

100 Things I Wish I Had Known As A Pilot!

We have all had those times where a piece of information would have been nice to know 5 minutes before!
Well this is just a small list of some of those things!



EVERYTHING AVIATION - SIMPLY EXPLAINED

1. Never get in your aircraft without walking around it – Cowl Latches always seem to be left open by customers!
2. Place the fuel cap on your seat – You will never forget to put it back on
3. New fuelling locations – Test for COWS – Color, Odor Water, Sediment
4. Always close the passenger doors then get in. They never close doors properly
5. Always have black garbage bags to hand. Sick Sacs fill very quickly!
6. Post-It notes make great sun visors
7. Never put a phone out of the window to take a photo – The wind WILL remove it from your hand!
8. Keep a window cloth handy for wiping off condensation
9. If picking up passengers who are wet – Cool the cockpit, it will prevent steaming up the windows
10. Have a dry erase marker handy for writing on aircraft windows – Call signs and Frequencies!



11. Velcro the marker to the dashboard so it's always handy
12. Cheap rubber matting, cut to size makes cleaning the aircraft so much faster!
13. Always wipe and wax windows in the direction of wind flow – Helps prevent distracting streaks
14. Never use Polarized Sunglasses with Glass Cockpits – Lenses can block displayed information
15. Buy a Good Pair of sunglasses – UV Radiation increases with altitude
16. Always have frequencies and runway directions of nearby airports on a pad of paper
17. Get Foreflight for your Ipad or Iphone - It will change your life!
18. Ensure aircraft steps and footholds have wingwalk painted on them - Frost and slips are a bad combination!
19. Keep windows cleaned and waxed to help bead away rain - Rain always sticks to windows at the worst possible time!
20. Listen to your gut - It's good at telling you to turn around, land or not takeoff!

21. Keep a toilet roll in the aircraft - You will be surprised how many times you need it!
22. Remember that darkness happens sooner on cloudy, overcast days!



30. Try and buy your own aircraft - It might be cheaper than you think!

23. Get some instrument, low visibility and night training regularly to keep those skills refined - They could save your life one day!
24. Never call your spouse just before takeoff - Distracted minds have killed many pilots!
25. Never forget to close your flight plan!
26. Air Traffic Control is your friend - Talk to them early if you start to have an issue
27. If you are flying to a new, busy airport - Call the tower when flight planning and see if they have any navigation information
28. Always have a flight plan and a backup plan!
29. Join a flying club - Its a great way to keep learning and make new friends!
31. If you are not sure, find out before committing!
32. Every month re-read the emergency checklist - Executing a procedure by memory could save your life!
33. Read accident reports to learn from others mistakes
34. Go to a Fly-in. They are great fun!
35. Pass on your knowledge to others - We all have different experiences that others can learn from!
36. Always talk clearly on the radio - It keeps everyone safe
37. Always make blind radio calls - you never know who has just fired up or switched to your frequency
38. Always do a low pass at new landing sites - bumps, rocks and obstructions are easily hidden when flying higher
39. Practice Go-Arounds and aborted takeoffs regularly
40. Talk to other pilots and find those 'Gems' of a place to visit or fly over

41. Always ensure a chart/map is to had and folded to your area - Electronics fail!
42. If its really cold, tuck your GPS into your coat when parked and waiting - They don't like cold!
43. Hand and foot 'Hot Pockets' are a welcomed relief if needed - Keep one in your aircraft
44. Keep a small tool kit in the aircraft
45. Have a good watch - Accurate timekeeping is paramount!
46. Wash and wax the aircraft regularly - It will save you time and gas!
47. Never rush a Daily Inspection
48. Never distract a pilot or engineer working or inspecting an aircraft
49. Detailed inspections are a must after anyone has worked on the aircraft - Rags and tools left behind are killers!
50. If something is not working right - Get it looked it



51. Avgas is Blue, Jet Fuel is Clear
52. Always check the correct fuel truck or fuel tank is about to pump into your aircraft!
53. If you are a short person, a small pair of lightweight steps are a must when travelling - Trust Me! I'm only 5'6"
54. Check flashlight batteries work and have spares easy to hand
55. Don't worry if a wasp or bee comes into the cockpit. Leave it alone - Pilots have crashed trying to swat a wasp!
56. Tell nervous passengers what you are doing as you fly - Give them a task to do or landmark to look for
57. Regularly wipe and clean all flight controls, handles, knobs, buttons and headsets of club or school aircraft
58. Always listen - You might learn something
59. Help new pilots and flight students - You were there once



