

INTENTIONALLY UNCOORDINATED

One item in the FAA's practical test standards for private, recreational and sport pilots is demonstration of a forward slip. The forward slip permits the aircraft to descend steeply and rapidly without gaining airspeed while remaining aligned with a reference line on the ground. The purpose of this maneuver is to adjust the airplane's glide path to cross an obstacle and touch down on a pre-planned spot, like you might have to do in a real-world short-field landing or an emergency off-airport landing.

The way you achieve this purpose is to intentionally fly out of coordination to use the drag of the fuselage to cause the descent. Unlike the use of flaps or some other types of drag-increasing devices, you can exit a slip into coordinated flight almost immediately and drastically reduce the vertical speed. Done well, you can slip steeply to get on a normal glide path to your touchdown zone, then descend normally from there.

