

Choosing an Instructor

All instructors are different. Deciding on an instructor is a personal choice. You should choose an instructor you feel comfortable with. An instructor should not only put safety first but should be willing to work with you in the air and answer any questions you may have. It is the instructor's responsibility for your training to see that you meet the standards required for certification. There is more to an instructor than getting the minimum time in an aircraft.

Go visit the flight schools and talk to the instructors. Most importantly, take an introduction to see how the instructor teaches. Most instructors will offer this at a discounted rate. Make a list of questions to take with you. Keep in mind your personal learning style and personality. If you fly with an instructor and decide you are not comfortable, go look at other instructors, even if you have been flying with the instructor for a while. An instructor must allow you to view aircraft documents and proof of insurance.

Here are several examples of questions to ask:

Is the aircraft rented "wet" or "dry" (Is fuel included in the cost or extra?)

Is the aircraft/instructor insured?

Will I be insured if I fly with this instructor in this airplane?

Do I need renter's insurance?

Are headsets provided? Do I need to buy my own? Are rental headsets available?

Are there surcharges or additional fees for cancellation/termination/admissions?

Are the **aircraft properly maintained?**

(Check logs books for 100-hour inspections, oil changes and annuals inspections by authorized mechanic - the authorized certification number will be listed next to the signature.)

Why is the instructor teaching and what is their concept of flying?

Does the instructor provide feed back after each lesson?

In bad weather, will the instructor still meet with you to review ground material?

Does the instructor have you focus and train you to make good decisions?

Does the instructor take unnecessary risks during training?

Is the instructor truly interested in seeing you succeed and willing to help?

Is the instructor only telling you part of the story? (Taking your check-ride with only minimum hours and requirements may cost you more in the long run.)

How does the instructor view other students, pilots and planes?

Does the instructor work within the flying community or only view others as competition?

What does the instructor require me to know before I solo? Oral Exam? Practical?

Does the instructor place an emphasis on good decision making skills, take off/landings and have you practice good techniques every time you fly?

Does the instructor have a flexible schedule to work with my schedule?

Are there resources available for you to use?

If you own a plane, will the instructor fly with you in your plane?

Does the instructor have references? Talk to former students.

No matter who you choose to do your training with, your time with your instructor is not all that it is going to take to become a pilot. You will need to spend time on your own

learning and preparing for your exams. Obtaining your pilot certificate does take dedication to flying, constant learning and effort on your part.

Add your own questions: _____