60. Learn who are good instructors/companies and send pilots to them if someone is looking
61. Never allow shooting videos/taking photos to distract you from flying
62. Always Aviate, Navigate, Communicate - In that order!
63. Go visit an air traffic control tower and radar control center - It's a great way to understand the other end of the radio
64. When learning to fly, get a radio and sit by a busy training airport and listen to ATC. You will soon begin to understand
65. Always keep your books from flight school, you will be surprised how many times you refer to them in the future!
66. Buy a good, quality headset - It will last you for decades! - My Bose Aviation X is 15 years and still going!
67. Never be in a rush to fly - allow lots of time and be thorough in your pre-flight
68. Camelbaks are great to hang on the back of the seat and keep you easily hydrated!
69. Never place objects where they can fall and end up by your feet! Jammed rudder pedals are not fun!
70. Buy Good quality when you can - It will last you longer

71. Buy used text books for school - Far Cheaper!
72. Online Written test prep courses are very, very helpful!
73. Keep a digital and paper logbook! Losing your only copy is devastating
74. Fill in your logbook after every flight - Lots of flying and no updating means a long time filling it in!
75. Create a mental checklist of everything you do before take off - never deviate from it
76. Never assume anything - Always confirm!
77. Avgas on a shop towel is a good degreaser for cleaning oil off belly of an airplane
78. Clean bugs off when you land - The longer they sit, the harder it is to get them off
79. ANR headset is a must. Don't waste your money on one that doesn't have it.
80. Sunglasses with thin rims will keep your headset quieter.



81. Use inactive VOR OBS to document wind direction at departure or destination airport
82. Don't fly with frost on the plane. EVER!
83. Always be looking for where you will land if you lose your engine
84. If you have an emergency landing, fly the airplane all the way to the ground. Don't stall the airplane, it will nose dive
85. Use carb heat even in warm environments. You can develop carb ice in the middle of the summer!
86. On hot days if cylinders are overheating and still needing to climb, carb heat will enrich the mixture and cool the engine
87. View landings as a flight maneuver... don't just let the airplane stall and end up on the ground. Put it where you want it
88. Evaluate all instructions ATC gives you before automatically complying... they make mistakes, too! And you are PIC, not them
89. Download LiveATC.com app and listen to your local airport to get more proficient on the radio
90. When taxiing on soft ground (i.e. mud), don't make sharp turns or full brake on one wheel. Keep your momentum up

91. Always give yourself permission to go around on approach and landing. Always!
92. On approach, use the mantra "high, low, fast, or slow... and what are you gonna do about it?"



