When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.

Leonardo da Vinci
People in all walks of life have dreams. Is your dream to fly? Some of the most frequently asked questions about learning to fly are listed below. While they will not answer all your questions, they will send you in the right direction—up.

**Frequently asked questions**

**Q. How much does it cost to become a pilot?**

A. A pilot certificate ordinarily costs from $4,000 to $7,000. Payments can usually be spread out over several months.

**Q. Do you need your own plane?**

A. You do not have to own your own plane to fly. You can rent an airplane. (Check with your local airport for more information on rentals.)

**Q. How long does it take to become a pilot?**

A. Learning to fly is not difficult, but it does require dedication and a minimum of 40 hours of training to earn a private pilot certificate. The more frequently you fly, the quicker you will earn your wings.

**Q. What is ground school?**

A. Flight training is divided into two parts—ground school and flight training. Ground school teaches the principles, procedures and regulations you will put into practice in an airplane. Before you can earn a pilot certificate, you must pass a computerized FAA knowledge test (with a score of at least 70 percent) on this information.

**Q. When will I actually begin flying?**

A. You’ll be flying on your first lesson, with your certified flight instructor’s help, of course.