

GLOSSARY: U-Z

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

U

V

variometer - an instrument that measures change in the rate of altitude

ventral fins¹³ - a small, vertical surface that attaches to the bottom of the fuselage towards the tail

vertical fin - see vertical stabilizer

vertical stabilizer - part of a small wing that keeps the nose stable so it doesn't yaw left or right

vertical velocity indicator¹ - shows how quickly the aircraft is rising or falling

very high frequency omnidirectional range (VOR) - navigation by radio signals sent from land-based stations to the receiver in an aircraft

VFR (Visual Flight Rules) pilots - navigate by keeping visual contact with objects on the surface

VFR/IFR flight rules - rules covering operation and navigation of aircraft. VFR (visual flight rules) are primarily by visual reference to the horizon and see-and-avoid procedures. IFR (instrument flight rules) are for flights permitted to penetrate clouds and low visibility conditions by reference to cockpit flight instruments and radio navigation.

W

weather - the condition of the atmosphere at a given time: air motion, moisture, temperature, air pressure

weight - See four forces of flight

wind shear - large changes in wind speed and direction with altitude. Can cause sudden gain or loss of airspeed on takeoff or during landing.

wind sock - cone-shaped, open-ended cylinder of cloth that catches the wind and indicates wind direction

wind velocity - the speed wind travels given in knots or miles per hour

windsock - a cone-shaped, open-ended cloth that catches the wind and shows wind direction

wing - the part of a bird, animal, or machine shaped in a way that gives lift when air flows over it

wing span - the distance from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other wing

wingtip vortices - small, tornado-like whirlwinds trailing an aircraft's wingtips. Associated with slow-flying, larger aircraft and can cause loss of control for smaller aircraft following close behind.

X

Y

yaw - (rotation) nose to the left or right about the vertical axis of an object

Z

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There are no plans for future updates.