



SAY AGAIN.AERO
ICAO language proficiency made easy

**Save these helpful practical tips for
a higher proficiency level during
your next ICAO English test!**



Visit our website for more information: www.say-again.aero
Or contact us via e-mail: support@say-again.aero

We are looking forward to seeing you online!

How to prepare for your exam?

- Integrate speaking and understanding English as much as possible in your daily life
 - Read books or articles in English
 - Watch English videos (YouTube, Netflix...)
 - Listen to English (e.g. Aviation Podcasts: Pilot To Pilot, Avtalk, Airline Pilot Guy)
- Listen to ATIS and ATC transmissions on YouTube or liveatc.net
- Be mentally prepared to answer questions such as:
 - Many people are afraid of flying. How do you explain your passengers that flying is actually one of the safest ways to travel?
 - Please describe what you normally do during the preflight check?
 - What is your favorite airplane / airport / airline / route and why?
- Look up words, so that you can easily present your aviation career in English:
 - e.g: *glider; cross country flight; selection process; ground course*
- Practice to describe pictures and learn most common vocabulary:
 - e.g: *foreground; left corner; birds eye view; draws attention to...*
- Search on Google for mistakes that are typically done when translating from your mother tongue to English.
- Refresh your knowledge about how to correctly use future, present and past tense, prepositions and adjectives.
- It is not required to study any technical or aviation related knowledge. The exam will be adapted to your background: flight student, private pilot, airplane/ helicopter pilot...
- You will be assessed in six criteria - prepare thoroughly for a solid performance in each discipline, because a certain level can only be assigned to you if you match the requirements in **every** criteria. The lowest level will decide, which grade you will get.

Pronunciation	Pronunciation, stress, rhythm and intonation
Structure	Basic grammatical structure and sentence patterns
Vocabulary	Vocabulary range and accuracy to communicate
Fluency	Able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics
Comprehension	Comprehension is accurate on common and work related topics
Interactions	Responses are immediate, appropriate and informative

Practical tips

- Word order in English: You always position place in front of time
 - *“We’ll fly to Munich on Friday.”*
- live vs. life
 - live = verb, e.g: *I live in Munich.*
 - live = adjective, e.g: *It was a live concert.*
 - life = noun, e.g: *My life is great.*
- Use of little and small
 - small is used to describe the size of something, e.g: *The aircraft is small.*
 - little is used to describe the quantity of something, e.g: *The pilot has little experience in flying the Airbus A320.*
- Use of since and for
 - Since is used, when referring to a specific time in the past, e.g: *since ten days ago, for ten days, since four months*
 - For is used, when referring to a period of time, e.g: *for one hour, for two weeks*
- If you are using he / she / it, you must add an **-s** to the verb:
 - *I like airplanes < - > She / he likes airplanes*
- The usage of idioms or figures of speech will get you extra points, e.g:
 - *“A blessing in disguise“*
 - *“Make a long story short“*
 - *“The best of both worlds“*

Avoid to use filler words

Avoid:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Ähm...“</i> • <i>“Oh...“</i> • <i>“Sooo...“</i>
Rather use phrases like:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Well, let me think about it...“</i> • <i>“First of all, I think...“</i> • <i>“As far as I’m concerned...“</i> • <i>“What it comes down to is that...“</i> • <i>“From my point of view...“</i>

ICAO phraseology

- 9 is spelled **niner**
- 3 is pronounced **tree**
- Numbers above 9.900 must be spelled by separating the digits following the word thousand.
 - e.g. *10.500 ft = one zero **thousand** five hundred feet*
- Numerals of frequencies or SQUAWKs must be spoken by pronouncing each digit.
 - Don't forget to mention the decimal.
 - e.g. *121.500 = one two one **decimal** five*
- Time is also spoken by pronouncing each digit
 - *2015 UTC = two zero one five UTC*

Verbs

Tense	Example	Usage	Signal words
Simple Present	I fly to Munich.	Something, which is done regularly or never.	normally, often, sometimes, always
Present Progressive	I'm flying to Munich this afternoon.	Something, which is done right now for a limited period, while talking about it. A definite plan is made.	at the moment, right now, just
Simple Past	I flew to Munich.	Something, which was done in the past and is finished.	two days ago, last monday, yesterday
Past Progressive	I was flying to Munich.	Something, which was done in the past, while another activity was being done.	when, while
Present perfect	I have flown to Munich four times this year.	Something, which was done in the past and influences the present time. It may last until the present time or is still done.	ever, never, just, already
Present Perfect Progressive	I have been flying to Munich.	Something, which started in the past and lasts until the present time.	all day, since, for
Past perfect simple	I had flown to Munich.	Something, which was done in the past before another action.	already, never, once
Past perfect progressive	I had been flying to Munich.	Something, which was being done in the past before another action for a longer period.	all day, since, for
Will Future	I will fly to Munich.	Something you have no influence on. Something you make suggestions about.	tomorrow, next week
Going to Future	I'm going to fly to Munich.	Something, which you're absolutely determined to do. Something, which is going to happen very probably, e.g. weather.	tomorrow, next week

Passive

Tense	Subject	Tense of be	Past participle	Object
Simple present	The airplane	is	flown	by you.
Simple past	The airplane	was	flown	by you.
Present perfect	The airplane	has been	flown	by you.
Past perfect	The airplane	had been	flown	by you.
Will future	The airplane	will be	flown	by you.

