

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 5 – 13th April 2026**

## **US wants gamers to become air traffic controllers**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-5.html>

### **Contents**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| The Reading          | 2 |
| Phrase Matching      | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill   | 4 |
| No Spaces            | 5 |
| Survey               | 6 |
| Writing and Speaking | 7 |
| Writing              | 8 |

**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

**X (Twitter)**



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-5.html>

The USA's Federal Aviation Administration has launched a campaign aimed at gamers. The FAA wants gamers to become air traffic controllers. There is a lack of controllers, so the government hopes skilled gamers could fill the 3,000 or so vacancies. The president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said: "Our union welcomes innovative approaches to expanding the candidate pool, including outreach to individuals with high-level skills, such as gamers." He added they must "maintain the rigorous standards required of this safety-critical profession".

The recruitment video has an Xbox logo on it. The tag line is aimed at gamers. It says: "You've been training for this... Become an air traffic controller. It's not a game. It's a career." The promo also includes the enticing salary of \$155,000 a year. The US Transportation Secretary said the country needs "a growing demographic of young adults who have many of the hard skills it takes to be a successful controller". Many controllers have said gaming was 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

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

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The recruitment video has an | a. hard skills     |
| 2. The tag line is aimed        | b. for this        |
| 3. You've been training         | c. quickly         |
| 4. a growing demographic of     | d. complexity      |
| 5. adults who have many of the  | e. Xbox logo on it |
| 6. gaming was a                 | f. young adults    |
| 7. their ability to think       | g. at gamers       |
| 8. manage                       | h. useful skill    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260413-air-traffic-controller-gaming-5.html>

The USA's Federal Aviation Administration has  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ aimed at gamers. The FAA wants  
gamers to become air traffic controllers. There is  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ controllers, so the government  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ could fill the 3,000 or so vacancies.  
The president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said:  
"(4) \_\_\_\_\_ innovative approaches to  
expanding (5) \_\_\_\_\_, including outreach to  
individuals with high-level skills, such as gamers." He added they  
must "maintain (6) \_\_\_\_\_ required of this  
safety-critical profession".

The recruitment video has an Xbox logo on it. The  
(7) \_\_\_\_\_ aimed at gamers. It says: "You've  
been training for this... Become an air traffic controller. It's not a  
game. (8) \_\_\_\_\_." The promo also includes  
the enticing salary of \$155,000 a year. The US Transportation  
Secretary said the country needs "(9) \_\_\_\_\_  
of young adults who have many of the  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_ takes to be a successful controller".  
Many controllers have said gaming was a useful skill. They said it  
had "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ 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-5.html>

TheUSA'sFederalAviationAdministrationhaslaunchedacampaignaim  
edatgamers.TheFAAwantsgamerstobecomeairtrafficcontrollers.Th  
ereisalackofcontrollers,sothegovernmenthopesskilledgamerscouldf  
illthe3,000orsovacancies.ThepresidentoftheNationalAirTrafficContr  
ollersAssociationsaid:"Ourunionwelcomesinnovativeapproachesto  
expandingthecandidatepool,includingoutreachtoindividualswithhigh  
-levelskills,suchasgamers."Headedtheymust"maintaintherigorous  
standardsrequiredofthisafety-criticalprofession".Therecruitmentv  
ideohasanXboxlogoonit.Thetaglineisaimedatgamers.Itsays:"You'v  
ebeentrainingforthis...Becomeanairtrafficcontroller.It'snotagame.I  
t'sacareer."Thepromoalsoincludestheenticingsalaryof\$155,000aye  
ar.TheUSTransportationSecretarysaidthecountryneeds"agrowingd  
emographicofyoungadultswhohavemanyofthehardskillsittakestobe  
asuccessfulcontroller".Manycontrollershavesaidgamingwasauseful  
skill.They said it had "an influence on their ability to think quickly, stay foc  
used, and manage complexity".

# 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*US wants gamers to become air traffic controllers – 13th April 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

