Provide High-Level Steps to Configure Amazon SES

1. Choose a Region
- SES is **region-specific** (e.g., us-east-1).
- Pick the region closest to your users or infrastructure.

2. Verify Identities
- SES only allows sending from **verified domains or email addresses**.
- Two options:
  - **Verify domain** (recommended) → allows sending from any email under that domain (*@mycompany.com).
  - **Verify individual email** → useful for testing.
- AWS gives you **DNS records (TXT, CNAME, MX)** to add in your domain's DNS (e.g., Route 53, GoDaddy).

3. Set Up Authentication (Optional but Recommended)
- Configure **DKIM (DomainKeys Identified Mail)** to prove email authenticity.
- Configure **SPF** (via DNS TXT record) to prevent spoofing.
- This increases deliverability (emails won't go to spam).

4. Move Out of Sandbox Mode
- By default, new SES accounts are in **sandbox mode**:
  - You can only send to **verified email addresses**.
  - Daily sending limits are very low.
- To send to real customers, **submit a request** to AWS Support to move out of sandbox.

5. Configure Sending Method
SES provides multiple ways to send emails:
- **SMTP Interface** → Connect apps (e.g., Jenkins, WordPress, Postfix) with SMTP credentials from SES.
- **AWS SDK / CLI / API** → Send emails programmatically.
- **Integration with AWS services** → e.g., Lambda, SNS, or CloudWatch for automated alerts.

6. Test Sending Emails
- Send a test email using CLI, SDK, or SMTP.
- Check inbox + spam folder.
- Verify headers show correct DKIM/SPF if enabled.

7. Monitor & Scale
- Use **CloudWatch Metrics** to monitor bounce rate, complaint rate, and delivery success.
- Optionally configure an **SNS topic** to capture bounce/complaint feedback for automated handling.

✅ **Summary for beginners:**
1. Pick region
2. Verify domain/email
3. Add DKIM/SPF (DNS records)
4. Move out of sandbox
5. Configure sending method (SMTP, API, SDK)
6. Test send
7. Monitor & handle bounces

Why do you need to choose a region when configuring Amazon SES?
a) SES is a global service and region doesn't matter
b) SES is region-specific, so you must pick the region closest to your users/infrastructure
c) You can only use SES in us-east-1
d) SES automatically chooses the best region for you
✅ **Answer:** b) SES is region-specific, so you must pick the region closest to your users/infrastructure

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What must you verify before sending emails with SES?
a) S3 buckets
b) EC2 instances
c) Domain or email address
d) CloudWatch alarms
✅ **Answer:** c) Domain or email address

Why is domain verification recommended over individual email verification?
a) It's easier to set up
b) It allows sending emails from any address under that domain (e.g., *@mycompany.com)
c) It increases storage capacity
d) It avoids region restrictions
✅ **Answer:** b) It allows sending emails from any address under that domain

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