

41 Flights and travel

Travel, trip, journey

Travel is the general activity of moving from one place to another. It is an uncountable noun and a verb.

My new job involves a lot of travel.

I travel abroad on business around once a month.

A *trip* is a short visit to a place.

She's gone on a business trip to Zurich.

The *journey* is the time spent travelling.

Let's get an early night – we have a long journey ahead of us.

Tickets

You can book a flight either over the Internet or through a travel agency. Perhaps your secretary makes the booking for you. Your ticket can be single/one-way or return/round trip. It's a good idea to check-in online in advance, as it increases the chance that you get a good seat. Your seat may be window, middle or aisle.

A typical flight

The taxi drops you off (= takes you by car and leaves you) outside the terminal building. You enter the terminal and find the self-service check-in machine. Enter your e-ticket reservation number or frequent flyer number, choose your seat from those still available/open (if you haven't already chosen), and the machine prints your boarding pass. If you have any checked baggage (= items to go in the hold), you go to the baggage drop-off point. Now follow the signs for 'Departures' and prepare for the security check. You may have to queue (AmE stand in line) for a little while, then you remove your belt and shoes, put your keys and laptop in a tray, and go through the scanner.

Now you're in the departure lounge. You can get some currency (= money used in a particular country), use your laptop, or just walk around and do some shopping. Keep checking the information screens to see the status of your flight. It might be delayed (= late). Soon you see the words you are waiting for: *Now boarding at Gate 14*. You walk to the gate and board (= get onto) the plane. Please don't wait until the final call (= last announcement). Find your seat and put your hand luggage in the overhead locker. Just before you take off (= leave the ground) the flight attendants/cabin crew will give a safety demonstration. Now you're in the air and can enjoy your flight! Let's hope there isn't too much turbulence.

You land (= come to the ground), get off the plane, and go through passport control. Follow the signs for baggage reclaim and collect your bags from the carousel/belt that has your flight number. Walk through customs and exit at the barrier in the arrivals hall. Is anyone there to meet you? Maybe it's a local contact who has come to pick you up (= collect you in a car), or maybe it's a taxi driver holding up a sign with your name on it.

If you travelled on a long haul flight, you may have jet lag (= feeling very tired after a long flight). You'll need a day or two to recover.

On arrival: useful phrases

Here are some phrases to use when you arrive.

Visitor

You must be Vijay Chandra.

It's great to be here – thank you so much for organizing everything.

The local contact

Let me help you with your bags.

How was your flight?

Is this your first time in India?

(See also Unit 32.)

Visitor to taxi driver

Please drop me here – just before the lights.

How much is the fare (= money you pay to travel)?

Keep the change.

Make it forty. (I will give you 40, which includes the tip)

Can I have a receipt, please?

Word partnerships

Here are some verb + noun collocations.

arrange/organize a trip

cancel, cut short, extend a trip

be away on/go on/make a trip

come back from/return from a trip

get a good deal on a ticket

make a booking/reservation on a flight

catch/miss a flight (NOT ~~lose a flight~~)

wait for your flight (to be called)

board the plane

take a taxi, **go by** taxi