

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

Daily Life Phrases for Travel

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently with real English. I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud, [watching the original lesson to view the original context](#), and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me!

Your teacher,
Vanessa

At a Restaurant

1. **Can I get a table for (#)? / “I’d like a table for four, please.”**

The hostess or server might ask “How many?” and you can respond with this phrase.

2. **What do you recommend here?**

It’s a great way to try new things that you may be unfamiliar with and you may get a dish that the restaurant or the region is famous for!

3. **Do you have any (vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free) options?**

Sometimes, the menu will have symbols by the items that have (or don’t have) certain ingredients. But if you have an allergy or if avoiding certain foods is really important to you, this is a great question to learn.

4. **Hold the [X]/Can I get that without [x]? / Can I get that cheese burger **without** lettuce and mayo?**

It’s no problem to customize your order in the US.

5. Can I get a to-go box?

America is known for its too-large portion sizes, so you can easily make several meals out of one order. You would generally request a to-go box at the end of the meal when the server starts clearing the table.

6. (Excuse me,) Can we get the check?

Note: In the US, it is considered **rude** to simply say, “Check, please!”

At a Store

7. Just looking, thanks!/Nothing special...

These are phrases that you would use in response to “Can I help you find anything?” or “Are you looking for anything special/ in particular?” from a store employee.

8. I’m looking for.../Do you have anything...

When the employee asks “Can I help you find anything” or “Are you looking for anything in particular?” you can use these phrases if the answer is “yes.”

9. Can I try this on?

Most stores have a fitting room or dressing room so that you can try on clothes.

10. Do you take credit cards?

Most places of business take credit cards, but it’s always a good idea to ask, especially if you are in a small town.

11. Is there an ATM nearby?

An ATM means “automatic teller machine” where you can insert your credit card and withdraw money. Like magic!

12. Do you have a website/do you offer international shipping?

This is also a great solution if you don’t want to pack or carry a bunch of stuff on the rest of your travels.

At a Hotel

13. Hi, I have a reservation under [your full name]

You will usually be asked for your ID as well as a credit card.

14. I would like a... queen/two double beds/a room with a view (of the city/mountains/etc.)

If you don't already have a reservation or if you need to change it, you can use this phrase.

15. Do you have a map? / Do you have any recommendations for food or attractions nearby?

Just like asking for recommendations at the restaurant, don't be shy to ask for recommendations from the hotel clerk or your Airbnb host! They want you to enjoy your stay, and they probably have some great places to suggest.

16. What's the best way to get there? / How do I get there?

If the clerk or host says "Yes, there is this really great cafe and local art studio that you have to see!" you can ask this question.

BONUS: At the car rental agency

17. I would like a/I'm looking to rent a (car, van, SUV, etc.) for X days

You'll use this phrase to tell the rental car agent what kind of vehicle you want to be driving and for how long.

18. What do you have in the...(Economy/compact/mid-size/SUV)

There will probably be a follow-up question from the agent. They will ask "What type of vehicle would you like?" and it's not always as simple as "car, SUV, or truck". There are different sizes, models, and styles. You could say something like "Economy or compact is fine" which means you would get a smaller car, usually the least expensive option.

19. Refundable deposit

“There is a \$100 deposit required but it will be returned to your card as long as the car is returned in good condition and a full tank of gas.” This means that as long as you bring the vehicle back with no damage, full of fuel, and on time to the designated return place, you get that deposit back. You could say **“How much is the refundable deposit?”**

20. Cost per day/ Daily rate

If you opt for things like extra insurance, or turn in the car late, drive more than the daily or total mileage on the agreement, or don't fill up the gas tank, all those things could end up costing you *a lot!* Make sure to ask: **“What's the total cost?”**

21. Return

Just ask **“Where should I return the vehicle?”** and if you need to return it from another location, ask **“Are there any other locations I can drop it off?”**

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **Have you ever rented a car while you were traveling?**

Sample answer: *Before having kids, we never rented a car because it was easy to take the bus in most countries. But now that we have small children, we usually rent a car, at least for a few days. Usually the **daily rate** is low, but because we also rent children's car seats and insurance, the **total cost** can be pretty expensive.*

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