

Language for ...

air travel (how to avoid delays at the airport)

Age: Adult

Level: Intermediate

Time: 45–60 minutes

Language focus: Key vocabulary for checking in at the airport and passing through security

Skills: reading

Materials: Text and worksheet exercises

Aims: to provide students with the language needed to check in for a flight and pass through the airport



What are red words?

Ninety per cent of the time, speakers of English use just 7,500 words in speech and writing. These words appear in the Macmillan Dictionary in red and are graded with stars. One-star words are frequent, two-star words are more frequent, and three-star words are the most frequent. 'Language for' lessons are based on red words and encourage students to improve their English through communicative tasks using collocation and commonly used phrases.

- 1 As preparation for the lesson, ask students to tell you all the words they know connected with air travel. Give them a few minutes to think about the words and discuss them in pairs or small groups. Then elicit examples from the class and write them on the board. Divide the words into different word classes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).
- 2 Hand out copies of the worksheet to each student.
- 3 Start the lesson by asking students to work in pairs and ask and answer the three questions in exercise 1a. Then get them to report their partner's answers to the whole class.
- 4 Point out that nouns formed from verbs have different endings. Ask students to work individually and complete exercise 1b. Have them compare their answers in pairs, and then check the answers with the whole class.
- 5 Tell students that they're going to read a text about advice for people arriving at the airport. First, though, they should read the sentences in exercise 2a and choose the best word in each case. Ask them to compare their answers in pairs. Then have them read the text to check their answers. They should be able to find all the correct answers in context, but check briefly with the whole class that they all have all the correct answers.
- 6 Before they begin exercise 2b, ask students to work in pairs and predict what vocabulary items might go in the gaps. Listen to their ideas as a class but do not correct them at this stage. Then ask them to read the second part of the text to check their answers.
- 7 Ask students to carefully read the sentences in exercise 3a and then work in pairs to complete the exercise. Encourage them to first complete any answers they immediately know so that they can be eliminated. Check the answers as a class.
- 8 Exercise 3b uses words first encountered in the previous exercises and in the text. Ask students to work individually to complete the exercise and then compare their answers in pairs. Check answers with the whole class.
- 9 Exercise 3c focuses on some common collocations in this context. This exercise can be done individually. Check answers with the whole class.
- 10 Divide students into pairs for exercise 4. Tell them to read the questions and each note down some ideas for the responses. Remind them to look



Teaching Tip: Encourage students to spell items of vocabulary aloud in class. This practises both spelling and the somewhat tricky pronunciation of the letters of the alphabet in English, especially the confusion between the pronunciation of *a*, *e*, *i* and *r*.

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back at the words and phrases featured in earlier exercises. Ask them to take turns in asking the friend's questions and responding to them.

11 Ask students to read the questions in exercise 5 and discuss them in pairs or small groups. They should report any interesting answers to the class.

12 As a wind-up, focus on the pronunciation and word stress of some of the multi-syllable vocabulary in this lesson, e.g. announcement, departure, arrival, personnel, duty-free.

Answer key:

1a students' own answers

1b 1 departure
2 arrival
3 flight
4 announcement

2a 1 overweight
2 queue
3 check in
4 departure
5 aisle
6 light
7 dimensions
8 gate

2b 1 liquids
2 bag
3 belt
4 scanner
5 tray
6 personnel
7 coins
8 announcements
9 gate

10 duty-free

3a 1 d
2 h
3 f
4 a
5 g
6 b
7 c
8 e

3b 1 online
2 boarding pass
3 departure
4 belts
5 bag
6 lap-top
7 coins
8 announcements

3c 1 e
2 c
3 f
4 a
5 d
6 b

4, 5 students' own answers

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1 Warmer

a Ask and answer the following questions with a partner.

- How often do you fly?
- Have you ever been delayed at an airport?
- What happened?

b Complete the table.

	Verb	Noun
1	depart	_____
2	arrive	_____
3	fly	_____
4	announce	_____



2 Text

a Choose the correct word. Then read the introduction and paragraphs 1 and 2 of the text, 'How to avoid delays at the airport', and check your answers.

