



ICAO ENGLISH LEVEL 4 – PREPARATION GUIDE

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Please feel free to reach out in person or via email for further guidance.*

Introduction

The purpose of this **ICAO English Level 4 guide** is to assist individuals aiming to work in international aviation—such as pilots, air traffic controllers, and technicians—in reaching **Level 4 (Operational)**, which is the minimum proficiency level required.

1. Structure and Components of the Exam

The ICAO Level 4 test usually lasts **20–30 minutes** and evaluates the following language competencies:

Skill	Description
1. Pronunciation	Clear speech; correct pronunciation of technical terms
2. Grammar	Correct and sufficient use of sentence structures and tenses
3. Vocabulary	Mastery of aviation-related terminology
4. Fluency	Ability to speak naturally and without hesitation
5. Comprehension	Understanding of fast-paced speech, radio messages, and instructions
6. Interaction	Ability to ask questions, provide guidance, and develop solutions in emergencies



2. Exam Format (Sample Stages)

- **Personal Introduction**
Introduce yourself, explain your job and interests.
Example: “My name is Ayşe. I have been working as an aircraft technician for three years...”
- **Image Interpretation – Aviation Context**
Describe aircraft parts, maintenance areas, or faults shown in the picture.
Example: “This is a photo of the nose gear bay. The technician is checking the hydraulic lines...”
- **Listening (ATC/technician dialogues) + Questions**
Listen to real radio or maintenance communication, then answer questions.
Example: “What was the problem reported?” – “The right engine was overheating during takeoff.”
- **Emergency Scenario – Role Play**
Simulate a situation, such as reporting a fire warning to the captain.
Example: “Captain, we have a fire warning in the APU compartment. I recommend immediate shutdown.”
- **Q&A – Technical Terminology Use**
Example: “What is the purpose of a pitot tube?” – “It measures airspeed and provides data to the ADIRU.”

3. Recommended Study Materials

Books

- *Macmillan Aviation English* (with audio CD)
- *Oxford English for Aviation*
- *Cambridge English for Engineering* (especially for technicians)

Listening Resources

- LiveATC.net – Real radio communications
- BBC Learning English – Aviation
- FlightRadar24 – YouTube channel

Online Platforms

- ICAO Test Online
- EnglishAero.com
- AviationExam.com



4. Study Strategies

Target Area	Recommendation
Pronunciation	Listen to technical English pronunciation on YouTube
Terminology	Study technical components from AMM and IPC manuals in English
Fluency	Record yourself speaking and practice real aviation scenarios
Listening	Improve quick understanding of ATIS, METAR, and cockpit alerts
Simulation	Practice 10-minute mock exams with speaking, scenarios, and image description

5. Sample 4-Week Weekly Study Plan

Day	Focus Area	Activity
Monday	Aviation Terminology	Translate AMM documents, tech cards
Tuesday	Listening & Comprehension	LiveATC listening + summarization
Wednesday	Speaking – Image Description	Aircraft/component image narration
Thursday	Role Play – Emergency	Practice with a partner
Friday	Grammar & Pronunciation	Verb tenses + stress on key terms
Weekend	Mock Exam	20-min simulation + feedback session

6. Exam Tips

- Speak **briefly but clearly**
- If you make a mistake, **don't panic** – correct and continue
- Using **mechanical terms** accurately inspires confidence
- Speak confidently; **avoid monotone delivery**
- Use as many **technical words** as possible (e.g., generator, fuel pump, hydraulic leak)



7. Evaluation Scale (ICAO Standards)

Level	Description
4	Understandable, technically adequate, occasional repetition required
5	Fluent and accurate, rarely requires support
6	Native-like communication with full confidence and clarity

8. Where to Apply for the Exam in Türkiye?

- **Turkish Airlines Aviation Academy** – Istanbul
- **TAE Aviation Academy** – Ankara
- **Havaş Training Center** – Istanbul
- **Istanbul Gelişim University / Cappadocia University** (linked to SHY-147)

To Be Discussed...