If-clauses

	If-clause	Main clause
Real	Present tense <i>If you speak louder,</i>	Will future / can / may + infinitive <i>i will understand your words.</i>
Possible	Past tense <i>If you spoke louder,</i>	Would / could / might + infinitive <i>i might understand your words.</i>
Irreal	Past perfect <i>If you had spoken louder,</i>	Would have / could have / might have + past <i>i would have understood your words.</i>

Nouns

- Countable:
 - Nouns, which can be counted, e.g: *one helicopter, two helicopters...*
- Uncountable
 - Nouns, which can't be counted, e.g: *air, water, information*
 - Instead use "some" (positive) or "any" (negative / questions), e.g: *I have some water for you.*
- Watch out for the plural form of some nouns:
 - *One person < - > Two people*
 - *One aircraft < - > Two aircraft*
 - *One goose < - > Two geese*

Prepositions of place

Preposition	Useage	Example
at	Specific position/ address	<i>at home, at work</i>
	Locations with many people	<i>at the airport, at the restaurant</i>
on	Position on the surface of something	<i>on the floor</i>
	Position along something	<i>on the seaside, on the road</i>
in	Inside larger areas	<i>in the stadium</i>

Adjectives

Type of adjectives	Comparative	Superlative	Example
One syllable word	add -er	add -est	small, smaller, smallest
Ending in -e	add -r	add -st	simple, simpler, simplest
Two-syllable word ending in -y	change the -y to -i and add -er	change the -y to -i and add -est	happy, happier, happiest easy, easier, easiest
Two-syllable word not ending in -y	more + adjective	most + adjective	beautiful, more beautiful, the most beautiful
Three or more syllables			

- The comparative or superlative of some adjectives may be irregular:

- good, better, the best*
- far, farther/ further, farthest/ furthest*
- bad, worse, the worst*
- little, less, least*

Adverbs

- Adverbs describe the way someone does something, e.g: *I hear you **perfectly**.*

	Adjective	Composition	Adverb
Adjective	beautiful	Adjective + ly	beautifully
Adjectives ending with a -y	happy	y changes to i and add -ly	happily
Adjectives ending with -le	simple	change -le to -ly	simply
Adjectives ending with an -e	nice	add -ly	nicely

- Irregular Adverbs:

- good < - > well*
- fast < - > fast*
- hard < - > hard*
- late < - > late*

Picture description

- Begin with a general description of the picture.
 - Use simple present to explain what you see.
- Go into more and more details as you proceed.
 - Use present progressive to describe ongoing events within a picture.

Vocabulary	Example
Image/ photograph/ cartoon/ painting	<i>The image portrays an aircraft parked in front of a gate.</i>
Foreground/ background	<i>In the background i can see some clouds in the sky.</i>
In the upper right/ lower left corner	<i>This could be a glider airplane in the upper left corner.</i>
Next to	<i>Next to the pilot there is a flight attendant sitting on a chair.</i>
Bird's eye view	<i>The picture is taken from a birds eye view.</i>
At first sight	<i>At first sight this picture illustrates a landing airplane.</i>
... was taken in...	<i>I think the picture was taken in the mountains, possibly in the Swiss alps.</i>
... shows that...	<i>The damage on the wing shows that the aircraft was involved in an accident.</i>
... it seems as if...	<i>It seems as if the helicopter is about to take off.</i>
Draws attention to...	<i>The photograph draws attention to the waiting passengers on the right hand side.</i>
The viewer's attention is focused on...	<i>The viewer's attention is focused on the ramp agent, who is waving her arms.</i>
It is doubtful, whether...	<i>It is doubtful, whether the photograph was taken during sunrise or sunset.</i>

Watch our interactive preparation video

- We have created an interactive video for your ICAO Language Test preparation.
- This video contains several tasks and examples:
 - Listening to an ATIS
 - Speaking according to the ICAO phraseology
 - Picture description
 - An open interview section



[Watch our interactive preparation video](#)

Take your flight crew qualification to the next level!

