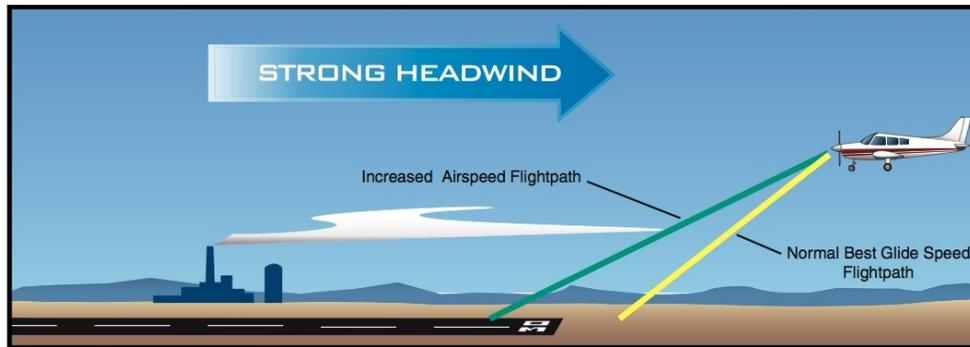


Descent Angle

The descent angle is affected by all four fundamental forces that act on an airplane (lift, drag, thrust, and weight). If all the forces are constant, the descent angle will also be constant in a no-wind condition. You can control these forces by adjusting the airspeed, attitude, power, and drag (flaps or forward slip).

The wind also plays a prominent part in the gliding distance over the ground. You need to correct for its effect on the airplane's descent with pitch and power adjustments.



Effect of headwind on final approach.

For all practical purposes, at any given pitch attitude there is only one power setting for one airspeed, one flap setting, and one wind condition. A change in any one of these variables will require an appropriate coordinated change in the other controllable variables. For example, if the pitch attitude increases without an increase in power, the airplane will settle very rapidly and touch down short of the desired spot. For this reason, you should never try to stretch a glide by applying only back elevator pressure to reach the desired landing spot.