

Ernesto D'Acunto

FLASH on English

for TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS



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Unit	Topic	Vocabulary	Skills
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 1 MP3 audio files downloadable from www.elionline.com

What Is English for Transport and Logistics?

In a short time you will be studying English for Transport, both by sea and by air, as well as Logistics. But do you know exactly what these topics are?

1 Read the questionnaire and fill it in to check what you already know.

- 1 If you want to sail you need a _____ licence.
 - ☐ skipper's
 - ☐ pilot's
 - ☐ driver's
- 2 What are your main sailing interests?
 - ☐ no interest
 - ☐ racing
 - ☐ cruising
 - ☐ day sailing
- 3 What are your main flying interests?
 - ☐ pleasure
 - ☐ business
 - ☐ air taxi
 - ☐ instructor
- 4 What type of lorry driver would you like to become?
 - ☐ long-haul driver (more than 500 miles)
 - ☐ short-haul driver (less than 500 miles)
 - ☐ local driver (pick-up and delivery)
- 5 Who do you have to contact to become a train driver?
 - ☐ the Ministry of Transport
 - ☐ an Insurance Company
 - ☐ the Train Operator Company
- 6 What type of boat would you like to own?
 - ☐ none
 - ☐ sailing
 - ☐ motor
- 7 What type of aircraft would you like to fly?
model name _____ number _____
- 8 What type of lorry would you like to drive?
 - ☐ single-unit lorry
 - ☐ single-trailer lorry
 - ☐ multi-trailer lorry
- 9 If you are responsible for the train, the freight and the crew you will become
 - ☐ a conductor
 - ☐ a locomotive engineer/train driver
- 10 If you actually operate a locomotive you will be
 - ☐ a conductor
 - ☐ a locomotive engineer/train driver
- 11 If you become a logistics expert, where will the stocking location of your company be?
 - ☐ at home
 - ☐ in a warehouse
 - ☐ no stocking location, all business online



Simply speaking, English for Transport and Logistics covers the language used whenever you are 'at Sea, in the Air or on Land', whether you are on a small boat or a huge cruiser, in your lorry or in an airplane, in any port, airport or railway station. It involves everything related to transport and the way goods and people are organised when they get moving or are moved. But it also involves much more. Of course the starting point is the language, so you must know grammar quite well, but vocabulary can be very specific too.

English for Transport and Logistics will challenge all your language skills:

- reading (documents about transport, technical texts);
- writing (emails, technical reports and documents, filling data in grids, filling in forms);
- listening (presentations, announcements, technical descriptions);
- speaking in an interactive way.

These are all communication skills that you will use in transport-related situations.

English for Transport and Logistics will also help you connect to many specialised subjects and topics that you will soon study at school and it will provide you with a set of technical terms in preparation for your future specific study of the language.

2 What other school subjects do you think you will study these topics in? Write the subject/s for each of the following topics. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 intermodal freight transport | 4 control space |
| 2 building a ship | 5 the organisation of a port/airport/depot |
| 3 safety regulations | |

1 *Intermodal freight transport is studied in logistics.*

In this book you will study some basic, traditional topics in transport.

3 Match these topics with their contents.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 watercraft construction | a <input type="checkbox"/> an engineering discipline concerned with the design of ships, boats, drill rigs, submarines, and other floating or submerged craft |
| 2 sailing | b <input type="checkbox"/> the art of controlling a boat |
| 3 safety regulations | c <input type="checkbox"/> people move under their own power, or use wheels with electric or fuel-powered engines |
| 4 intermodal freight transport | d <input type="checkbox"/> the development of components and planning of aircraft |
| 5 aircraft navigation | e <input type="checkbox"/> a means of moving freight using multiple modes of transportation |
| 6 meteorology | f <input type="checkbox"/> the discipline of preventing injury or loss at sea |
| 7 aircraft construction | g <input type="checkbox"/> the interdisciplinary scientific study of the atmosphere |
| 8 land transport | h <input type="checkbox"/> the process of planning, recording and controlling the movement of a craft from one place to another |



MY GLOSSARY

aircraft /eəkra:ft/	intermodal freight transport /ɪntə'məʊdl freɪt 'trænspɔ:t/
conductor /kən'dʌktə(r)/	locomotive engineer /ləʊkə'məʊtɪv endʒɪ'nɪə(r)/
control space /kən'trəʊl speɪs/	lorry driver /'lɒrɪ 'draɪvə(r)/
crew /kru:/	safety /seɪftɪ/
cruiser /kru:zə(r)/	sail (v) /seɪl/
depot /depəʊ/	skipper /skɪpə(r)/
drill rig /drɪl rɪg/	stock (v) /stɒk/
engine /endʒɪn/	submerged /səb'mɜ:dʒd/
floating /fləʊtɪŋ/	trailer /treɪlə(r)/
freight /freɪt/	train driver /treɪn 'draɪvə(r)/
goods /gʊdz/	warehouse /weə'haʊs/
haul (n) /hɔ:l/	wheel /wi:l/

2

How to Tie Knots

How to make knots is essential for sailors and for navigation in general. Every sailor must know how to make knots, because they are very important both in case of danger and also in mooring a ship or a small leisure boat. When the students of a nautical school see a knot, they immediately think of the sea and know whether that knot has been made by expert hands or not.

