

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