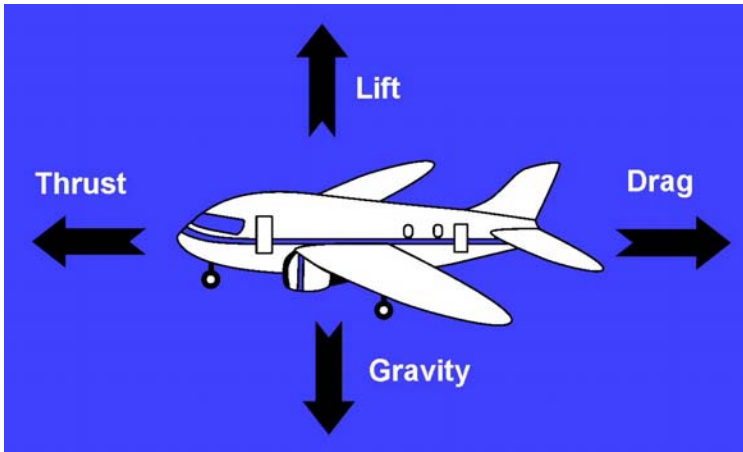




# How Airplanes Fly



## The four forces of flight

An airplane that is in flight is acted upon by four forces: drag, gravity, lift and thrust. Thrust is used to overcome drag, and lift is used to overcome gravity.

**Thrust:** This is the force that is created by a propeller or jet engine. It is the force that moves an airplane forward.

**Drag:** This force is the resistance from the air as the airplane moves forward. It slows the airplane down.

**Gravity:** This is the force that pulls all objects towards the earth.

**Lift:** This is the upward force that is created when the air moves above and below the wings. Air flows faster above the wing and slower below the wing, creating a difference in pressure allowing the airplane to fly.

