

# GLOSSARY: A

This webpage found at:  
<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Curricula/AerospaceSupp/Activities/Glossary.htm>

**727 Boeing** - a three engine jet aircraft

## A

**above ground level (AGL)** - refers to altitude above terrain or airport elevation

**aerial photography** - any photograph made from a vehicle in flight

**aerospace engineer** - a person who designs airplanes and space ships using computers

**afterburner** - The afterburner is located at the aft part of the engine. It is essentially a part of the engine. Fuel is poured into the hot exhaust and then ignited. An afterburner typically increases thrust by 50%, but uses a lot of fuel for this increased thrust.

**ailerons** - moving parts attached to the rear edge of an aircraft's wing that helps the aircraft bank/turn

**air currents** - constantly flowing streams of air that move through the atmosphere

**air density** - a measure of the number of molecules in relation to volume of air

**air foil** - a wing, propeller blade or other object shaped to provide lift as it move through the air

**air frame and power plant mechanic** - person who is qualified to work on the engines and airframe of the aircraft. Checks and repairs airframe, power plant and maintains mechanical functions of aircraft.

**air traffic control towers** - not all airports have towers, only the busiest. A glassed-in observation tower from where air traffic controllers observe and direct airport air and ground traffic.

**air traffic controller** - a person who helps provide safety to aircraft in the air and on the ground

**aircraft mechanic** - a person who repairs and helps keep in good condition aircraft engines, power plants and electrical wiring systems

<b>airfoil</b>	- the shape of a wing that helps make it possible for the aircraft to fly
<b>airline transport pilot</b>	- Must have a commercial certificate, pass a Class I medical exam within the last six months, have a minimum of 1,500 flight hours, pass a FAA written examination and a check ride.
<b>airplane</b>	- a machine with wings, heavier than air, that is driven by an engine or jet
<b>airport</b>	- place where aircraft can take off and land; usually equipped with a control tower, hangars, and places for passengers and cargo
<b>airspace</b>	- the space lying above the earth or above a certain area of land or water. Classification of airspace for aircraft is regulated by the FAA.
<b>airspeed indicator<sup>1</sup></b>	- shows the speed in knots of the aircraft in the air
<b>all weather capable</b>	- an aircraft that has special equipment for flying in poor visibility
<b>altimeter</b>	- an instrument that measures absolute altitude above sea level
<b>altitude</b>	- the height above sea level
<b>altitude tracker</b>	- a device using trigonometric principles to determine the altitude of an object
<b>amphibian airplane</b>	- an airplane that can land on both land and water
<b>angle of attack<sup>2</sup></b>	- the angle a kite leans against the wind. If it is too large, the kite can be overpowered by the wind. If it is too small, there is not enough lift.
<b>apogee</b>	- peak altitude that an object reaches in flight
<b>artificial horizon (attitude indicator)<sup>1</sup></b>	- shows aircraft's position relative to the Earth's horizon
<b>astronaut</b>	- a person who operates a space vehicle, conducts experiments and gathers information during a space flight
<b>automated terminal information system (ATIS)</b>	- a continuous taped broadcast of an airport's current weather air traffic and runway information in a separate air traffic control frequency
<b>aviary</b>	- a place where birds are kept
<b>aviation</b>	- related to aircraft
<b>avionics</b>	- the science and technology of electronics applied to aeronautics and astronautics

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Web design: Victoria Kramer. This page was last updated on September 26, 2005.  
There are no plans for future updates.