

**Table 1 - Language constraints**

Characteristic	Explanation	Comment
Coherent	The requirement addresses one and only one thing.	The “one thing” may require a complex of things – fuel use or survivability or availability.
Complete	The requirement is fully stated in one place with no missing information.	This does not address the “completeness” of the specification.
Consistent	The requirement does not contradict any other requirement and is fully consistent with all authoritative external documentation.	There is direct contradiction, and there is contradiction through structure – two requirements are each possible, just not together, or in meeting the requirement, another requirement will not be met, but the link is not obvious
Correct	The requirement meets all or part of a business need as authoritatively stated by stakeholders.	The “authoritatively” seems like a vague adverb. If it meets part of a need, does some other requirement also meet that part, so they are both correct, but one is superfluous. Does one requirement subsume another?
Current	The requirement has not been made obsolete by the passage of time.	Did it contain time in its statement, or did it link to something which no longer applies – was that link noted in the requirements – if so, it needs temporal logic to express it
Externally Observable	The requirement specifies a characteristic of the product that is externally observable or experienced by the user. "Requirements" that are constraints should be clearly articulated in the Constraints section of the document.	
Feasible	The requirement can be implemented within the constraints of the project.	How to know this until the project is developed? Does making this requirement feasible make other requirements infeasible? Many projects are about testing the limits of what is feasible
Unambiguous	The requirement is concisely stated without recourse to technical jargon, acronyms (unless defined elsewhere in the Requirements document), or other esoteric verbiage. It is subject to one and only one interpretation. Negative statements and compound statements are prohibited.	“negative statements” – given the depth of English, an antonym can be used, but the statement is still negative in purpose, as in “negative statements are prohibited”. “including but not limited to” – an open set. Compound statements can properly express a requirement for simultaneity or sequence.
Mandatory	The requirement represents a stakeholder-defined characteristic the absence of which will result in a deficiency that cannot be ameliorated.	Frequently a situation is encountered where there are several combinations of alternatives, any one of which is mandatory in the absence of the others.
Verifiable	The implementation of the requirement can be determined through one of four possible methods: inspection, analysis, demonstration, or test.	These methods are not exclusive – a particular requirement may require inspection of the system to observe how the requirement is being met, analysis to determine what to test, and then test, and then analysis of the result - the alternatives listed are for simple cases