The three most popular knots are the hitch, the Franciscan knot and the Savoy knot. A hitch is a knot used to moor a big ship, and it is considered the 'knot par excellence'. It is used to secure the mooring rope of a ship to the bitt on the dock when mooring. The Franciscan knot and the Savoy knot are important in case of danger and are *safety knots*. They are also called 'stop' knots, because they are usually the end knots of any safe linking.

Savoy knot



Hitch



Franciscan knot



1 Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 knot | a <input type="checkbox"/> the act of securing a vessel, usually by a cable or anchor |
| 2 sailor | b <input type="checkbox"/> it is a method of fastening or securing linear material such as a rope |
| 3 danger | c <input type="checkbox"/> a pleasure craft, not usually for professional use |
| 4 mooring | d <input type="checkbox"/> the possibility of harm or death to someone |
| 5 leisure boat | e <input type="checkbox"/> a person who navigates vessels or assists in their operation, maintenance, or service |

2 Complete the sentences with words from the text.

- Knowing how to make _____ is crucial for a sailor.
- Students of a _____ school can easily recognise knots.
- A hitch is used to _____ a big ship.
- A bitt is fixed on the _____.
- The Franciscan knot and Savoy knot are _____ knots.
- A stop knot closes a _____ linking.

3 Find the synonyms of these words in the text.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1 mariner | _____ | 4 to tie | _____ |
| 2 risk | _____ | 5 to fix | _____ |
| 3 professional | _____ | | |

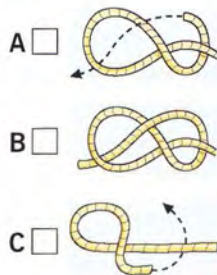
4 Write a short paragraph (50 words) describing the 3 most common types of knot, and saying why they are so important to sailors.

- 5** Learn how to make a Savoy knot.
Match the instructions to the pictures.

Instructions

- 1 make an eye
- 2 turn the rail round anticlockwise
- 3 put the rail through the eye and pull

Pictures



- 6** Now rewrite the instructions using the suggested time words. Then take a piece of string and check if you can do it.

First _____

Then _____

Finally _____

- 7** What is a Bowline knot? Read the text to find out.



The term **Bowline** (**Bowline knot**, **Bowline hitch**) refers to the knot used by a sailor to tie a line to his bow. In the past it was an important knot to the seaman in case of emergencies and a sailor learnt to tie it quickly, and while he was blindfolded by other sailors. This led to sayings such as: 'to remember the ropes', or 'to show someone the ropes'. It was a knot which did not slip, however hard it was pulled.

- 8** Match these words with their definitions.

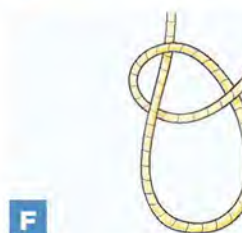
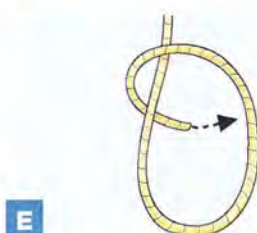
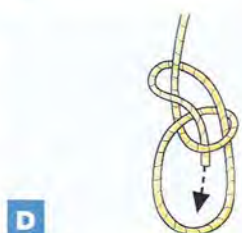
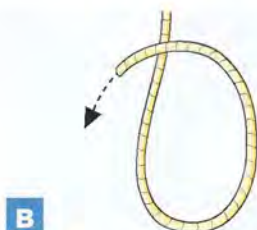
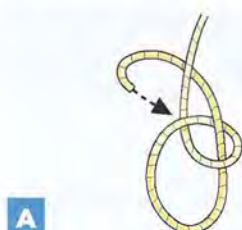
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 tie | a <input type="checkbox"/> strong thick strings |
| 2 seaman | b <input type="checkbox"/> to slide or move out of position |
| 3 blindfolded | c <input type="checkbox"/> to attach two or more things together with rope or string |
| 4 ropes | d <input type="checkbox"/> another word for sailor |
| 5 slip | e <input type="checkbox"/> having your eyes covered so you cannot see |

- 9** Test your memory. In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- 1 If you are mooring a ship which type of knot should you tie?
- 2 What do you attach the ship's rope to on a dock?
- 3 What are the two most common safety knots?
- 4 What are safety knots also known as?
- 5 Which type of knot should you be able to tie even when you cannot see?
- 6 Can you remember one expression connected to the Bowline knot?

10 Match the sentences to the corresponding pictures and put them in the right order to make a Bowline knot. Then listen and check.