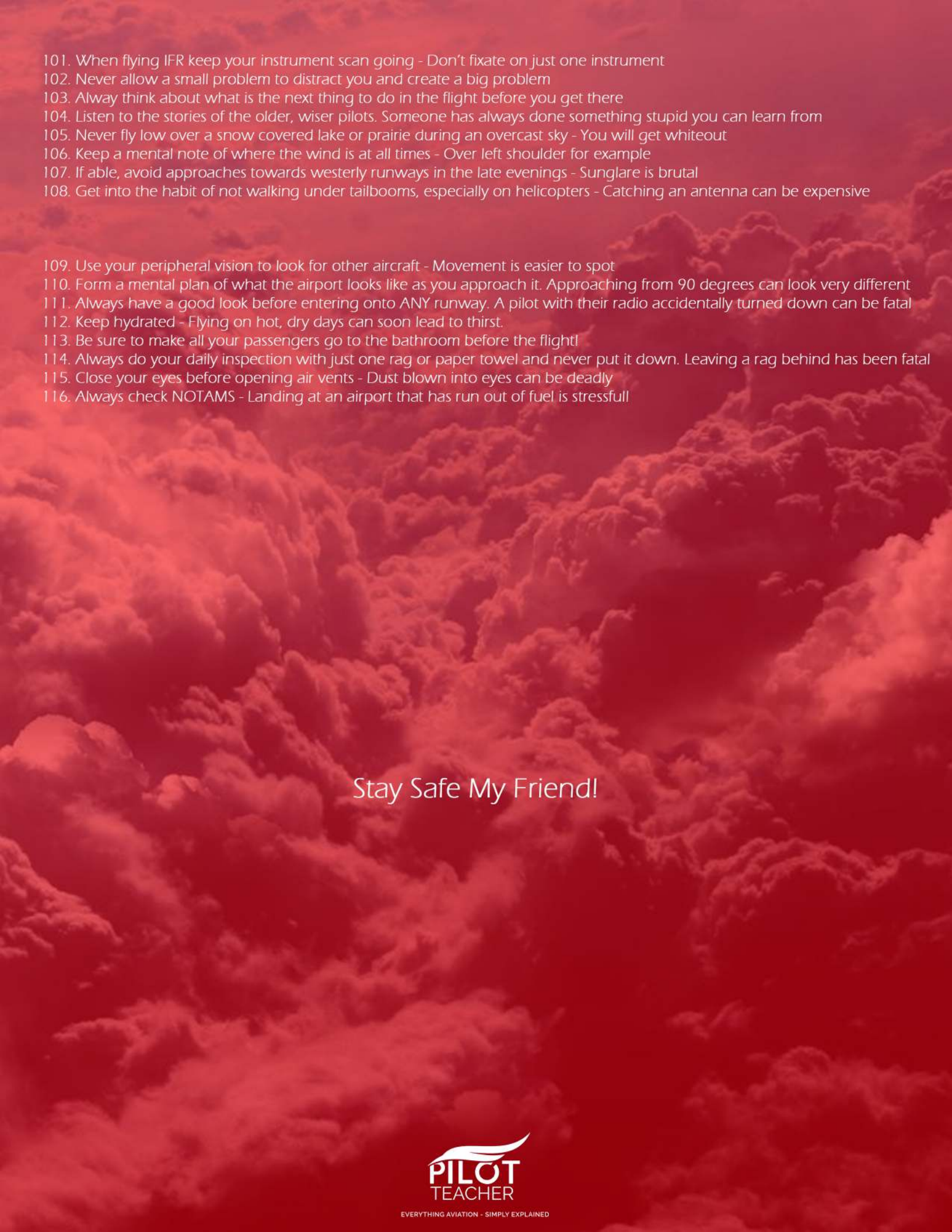
93. On instrument approaches, narrate your altitudes out loud so you don't blow through your MDA/DA. "500 for 250"
94. Fuzzy/intermittent radio could be a sign of your alternator failing. Look for any other instruments switching to internal battery
95. If an instrument is giving an emergency indication, cross-check that against other instruments to confirm
96. Don't ever be afraid to ask a "dumb" question. If you are thinking it, others have thought it too.
97. Visit 'Airfield.Guide' for a great directory of non-paved airstrips
98. When flying at night, if city lights start getting halos around them or appearing blurry, you are actually flying into clouds
99. Use an isolate button on your comm stack if you have it, for chatty passengers
100. Tell your passengers your tail number and tell them to listen for it on the radio. If someone says your tail number, be quiet

and a few more just for you..

Keep Readin'



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101. When flying IFR keep your instrument scan going - Don't fixate on just one instrument
 102. Never allow a small problem to distract you and create a big problem
 103. Always think about what is the next thing to do in the flight before you get there
 104. Listen to the stories of the older, wiser pilots. Someone has always done something stupid you can learn from
 105. Never fly low over a snow covered lake or prairie during an overcast sky - You will get whiteout
 106. Keep a mental note of where the wind is at all times - Over left shoulder for example
 107. If able, avoid approaches towards westerly runways in the late evenings - Sun glare is brutal
 108. Get into the habit of not walking under tailbooms, especially on helicopters - Catching an antenna can be expensive
 109. Use your peripheral vision to look for other aircraft - Movement is easier to spot
 110. Form a mental plan of what the airport looks like as you approach it. Approaching from 90 degrees can look very different
 111. Always have a good look before entering onto ANY runway. A pilot with their radio accidentally turned down can be fatal
 112. Keep hydrated - Flying on hot, dry days can soon lead to thirst.
 113. Be sure to make all your passengers go to the bathroom before the flight!
 114. Always do your daily inspection with just one rag or paper towel and never put it down. Leaving a rag behind has been fatal
 115. Close your eyes before opening air vents - Dust blown into eyes can be deadly
 116. Always check NOTAMS - Landing at an airport that has run out of fuel is stressful

Stay Safe My Friend!



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