practice right at your fingertips.

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Airports Airside bizarre encounters

There are two sections in an airport: the landside and the airside. While the landside is open to the general public, access to the airside is severely restricted to authorized staff and carefully channeled passengers who have gone through passport and security checks. This restricted access is to ensure that anything that comes near an aircraft is strictly controlled and presents the least probability of damage. Most of the time operations run smoothly, but once in a while, aircraft face unusual encounters. Whether it be objects, animals, vehicles, or even unruly people, they represent a hazard to the safety of flights, and as such, are relentlessly tracked down.

Each dash is a missing word in the transcripts below. The audio file can be found at www.anglais-pour-voler.com. Most of the recordings are from www.liveatc.net.

FOD

The list of potential Foreign Object Debris, causing Foreign Object Debris damage, is limitless. Anything can become FOD in an airport environment. Don't think you are immune from it just because you fly a small airplane from a small airfield. You are as subject to have your tires shredded by a misplaced tool, or your engine air inlet blocked by a stray piece of rag, as the next airliner operating from a hub. Below are a few examples of unexpected encounters.

CTL - We've got (-1) on the runway, the runway is (-2), so you are going to have to (-3).

CTL - (-4) for a (-5) reported at the intersection of Hotel, Bravo and Alpha.

PIL - (-6) (-7) the taxiway here, from right to left.

CTL - Got some sort of (-8) on the runway just south of the intersection, I suggest you

(-9), make a missed approach, (-10), climb to 2000.

PIL - It looks like the (-11) that they put in between the seams to the concrete has (-12) right here at the end, about 150 feet wide. It looks like a (-13).

CTL - There is a (-14), due to the high winds, that (-15) the ramp and it's right to the right of the taxi ..., of ..., sorry, right to the right of the runway. It appears to be (-16), but I can't (-17) that, I can (-18) you runway 2-7 left.

Wildlife

In the ICAO taxonomy, wildlife is just another FOD. However, it is in a class of its own. Birds contribute the most to statistics, but some encounters are more exotic.

ATIS - (-1) bird activity.

PIL - We are right here at Kilo 2, on the (-2), there is a (-3) about to (-4).

PIL - At the position we just passed, there is a (-5) on the taxiway.

PIL - Before we go, we might have (-6) some kind of (-7) on the (-8) during our (-9). It looked like a (-10) from what we saw.

PIL - We are (-11) at a very big (-12).

CTL - There is a (-13) of an (-7) on the runway, so just (-14).

PIL - We just (-15) in the n°1 engine, declare an emergency.

PIL - (-16) procedures, there is a little (-17) running around down here on the taxiway.

PIL - We think we (-18) in the right engine, it seems to be (-19), so it's not (-20), but we need to come back.

Vehicles and people

The airside - or non-public zone of the airport - can be divided roughly into the maneuvering area (used for the take-off, landing and taxiing

of aircraft, at the exclusion of aprons), and the movement area (consisting of the maneuvering area and the aprons). Anything present in the maneuvering area is supposed to be in contact with ATC. However, it is not always the case.

CTL - (-1) 2, there is a (-2) that just is moving right across the (-3).

CTL - We've got a (-4) driving around on the airport, we are not (-5) to him, hold short of runway 9 left, we are not (-6) anybody until we find this (-7).

PIL - A (-8) opened up an (-9) and is now on the wing (-10), can you (-11) the police, please?

PIL - The (-8) is mostly (-12), running across runway 2-7 Right at Tango, he's got is (-13), and now that (-8) is running back (-14) the airplane at this time.

CTL - There was a (-15) onto the runway ... by (-16); one has been (-17) however they are still looking for the others. The Australian Federal Police has closed the Brisbane airport (-18). Any further (-19) I'll pass on ... on this frequency.

CTL - There is an (-20) on the aerodrome at the moment, go around, maintain runway heading, climb to 4000.

CTL - The (-21) on 0-4/2-2, (-22)?

If you are interested in reading more on the subject you can turn to these two previous «In English, please» articles: «How not to kill two birds with one plane» from the July 2010 Infopilote issue, and «FOD, encounters of a dubious kind» published in May 2012. You'll also find more material on flight hazards, including audio files from Captain Sullenberger's bird-stricken flight which ended up in the Hudson, in Practice Paper #21 at www.anglais-pour-voler.com/practice/practice-2019/.