



5 EASY STEPS TO BECOMING A HAM

To become an amateur radio operator, you are required to obtain a license from the Federal Communications Commission. Licenses are good for 10 years before renewal. The Technician license is the entry-level license held by most hams. To earn the Technician license, you are required to take a 35-question multiple-choice exam and answer at least 26 questions correctly. Here is how you can do it...

1. **Get the book.** The pool of 426 questions (and answers) used in the exam is available online and in books. You can pass the exam just by studying the questions online, but exam books provide more explanatory material and are a useful reference. One of the best books is *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 4th Edition* (available from Amazon). The test pool changes every 4 years. The 4th edition contains the questions that have been used since July 2018.
2. **Watch the video.** There are YouTube video series that follow the outline of the ARRL license manual. The Greer (South Carolina) Amateur Radio Club has lectures online (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BU0WGP0U5Q>) that are directly linked to the ARRL manual. The most recent class is the September 2018 Technician Ham Class. A second video series (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aFXH_SQUo&list=PL07A7D1C9D7BF7F48), by Dave Casler, follows the outline of the ARRL manual and explains the material with examples of equipment, operating techniques, and anecdotes.
3. **Practice, practice, practice.** The question pool, flash cards, and practice exams are available online at: <http://arrlexamreview.appspot.com/>, <https://hamexam.org/>, and <https://hamstudy.org/>. The questions on these websites are the same ones that are used in the exam.
4. **Take the exam.** License exams are given on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the North Lincoln fire station in Otis. Contact Robert Kehler, ksevenqfe@centurylink.net, to arrange to take the exam. There is a \$15 exam fee.
5. **Talk to other hams.** Nearly half of the people who get their Technician license never get on the air. The best way to learn how use a radio is to talk to other hams, individually or with groups such as the local ham radio club (**TEARS, Tillamook County Amateur Radio Emergency Services**).