

Aircraft Anatomy

Planes have a lot of parts which have both technical and more common names. Big or small, all aeroplanes have the same basic parts. See if you can match up the descriptions below with the correct numbered part of the plane, check your answers with your leader.

Vertical Stabiliser

Sometimes known as the 'tail fin' usually has the airline logo on it. The vertical stabiliser houses the rudder.

Fuselage

The main 'body' of the aircraft. The front is the 'fore' the back is 'aft' the left side is 'port' and the right is 'starboard'.

Wing

The part which creates lift, holds fuel and houses jet engines. The front is the 'leading edge' and the back is the 'trailing edge'.

Flight Deck

Sometimes referred to as the cockpit. The place where the pilots sit. It is usually at the nose of the aircraft, at the fore of the fuselage.

Hold

On a commercial aircraft the hold is a big space underneath where the passengers sit which holds luggage and other cargo.

Engines

Could be jets, propeller or turboprop.

Horizontal Stabiliser

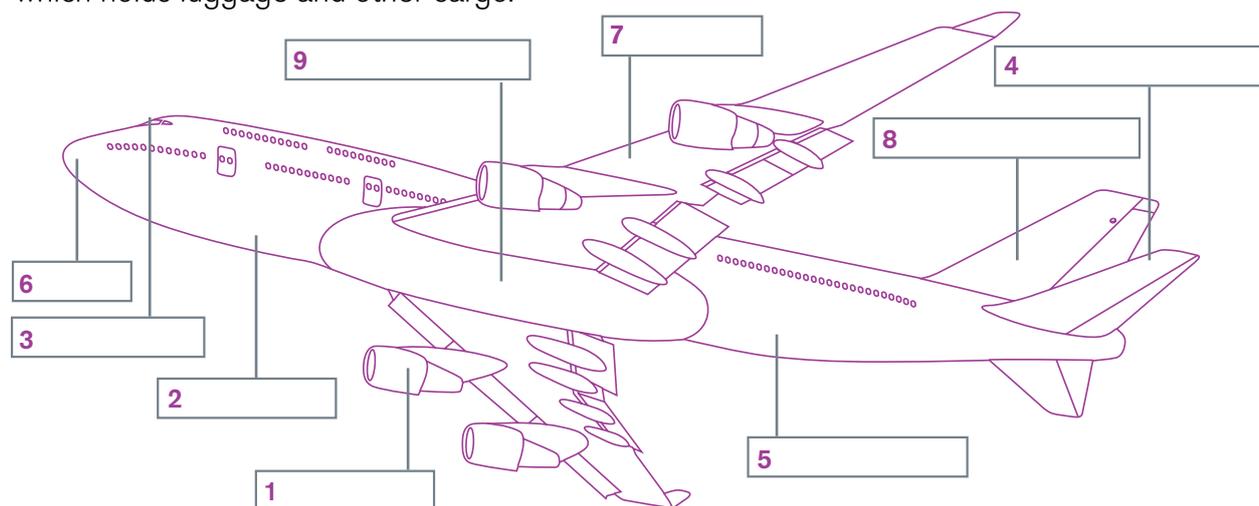
Sits near the vertical stabilisers and houses the 'elevators' which control the pitch movement of the aircraft.

Landing Gear

The wheel and shock absorber assembly. The main section is called the 'main gear' and the front section the 'nose gear'. Landing gears which fold away in flight are called 'retractable gears'.

Nose

The very front of the aircraft usually curved to make the aircraft aerodynamic. Inside the nose there is often sensitive equipment such as radar.



DID YOU KNOW?

Fuel is very heavy and so must be spread around the aircraft to keep it in balance. The main fuel tanks of an aircraft are usually in the wings!

This activity will help you meet the Air Activities Staged Activity Badge – stage 2 badge requirement: 1. Name and identify the main parts of an aeroplane.