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Private Pilot Research - Aircraft Structure (Autopilot)

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Autopilot, or automatic flight control, keeps the airplane either in level flight and/or on a set course. In most cases, autopilot will be used to maintain altitude, but it can also be used in rolls as a steadying tool. Autopilot can be controlled by the pilot, however, it could also be coupled with a radio navigation signal. In other words, you can input your desired flight course into an autopilot system and be able to maintain a specific course throughout the flight. Because of how automated this process is, autopilot is a great asset for those who already are experienced pilots. On the other hand, for training purposes, autopilot should not be sought after or utilized when learning how to fly. This is because you want to make sure you are able to do things by yourself without autopilot.