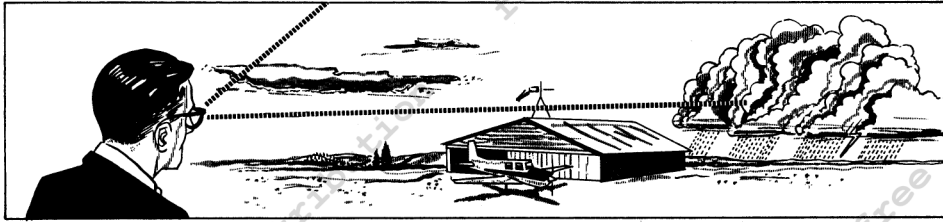
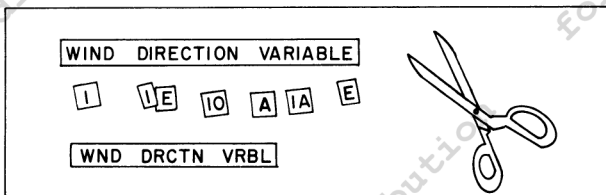


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
VFR PILOT EXAM-O-GRAM* NO. 46
AVIATION WEATHER REPORT-REMARKS



FAA written tests require that applicants be knowledgeable in the weather information contained in teletyped (hourly sequence) Aviation Weather Reports, necessary for planning and safely conducting cross-country flights. A study of test papers shows that weather related items are often answered incorrectly because certain available information is neglected.

A common misconception is that the regularly reported data alone, in the main body of the reports, reflects the overall weather situation at the reporting station. Frequently, remarks are added at the end of the report to cover unusual aspects of the weather, and often contain information which is as important as that found in the main body. The Remarks section is generally ignored by pilots who believe that the abbreviated information is difficult to interpret and meaningful only to meteorologists or air traffic control personnel. Admittedly, the coded NOTAMS (for example, →TUL↘3/47 XX 4/8 UR) also found in this section, are of particular significance to weather and traffic personnel and require special knowledge to decode. The weather remarks of importance to pilots, utilize standard abbreviations or contractions of words (BKN, OVC, RW, T, K, H, etc.). The few special code words used occasionally can be easily memorized. The contractions are formed by omitting vowels and other letters in a way that the meaning of the information remains obvious. For example, WND DRCTN VRBL T OVHD MOVG E should be read as WIND DIRECTION VARIABLE THUNDERSTORM OVERHEAD MOVING EAST.



The abbreviations and contractions introduced in this Exam-O-Gram include only those which are most frequently used and most significant to pilots. Your ability to interpret abbreviated remarks will improve with practice. A partial list of standard remarks is provided on the reverse side of this page. Samples of typical reports, followed by translations of the

Remarks section, are presented below for familiarization purposes. Note how, in these samples, the weather situation reported in the main body, takes on a different perspective when the remarks are considered in the overall weather picture. In the first report, the surface visibility of 20 miles looks good, but in reading further, we find the visibility at flight altitudes is reported to be restricted by smoke and haze.

SAMPLES OF COMPLETE REPORTS

1. DEN 300 SCT 20 174/57/36/1103/015 TCU SW KH ALF.
2. ALS E50 BKN 120 BKN 40 155/54/30/2117/015 HVY CB BD ALQDS.
3. ABQ E70 BKN 120 OVC 40 111/68/55/1311/010 MTN TOPS OBSCD W RWU N.
4. LIT 45 SCT E100 OVC 10 133/70/33/2409/977 RB32E45 T E PRESFR.
5. ACT 30 SCT E100 BKN 15 078/85/64/1815/985 LN CB SW-N OCNL LTGCG NW CB MAM N.

TRANSLATION OF REMARKS

1. towering cumulus clouds (TCU) southwest (SW), smoke (K), and haze (H) aloft (ALF).
2. heavy (HVY) cumulonimbus clouds (CB) and blowing dust (BD) in all quadrants (ALQDS).
3. mountain tops (MTN TOPS) obscured (OBSCD) west (W), rain showers (RW) of unknown intensity (U) north (N).
4. rain began (RB) 32 mins. after preceding hour, ended (E) 45 mins. after preceding hour, thunderstorm (T) east (E), pressure falling rapidly (PRESFR).
5. line (LN) cumulonimbus clouds (CB) southwest through north (SW-N), occasional (OCNL) lightning (LTG) cloud-to-ground (CG) northwest (NW), cumulonimbus mamma clouds (CB MAM) north (N).

The abbreviated remarks listed here serve only as an introduction to the manner in which weather conditions are often described in weather reports and forecasts. An expanded list of standard abbreviations and contractions is found in the publications, "Aviation Weather" AC 00-6, and "Contractions Handbook" 7340.1. These can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. A manual containing currently-used contractions is also available for reference purposes at all weather briefing offices.

ACSL W-altocumulus standing lenticular clouds west.
BINOVC-breaks in the overcast.
CIG RGD - ceiling is ragged.
CU E-cumulus clouds east. (CB-cumulonimbus) (CB MAM-cumulonimbus mamma).
CFP-cold front passage. (FROPA-frontal passage).
D5-dust obscuring 5/10 of the sky.
FQT THDR NW - frequent thunder northwest.
KH ALF-smoke and haze aloft.
HIR CLDS VSB-higher clouds visible.
ICGIC-icing in clouds.
LN TSTMS E-line of thunderstorms east.
LTGIC-lightning in clouds. (CG-cloud-to-ground) (CC-cloud-to-cloud).
MTN RDGS OBSCD-mountain ridges obscured.
PRESFR-pressure falling rapidly. (RR-rising rapidly).
RADAT 75125 -(Radiosonde data) relative humidity 75% at lowest freezing level 12, 500 feet.
RWU E-rain showers of unknown intensity east.
RB32-rain began 32 mins. after preceding hour. (E-ended).
TCU ALQDS-towering cumulus in all quadrants.
SQLN NW-squall line northwest.
VIRGA-precipitation falling but not reaching the ground.
OVC 65 -top of overcast is 6,500 feet MSL.

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