- 1 If your baggage is **heavy** / **overweight**, you have to pay extra.
- 2 There is often a lengthy **queue** / **crowd** to pass through security.
- 3 You can normally **check in** / **check out** online.
- 4 You can usually print your boarding pass 24 hours before your **departure** / **arrival** time.
- 5 You can choose whether you want a window or an **aisle** / **inside** seat.
- 6 It's always a good idea to travel **light** / **simply**.
- 7 Airlines publish the **dimensions** / **length** of hand baggage that is permitted.
- 8 With your boarding pass and hand baggage, you can go straight to the departure **door** / **gate**.

b Read paragraphs 3 to 5 and fill in the missing information.

- 1 You can take small quantities of _____, gels and pastes in your hand baggage.
- 2 These must be placed in a small transparent plastic _____.
- 3 If you are wearing a _____ or wristwatch, take them off and place them inside your hand baggage.
- 4 Take off your coat and/or jacket before you reach the security _____.
- 5 Place your lap-top computer in a _____ to be scanned.
- 6 Security _____ may ask you to remove your boots or shoes.
- 7 Remove everything from your pockets, especially _____.
- 8 In the departure lounge, always listen to _____.
- 9 Make sure you arrive at the departure _____ on time.
- 10 Don't go to the _____ shop just before your flight is due to leave.

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HOW TO AVOID DELAYS AT THE AIRPORT

Millions of people have experienced the frustration of being delayed at an airport. In many cases, you have already made a long car or train journey to reach the airport, and then you discover that there are hundreds of people queueing to check in. When you finally reach the check-in desk, you find that your baggage is overweight and you have to join another queue to pay for the extra weight. Finally, you receive your boarding pass and, just when you think your troubles are over, you have to join yet another lengthy queue to pass through security. Here is some advice to make your journey through the airport smoother.

1 Check in at home. Most airlines already allow you to check in online, using your own computer. Some airlines permit you to do this up to one month before you fly and, if not, you can almost always check in 24 hours prior to your departure time. You can check in, choose your seat (aisle or window) and print out your boarding pass. Alternatively, using the airline's mobile phone app, you can check in using your mobile phone and store the boarding pass on your phone to present it at security.

Tip – Don't forget to ensure your phone is fully charged before you leave for the airport if you use this method!

2 Travel light. If you are only travelling for a few days, consider only taking with you a small bag or suitcase that you can take onto the plane as hand luggage. Even if you have checked in at home and printed your boarding pass, you will still have to queue to check in larger suitcases at the airport. Airlines publish the dimensions of hand luggage that is permitted on their flights and you can buy a bag or small suitcase specifically designed to carry onto the aircraft. With your boarding pass and hand luggage, you can go straight to the departure gate, but remember you also have to pass through security!

Tip – Don't forget to bring your passport or ID card or you will not be allowed to travel!

3 Get ready for security. Don't pack any liquids in your hand luggage. Small quantities of liquids, gels and pastes (e.g. make-up, toothpaste) are permitted but must be placed in a transparent plastic bag, which you must take out of your hand luggage when passing through security. If you are wearing a belt or wristwatch, always take these off and place them inside your hand luggage, along with your mobile phone. Take off your coat and/or jacket before you reach the security scanner and place them in the tray with your hand luggage and liquids. Remove all items from your pockets, especially coins, and place them in your hand luggage. If you have a lap-top computer, take it out of your hand luggage and place it in a tray to be scanned.

4 Be polite and friendly. If the security personnel ask you to remove your boots or shoes to be scanned, smile and say 'thank you'. If you complain about this or argue, you will be delayed. Similarly, if your bag is selected for an additional security search, remember that this is being done for your safety and not simply to annoy you!

5 Listen to announcements and check the departure screens. One of the major causes of delays at airports is passengers arriving late at their departure gate. Remember that departure times sometimes change, so check the screens regularly. Don't go to the duty-free shop 10 minutes before your flight is due to leave! Make sure you arrive at the gate with plenty of time to spare. If you are late and you have checked-in baggage for your flight, you will delay its departure.

Have a nice flight!

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3 Language in use

a Read the sentences. Look at the words in bold and match them with their meanings a-h.

