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Level 4 – 13th April 2026

US wants gamers to become air traffic controllers

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

The USA has launched a campaign aimed at gamers. The country wants gamers to become air traffic controllers. There is a lack of controllers. There are around 3,000 vacancies. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said it "welcomes innovative approaches to expanding the candidate pool, including outreach to individuals with high-level skills, such as gamers." Candidates must maintain the "rigorous standards" of "this safety-critical profession".

The recruitment video has an Xbox logo on it. The video says: "You've been training for this... Become an air traffic controller. It's not a game. It's a career." The US Transportation Secretary said the country needed "young adults who have many of the hard skills it takes to be a successful controller". Many controllers believe gaming is a useful skill. They said it had "an influence on their ability to think quickly, stay focused, and manage complexity".

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce84rvx0e6do>
<https://abcnews.com/US/new-air-traffic-control-hiring-campaign-targets-gamers/story>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/04/10/us/faa-video-gamers-controllers>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The USA has launched a campaign | a. 3,000 vacancies |
| 2. There is a lack | b. profession |
| 3. There are around | c. level skills |
| 4. it welcomes innovative | d. standards |
| 5. expanding the candidate | e. aimed at gamers |
| 6. individuals with high- | f. approaches |
| 7. Candidates must maintain the rigorous | g. pool |
| 8. this safety-critical | h. of controllers |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The recruitment video has | a. useful skill |
| 2. You've been | b. complexity |
| 3. the country needed young | c. hard skills |
| 4. adults who have many of the | d. training for this |
| 5. gaming is a | e. focused |
| 6. it had an influence | f. adults |
| 7. stay | g. an Xbox logo on it |
| 8. manage | h. on their ability |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

The USA has (1) _____ aimed at gamers. The country wants (2) _____ air traffic controllers. There is (3) _____ controllers. There are around 3,000 vacancies. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said it "welcomes (4) _____ expanding the candidate pool, including outreach to individuals with (5) _____, such as gamers." Candidates must maintain the "rigorous standards" of "this (6) _____".

The recruitment video has an Xbox (7) _____. The video says: "You've (8) _____ this... Become an air traffic controller. It's not a game. (9) _____."

The US Transportation Secretary said the country needed "young adults who have many of the hard skills it takes to be (10) _____". Many controllers believe gaming is a useful skill. They said it (11) _____ on their ability to think quickly, stay focused, (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

TheUSAhaslaunchedacampaignaimedatgamers.Thecountrywantsgamerstobecomeairtrafficcontrollers.Therelackofcontrollers.Therelarearound3,000vacancies.TheNationalAirTrafficControllersAssociationssaidit"welcomesinnovativeapproachestoexpandingthecandidatepool,includingoutreachtoindividualswithhigh-levelskills,suchasgamers."Candidatesmustmaintainthe"rigorousstandards"of"thissafety-criticalprofession".TherecruitmentvideohasanXboxlogoonit.Thevideo says:"You'vebeentrainingforthis...Becomeanairtrafficcontroller.It'snotagame.It'sacareer."TheUSTransportationSecretarysaidthecountryneeded"youngadultswhohavemanyofthehardskillsittakestobeeasuccessfulcontroller".Manycontrollersbelievegamingisausefulskill.They saidithad"aninfluenceontheirabilitytothinkquickly,stayfocused,andmanagecomplexity".

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about air traffic control in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

