

Worksheet

The story so far

Katie has left her job, her boyfriend Mark and her life in England. After an emotional goodbye with Mark, and an interesting encounter with a man called Michael on the flight, she finally arrives at the airport in Los Angeles, USA.



Listening

1. Listen to Katie as she goes through US customs.
 - How many questions does the customs officer ask her?
 - How many questions does Katie ask him?
2. Now listen again to the conversation between the customs officer and Katie and put the events into the correct order. There's one extra sentence which you don't need.
 - a) He asks Katie where she has flown to LA from.
 - b) He takes away her apple.
 - c) He asks Katie to go to an interview room with him.
 - d) He requests to check Katie's bags and passport.
 - e) Katie has to taste the water.
 - f) He asks her to open her cousin's present.

Language: Asking for clarification

3. There are many ways to ask for clarification in English if you haven't understood something. Here are some that Katie uses:

- ✓ Sorry?
- ✓ Excuse me, I...?

Here are some more ways of asking for clarification. Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

- S_____, I don't u_____ w_____ you mean.
- W_____ did you s_____?
- C_____ you r_____ that p_____?
- C_____ you s_____ a little s_____ p_____?
- E_____ m_____, I didn't u_____ you. S_____!

Can you think of any more ways to ask for clarification in English? Write your ideas here:

Worksheet

Speaking

Answer the questions.

1. How do you think Katie feels as she finally meets her cousin Sal?
2. Have you ever had a funny or annoying experience at an airport? Tell your partner or group about it.
3. Work in pairs or groups of three. You have travelled half way across the world to meet a very special friend or relative that you haven't seen for a long time. Role-play the scene.



Transcript

(LA = Loudspeaker announcer)

(CO = Customs Officer)

LA: Would all passengers please have your passports ready as you pass through United States customs.

CO: Excuse me, miss?

KATIE: Sorry, yes. Me?

CO: We'll need to check your bags miss.

KATIE: Oh. OK.

CO: Your passport too please miss.

KATIE: Here you are.

CO: Where did you fly from today?

KATIE: Excuse me, I...?

CO: Where did you fly from today?

KATIE: London. England.

CO: What's this?

KATIE: Just a bottle of water.

CO: Can you drink some of it please for me?

KATIE: Sure. See?

CO: Thank you. What's this?

KATIE: What's what?

CO: This.

KATIE: It's... it's an apple.

CO: No apples allowed miss. I'm going to have to dispose of this item.

KATIE: But it's only an apple!

CO: Sorry miss, but those are the rules. No apples or similar fruit allowed. What's this?

KATIE: It's a present. For my cousin.

CO: Open it please.

KATIE: I can't believe this. Is this really necessary?

CO: Yes. Hmm. OK.

KATIE: Satisfied?

CO: Yes. That will be all. You can go. Have a nice day.

KATIE: Sorry?

CO: I said, have a nice day. Good bye.

KATIE: Thank you. Bye.

SAL: Katieeee!

KATIE: Oh Sal! Hi. I'm so glad to see you.

SAL: How was the trip?

KATIE: Fine. Well, except for customs. Look, they made me open your present.

SAL: Oh, Katie. Don't worry, let's go. Rich is waiting in the car. Oh! I'm so glad you're here.



Answers

Listening

1. Customs Officer – 3 questions

- *Where did you fly from today?*
- *What's this?*
- *Can you drink some of it please for me?*

Katie – 1 question

- *Is this really necessary?*

2. d) He requests to check Katie's bags and passport.

a) He asks Katie where she has flown to LA from.

e) Katie has to taste the water.

b) He takes away her apple.

f) He asks her to open her cousin's present.

(c is the extra one)



Language: Asking for clarification

3. **Sorry**, I don't **understand what** you mean.

What did you **say**?

Could you **repeat** that **please**?

Could you **speak** a little **slower please**?

Excuse me, I didn't **understand** you. **Sorry!**