- 1 You often have to **queue** to check in at the airport.
- 2 It often takes quite a long time to pass through **security**.
- 3 You can check-in 24 hours **prior to** your departure time.
- 4 Ensure your phone is fully **charged** before you leave for the airport.
- 5 You can take small quantities of liquids, **gels** and pastes in your hand luggage.
- 6 Listen to announcements and check the departure **screen**.
- 7 You may be asked to remove your boots or shoes to be **scanned**.
- 8 If you are late at the departure gate, your flight may be **delayed**.

- a full of electricity
- b the part of an electronic device where words and pictures are shown
- c checked electronically using special equipment
- d to wait for something in a line of people
- e made late
- f before
- g sticky substances that are used in products for the hair and skin
- h the section of an airport where passenger are checked to ensure they are not carrying dangerous items

b Complete the information on this notice using the words in the box.

coins boarding pass **announcements** **bag** **belts** **online** **departure** lap-top

INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

- 1 If you have checked in (1) _____ and printed your (2) _____, go straight to the (3) _____ gate.
- 2 Please remove (4) _____ and wristwatches and place them in the tray.
- 3 Place liquids, gels and pastes in a transparent plastic (5) _____.
- 4 If you have a (6) _____ computer, remove it from your bag and place it in the tray.
- 5 Take everything out of your pockets, especially (7) _____.
- 6 Please listen to (8) _____ and check the departure screens regularly.

c Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make two-word phrases from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1 boarding | a scanner |
| 2 departure | b desk |
| 3 hand | c gate |
| 4 security | d shop |
| 5 duty-free | e pass |
| 6 check-in | f luggage |

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4 Communicate

Your best friend is flying to Rome for the weekend tomorrow. Answer their questions.

Friend: How much luggage should I take with me?

You: _____

Friend: Can I check in online?

You: _____

Friend: When can I do this?

You: _____

Friend: Can I take a large bottle of water in my hand luggage?

You: _____

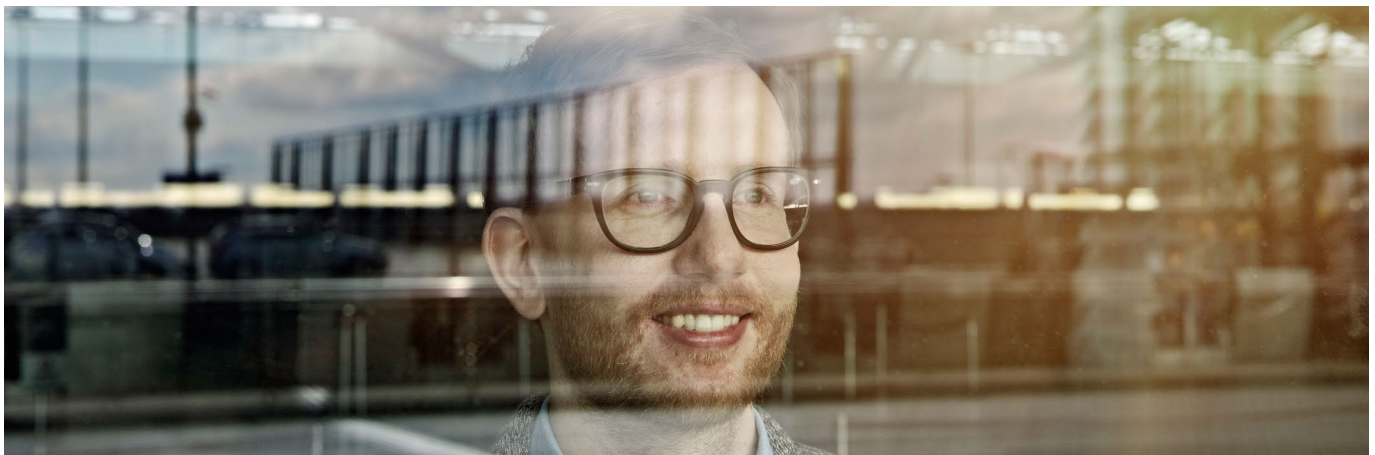
Friend: Can I take my lap-top computer with me?

You: _____



5 Discussion

- 1 What are the best and worst things about travelling by plane?
- 2 Should air travel be restricted in order to save the environment?
- 3 If you've flown before, tell your partner about your best and worst ever flights.



Red Words

'Red Words' in this lesson are indicated in **red** in the above exercises.