1. Check the validity of your current ICAO English certificate. An upgrade is possible anytime. The renewal of Level 4 or 5 should be conducted within 3 months prior to the current expiry date.
 - Level 4 = 4 years
 - Level 5 = 6 years
 - Level 6 = unlimited
2. Select a suitable date and time for your test on our website: [say-again.aero](https://www.say-again.aero)
3. Buy a test ticket in our [online shop](#).
4. Prepare yourself using the provided [examples](#) on our website.
5. Our test takes place online via Zoom and is EASA-certified.
 - Language Test PRO: 18 questions + 15 minutes open interview = 40 minutes
 - Language Test BASIC: 12 questions + 10 minutes open interview = 30 minutes
6. First part: You will get some questions about spelling frequencies, describing pictures, explaining an ATIS or ATC transmission.
7. Second part: We will conduct a conversation about a topic which you can choose.
8. Grading by second level examiner
 - A second level examiner will listen to the recorded audio file of your exam and assigns the respective language proficiency level. The recording of the exam is required by the authorities.
9. Within 24 hours you will receive your new language certificate via E-Mail.
10. Submit your language certificate to your Civil Aviation Authority

FAQ

Can I really take the test from my computer at home?

- Yes! :) No matter if you are a student pilot, a glider pilot, a private pilot or a commercial pilot: we will conduct the exam with you via Zoom. You will see your friendly examiner and some of your tasks on your screen. All you need is a stable internet connection and the camera of your notebook or tablet.

Is this test approved by my Civil Aviation Authority?

- Our tests follow ICAO guidelines, are EASA certified and conducted under the legitimization of Language Training Body 112. The governing CAA is Austro Control. The test fulfils requirements of FCL.055 Annex I to ED Decision 2020/005R. Our language certificate is valid up to level 6 in all EASA member states according EU Regulation 2019/1747. Our Language Proficiency Examiners (LPE/LPLE) are being currently requalified according ICAO DOC 9835 and work with the ICAO Rating Scale FCL Appendix 2 plus the requirements of FCL.055.

What will the test look like?

- If you are aiming for Level 4-6 you may expect 18 questions plus a 15 minute interview (LPT "PRO"). Should you need Level 4 ONLY, the exam will contain only 12 questions (LPT BASIC). The questions will be played to you as pre-recorded audio files. In addition, you will be asked to describe an aviation-related picture in as much detail as possible. We will also listen to an ATIS recording. Last but not least we will verify, that you are able to comprehend and adequately respond to a given air traffic control clearance. Check out our list of sample questions on the [preparation page](#)!

How long does it take to take the test?

- Usually our tests take about 40 - 45 minutes up to level 6. If you aim for level 4 only, 30 - 35 minutes should be enough.

What is the validity of each level and which level should I aim for?

- Level 4 ("operational") is the minimum requirement for commercial aircrew and private pilots who are planning to use English ATC on cross-border flights. Level 4 is valid for 4 years. Level 5 ("extended") is often the minimum requirement to enter into commercial pilot recruitment and selection processes. Level 5 is valid for 6 years. **The validity of Level 6 ("expert") is unlimited.** Are you uncertain which level to aim for? Just send us an email and we can discuss your options. However, our open testing format "**Language Test PRO**" is designed to assign the highest possible level to you that corresponds to your language skills. If you go with this format, you will always be on the safe side.

How will I be graded?

- The audio channel of our exams is recorded and uploaded to a certified Second Level Examiner (SLE). With our "**Language Test PRO**" you will automatically receive the highest possible level according to your language skills. With the shorter and cheaper "**Language Test BASIC**" your language level will not exceed Level 4. If this is all you need, save some money and buy the BASIC test. But if you want to improve and enhance your aircrew qualification, we strongly recommend to go for our "Language Test PRO".

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: My LP is still valid for a while. What are the time limits for renewal?

- An upgrade to Level 6 with unlimited validity is possible any time! The renewal of Level 4 or 5 should be conducted within 3 months prior to the current expiry date. The new validity will then extend another four years (level 4) or another six years (level 5) from the end of the old expiry date. Please note: if your current validity is still valid for more than 3 months register on our website and we will get back to you with a special offer at the beginning of your renewal period. And no worries: until then, we will leave you alone ;-).

My previous language rating has expired - can I still take the test with you?

- Yes. There is no difference in a language test whether it is an initial issue or renewal. The new validity period will commence at the date the test is conducted (4 or 6 years or unlimited for level 6).

Will you inform my CAA about my result?

- No. We forward the language certificate to you and then you will have to forward it to your CAA for validation and endorsement. Some CAAs will contact us for verification before they validate your result.

What happens if I make a mistake or give an incorrect answer?

- First of all it is important to note that we will NOT assess your theoretical aviation knowledge but ONLY your ability to speak and comprehend the English language. So, it should not cause any concern if you are stuck at some point or make a mistake. Nobody is perfect...

If you have any further questions send us an e-mail to support@say-again.aero and we will get back to you as soon as we can!