

HOW DO PLANES FLY?

Ever wonder what keeps a plane up in the air? How do they do it?

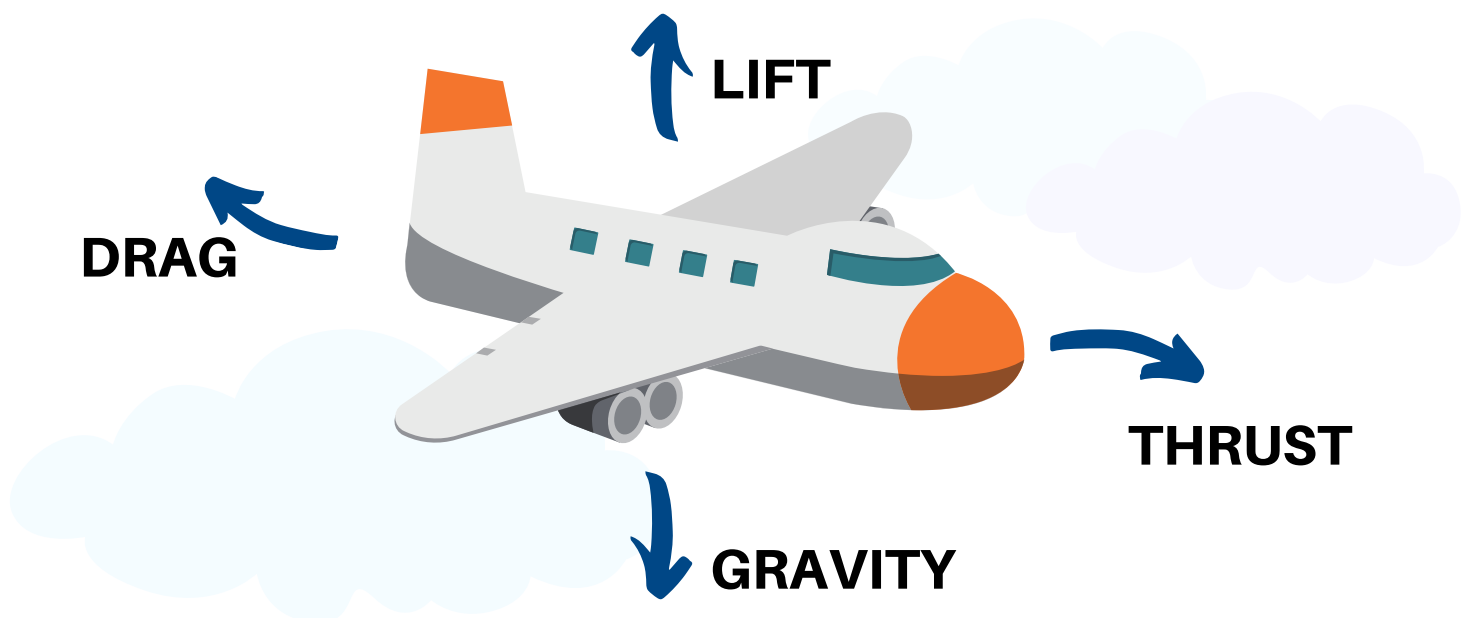
Here's how it's done...

AN AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT IS ACTED UPON BY FOUR FORCES:

LIFT, GRAVITY, THRUST AND DRAG.

EACH OF THESE OPPOSE EACH OTHER, AND BALANCE EACH OTHER OUT LIKE

THIS: • LIFT OPPOSES GRAVITY • THRUST OPPOSES DRAG



WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

THRUST: IT'S THE FORCE THAT MOVES AN AIRPLANE FORWARD THROUGH THE AIR. IT'S MADE BY A PROPELLER OR A JET ENGINE.

DRAG: THIS IS THE AIR RESISTANCE THAT TENDS TO SLOW THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF THE AIRPLANE.

GRAVITY: IT'S THE FORCE THAT PULLS ALL OBJECTS TOWARDS THE EARTH.

LIFT: THIS IS THE UPWARD FORCE THAT IS CREATED BY THE MOVEMENT OF AIR ABOVE AND BELOW A WING. AIR FLOWS FASTER ABOVE THE WING AND SLOWER BELOW THE WING, CREATING A DIFFERENCE IN PRESSURE ON THE WING, PUSHING UP, AND KEEPING IT FLYING.