

What is the **function** of language? Give some example.

It's a communication strategy using some forms of verbs and structures to communicate changes in meaning.

One function can have many different language functions. Here are the examples of different functions:

If you say anything, I will tell our boss. (**Function-Threat/Warning**)

I'll do the paperwork, if you grab a bite to eat. (**Function-Negotiation**)

I'll complete the checklist for you. (**Function-Offer**)

And one function (here: **recommendation**) can be expressed using several different language structures. For example:

If I were you, I'd (**2nd conditional**)

Why don't you (**Present tense – question – negative**)

You should / ought to (**Modal/auxiliary verb**)

It's the CONTEXT that MATTERS

Aviation-related context

e.g.

We are going to divert to Gatwick.

Function: **saying intentions**

Structure: be going to future

We are diverting to Gatwick.















Function: **describing an action in progress**

Structure: present continuous

Functions in aviation RT.

ICAO Document 9835, appendix – **‘the Dominant Communicative Function in Radio Telephony Communications’** (p.105/150)

Task. 1 Complete the table with functions and structures.

Utterance	Function	Structure
1. The runway threshold needs clearing .		
2. We're checking the engine parameters.		
3. If only they had completed the checklist!		
4. Do you have to get up early tomorrow?		
5. I can't find it in the MEL. I'll call maintenance.		
6. Climb flight level 240.		
7. He could have left the log book in the a/c.		

Task 2. Imagine you are a pilot or a controller. Write one or two exponents for the following functions. Read your exponents to your partner. Can you guess each other's functions?

e.g.

announce incapacity – 'unable' (one-word function)

give warning –

ask about intentions –

describe a state –

offer to act –

request clarification –

state intentions –

state needs –

correct a misunderstanding –

reprimand –

announce a nearly completed action –

give information -

announce a spontaneous decision to act –

declare non-understanding –

announce compliance with an order –

relay a request for permission –

state reluctance –

request repetition –

describe a visual impression –

express concern / apprehension –

give reasons -