- 1 ☐ Bring the working end between you and the static end.
- 2 ☐ Then bring it up through the loop.
- 3 ☐ Take the working end back round the static line.
- 4 ☐ First take a rope round your body and place the working end on top of the rope.
- 5 ☐ Finally take it down in the forced loop and pull.
- 6 ☐ Pull the working end so as to force the loop into the static end.



11 Read the text and decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).

The Franciscan Monk's knot is easy to tie or untie and works well as a stopper.

Its name comes from the Franciscan Monks who, in lieu of a leather belt, use a rope belt, called a cincture. Three knots tied in one end that hangs down on the right side are symbols of their vows (poverty, chastity and obedience). However the Franciscan Monk's knot traditionally used as stopper seems to have no symbolic significance.

Probably this knot gave the rope just enough weight to assure it hung straight at the side (keeping it out of the way) and helped identify them as Franciscans since other orders may have used rope belts. No doubt the knot itself was well known to many.



- 1 The name Franciscan knot has religious origins.
- 2 It has four knots tied in one end.
- 3 Beside giving the rope the right weight, this knot also has a symbolic meaning.
- 4 This kind of knot was an identification sign for the monks belonging to this order.

12 Put the sentences in the correct order, then try to make your Franciscan knot.

- ☐ Make sure you make between 4 and 6 turns (4 for stopper, 6 for heaving).
- ☒ 1 Make a long loop on the bight of the rope.
- ☐ Pull on the standing part to tighten the knot. You have finished.
- ☐ Wind the ends around the bight, from the standing part end towards the tip of the bight.
- ☐ Cross the end over the standing part, then under the bight.
- ☐ Slip the end of the rope through the eye of the bight.

13 Read the text and answer the questions.

The Ancient Art of Knot Tying in China

Knots are obviously important for practical reasons all over the world, but in China they also have great artistic and symbolic value. For thousands of years knot tying has been a reflection of artistic ability and tradition in Chinese culture. Symbolism is very important to the Chinese and the knot has many symbolic meanings. In the written language the character for the knot (結, *jié*) is represented by the 絲 (*sī*) symbolising silk or rope, combined with the 吉 (*jí*) representing prosperity, long life, luck and health. The character used to represent the string is thought to resemble a moving dragon, and the dragon is of course considered the greatest animal of all in Chinese culture. The knot can also symbolise relationships, strength, harmony and emotions, and many different types of knot exist to reflect this variety.

The art of knot tying follows established rules; for example, there are 20 basic techniques for tying a knot, the knot is always made from one single piece of string, usually about 1 m long, and a well-made knot must always look the same seen from the back as from the front. Different colours are used, but the colour red is the most common because red symbolises luck and prosperity. The types of knot can be distinguished by their uses: decorative, like the butterfly or flower knot; practical, like the button knot, which is also used as a button; and purely symbolic, like the good luck knot. The ancient art of knot tying lost importance in the 20th century of the New China under communist rule, but in recent years it has seen a revival, and is once again popular in all the Chinese-speaking world.

- 1 Why is knot tying more important for the Chinese than for other nationalities?
- 2 What do the characters *sī* and *jí* represent in written Chinese?
- 3 Why is the character for string considered lucky for the Chinese?
- 4 How can you recognise when a knot is well made?
- 5 Which colour is most popular and why?
- 6 What are the three most common uses of knots in China?
- 7 When did the art of knot tying lose popularity?

14 Rewrite the following sentences taken from the text, using no more than 3 words.

- 1 The dragon is considered the greatest animal of all in Chinese culture.
→ In Chinese culture no animal is considered to be _____ the dragon.
- 2 Many different types of knot exist to reflect this variety.
→ This variety _____ the existence of many different types of knot.
- 3 A well-made knot must always look the same seen from the back as from the front.
→ If a knot is well made it _____ different seen from the back as from the front.
- 4 The colour red is the most common.
→ The colour red is _____ than any other colour.
- 5 The ancient art of knot tying lost importance in the 20th century.
→ The ancient art of knot tying became _____ in the 20th century.



MY GLOSSARY

anchor /æŋkə(r)/ _____
 bitt /bɪt/ _____
 bowline /bəʊlɪn/ _____
 bowline hitch /bəʊlɪn hɪtʃ/ _____
 bowline knot /bəʊlɪn nɒt/ _____
 cable /keɪbl/ _____
 dock /dɒk/ _____
 end knot /end nɒt/ _____
 eye /aɪ/ _____
 fasten /fɑːsn/ _____
 Franciscan knot /fræŋ'sɪskən nɒt/ _____
 heave /hiːv/ _____

hitch /hɪtʃ/ _____
 leisure boat /leɪʒə(r) bəʊt/ _____
 loop /luːp/ _____
 mooring /mɔːrɪŋ/ _____
 safe linking /seɪf lɪŋkɪŋ/ _____
 safety knot /seɪftɪ nɒt/ _____
 sailor /seɪlə(r)/ _____
 Savoy knot /səvɔɪ nɒt/ _____
 silk /sɪlk/ _____
 string /strɪŋ/ _____
 thread (v) /θred/ _____