

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS FOR AVIATION

Announcing a present action or state

To talk about permanent situations, regular actions, habits and routines in the present we use the present simple.

Positive: Subject + verb in basic form, -s ending for 3rd person singular (he, she, it)

*I fly the 737.
He regularly flies from Heathrow.*

Negative: Subject + do not (don't) or does not (doesn't) for 3rd person singular (he, she, it) + verb in basic form

*I don't use the glass cockpit.
He doesn't know how to use the fly-by-wire.
They don't use jetways at this airport.*

Questions: (Optional question word – What, Why, When etc.) + do or does for 3rd person singular (he, she, it) + verb in basic form (we don't add -s to the main verb in questions and negatives).

*Where do you work?
What does he do?
What aircraft do they usually use?
Do you know this aircraft?*

To talk about actions happening now or around now, changes and trends in the present we use the present continues.

Positive: Subject + to be (I am, you are, he/she/it is) + the main verb with -ing ending

*I am (I'm) looking at the altimeter now.
We are (We're) taxiing to the gate at the moment.
You're crossing an active runway.*

Negative: Subject + to be (I am, you are, he/she/it is) + not (usually contracted, eg.: he isn't, we aren't) + the main verb with -ing ending

*We aren't taxiing. or We're not taxiing.
The systems aren't responding.*

Questions: (Optional question word – What, Why, When etc.) + to be (am, are, is) + subject + main verb with -ing ending

*What is the PFD showing?
What is the ATCO saying?
What are the emergency services doing?*

With some verbs we cannot use the continuous form (-ing ending) even if we talk about actions happening now. These are the verbs which describe states rather than actions. They include ways of thinking or feeling, eg. like, love, hate, understand, know, have (possess), seem, appear, prefer, recognize, remember etc.

We don't understand what you're saying. not We're not understanding what you're saying