

## METAR and TAF CHEAT SHEET

Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR), is an observation of the current weather conditions at a given time and location i.e. airport.

Issued ever 50-55 minutes past the hour, and are valid until a new one is released.

### Sample METAR:

*KSEA 111548Z AUTO 26005KT 4SM -RA BR BKN008 BKN014 OVC049 07/06 A3009 RMK AO2 P0008*

**KSEA** - 4-character ICAO identifier. This report is for Seattle-Tacoma International, Washington  
(NOTE: Other U.S. station identifiers are; *PA* – Alaska and *PH* – Hawaii Islands).

**111548Z** – 11 is the day of the month. 1548Z is always given in Zulu time (UTC).

**AUTO** – means that, the report is not given by a person i.e. ATC.

**26005KT** – Winds are from 260 degrees, speed is at 05 Knots

**4SM** – 4 statute miles (SM) of visibility

**-RA BR** – Light rain (the minus symbol means light, RA is for rain). **BR** – Mist

**BKN008 BKN014 OVC** – Means clouds are broken at 800 feet AGL. Broken at 1,400 feet. Over cast at 4,900 feet.

**07/06** – Temperature and Dew point Temperature is 07°C and the dew point is 06°C

**A3009** – Current altimeter setting, 30.09"

**RMK** – Remarks, there is additional information.

**AO2** – Automated station with a precipitation sensor. **P0008** – Precipitation. The numbers indicate the amount (0008 = 00.08 inches fallen in the last hour).

Additional METAR Symbols:

**COR** – Corrected observation, disregard previous report.

**SPECI** – (Special Report) Unscheduled observation time due to certain criteria i.e. change from VFR to IFR.

**01009G15KT** – ‘G’ means gusty winds

**150V210** – ‘V’ means variable, wind direction is variable between 150° and 210°.

**V010KT** – wind direction is variable at 10 knots

**CLR** – Sky conditions clear

**P6SM or 9999** – Plus or greater than 6 Statute Miles visibility

**22/M04** - ‘M’ in the temperature and dew point means minus 04°C.

**FEW** – Few clouds

**SCT** – Scattered clouds

**SLP** – Sea Level Pressure

**AO1** – Automated station without a precipitation sensor.

**\$** - Dollar sign at the end of a METAR, indicates the station needs maintenance.

**-SHRA** – light, showers and rain.

**- -** (Minus symbol) Light to moderate

**+ -** Heavy

**PK WND 28045/1955** - Peak Wind at 280° at 45 knots began at 1955Z.