

definition of aviation words. Acronyms are a large part of aviation jargon. This glossary of terms provides basic definitions of airline lingo. We have compiled this dictionary that covers traditional pilot terms and includes funny phrases as well. **A “handshake” in aviation means something entirely different than what you might expect!**

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Absolute Altitude – The vertical distance between the aircraft and ground level.

Absolute Ceiling – The highest altitude an aircraft can fly at maximum throttle while maintaining level height and constant airspeed.

Accelerated Stall – A stall that occurs at a higher airspeed than a normal stall due to a higher load factor (g).

Adverse yaw – Occurs when the plane’s nose turns away from the direction of turn.

ADF (Automatic Direction Finder) – A navigation system that identifies the relative bearing of an aircraft based on a radio beacon transmitting in the MF or LF bandwidth.

Adiabatic Lapse Rate – The rate at which temperature changes due to increasing and decreasing altitude, under conditions of thermal equilibrium.

Adverse Yaw – When an aircraft turns in the opposite direction of a roll due to use of ailerons and the difference in lift and drag.



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