

ESL Session Series

Session 11: At the Airport and Customs

Hello Student!

This session will help you practice:

- Conversations at the airport check-in
- Security checkpoint expressions
- Customs and immigration dialogues
- Travel vocabulary
- Question and answer patterns
- Reading flight information

Section 1: Conversation Practice

How to do this:

1. Read each conversation phrase
2. Practice saying it clearly and naturally
3. Try using hand gestures or facial expressions

At the Check-in Counter

Example: "I'd like to check in for my flight to Tokyo." ✈️

Try saying it like:

- "I have a reservation under the name Rodriguez."
- "Can I have a window seat, please?" Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip:

At the Security Checkpoint


Example: "Please place your bags on the conveyor belt." 🧳

Try saying it like:

- "I need to remove my laptop from my bag."

- "Do I need to take off my shoes?" Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____


At Immigration/Customs

Example: "May I see your passport, please?" 

Try saying it like:

- "I'm visiting for two weeks as a tourist."
- "I have nothing to declare." Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Finding Your Gate

Example: "Excuse me, where is gate B12?" 

Try saying it like:

- "How do I get to the international terminal?"
- "What time does boarding start?" Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Section 2: Question and Answer Practice

How to do this:


1. Read the question with rising intonation
2. Practice the answer with natural falling intonation
3. Work on smooth transitions between them


Immigration Questions

Q: "What is the purpose of your visit?" 


A: "I'm here for business meetings." 

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Q: "How long will you be staying?" 

A: "I'll be staying for ten days." 

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Q: "Where will you be staying?" 

A: "I'll be staying at the Grand Hotel downtown." 

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Q: "Have you visited this country before?" 🗑️

A: "Yes, I was here last year for vacation." 📄

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Q: "Do you have anything to declare?" 🗑️

A: "No, I don't have anything to declare." 📄

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Section 3: Travel Vocabulary Practice

Use these travel terms in a sentence. The BOLD syllable shows the stress:

1. PASS-port Make a sentence: _____.
2. lug-GAGE Make a sentence: _____.
3. BOARD-ing pass Make a sentence: _____.
4. CUS-toms Make a sentence: _____.
5. de-PAR-ture Make a sentence: _____.

Section 4: How Do You Say It?

How to do this:

1. Read each sentence with the feeling shown
2. Pay attention to your tone of voice and face
3. Practice showing the emotion clearly

"Excuse me, I think I'm lost." 😬

(Express: Confused - slightly higher pitch, uncertain tone)

Voice: Hesitant, slightly rising at the end

Face: Furrowed brow, looking around

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

"My flight has been delayed for three hours!" 😞

(Express: Frustrated - emphasis on key words)

Voice: Stronger emphasis on "delayed" and "three hours"

Face: Tight lips, slight headshake

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

"Could you help me with my bags, please?" 😊

(Express: Polite request - gentle, respectful tone)

Voice: Soft, clearly articulated, rising at the end

Face: Slight smile, direct eye contact

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

"We need to hurry! The plane is boarding now!" 😲

(Express: Urgent - faster pace, higher volume)

Voice: Quick, emphasis on "hurry" and "now"

Face: Wide eyes, alert expression

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

"Welcome aboard. Enjoy your flight." 😊

(Express: Professional warmth - clear, pleasant tone)

Voice: Measured pace, slight emphasis on "enjoy"

Face: Professional smile, relaxed expression

Your Practice: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Section 5: Minimal Pairs

How to do this:

1. Listen carefully to your tutor say each pair
2. Try saying both words and feel the difference
3. Make a sentence using each word
4. Circle the word you hear when your tutor tests you

fly vs. flight

(Different ending sounds: "eye" vs. "ight")

Say both: 🗨️ fly (ends with "eye" sound) - 🗨️ flight (ends with "ight" sound)

Make sentences:

"Birds fly in the sky."

"My flight leaves at 9 AM." Your Answer: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

bag vs. back

(Different ending sounds: "g" vs. "k")

Say both: 🗨️ bag (voiced ending) - 🗨️ back (unvoiced ending)

Make sentences:

"I packed my bag last night."

"I'll be back in a week." Your Answer: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

seat vs. sit

(Different vowel sounds: "ee" vs. short "i")

Say both: 🗨️ seat (long "ee" sound) - 🗨️ sit (short "i" sound)


Make sentences:

"I reserved a window seat."

"Please sit down while waiting." Your Answer: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

gate vs. get

(Different vowel sounds: long "a" vs. short "e")

Say both:  gate (long "a" sound) -  get (short "e" sound)



Make sentences:

"Our gate number is C15."

"Let's get something to eat." Your Answer: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

pass vs. past

(Different ending sounds: "s" vs. "st")

Say both:  pass (ends with "s") -  past (ends with "st")

Make sentences:


"Don't forget your boarding pass."

"I've traveled here in the past." Your Answer: _____ Tutor's tip: _____

Section 6: Reading Practice: At the Airport

How to do this:


1. First listen to your tutor read
2. Then read out loud, sentence by sentence
3. Pay attention to punctuation and emotions

Today is the day of my international flight. I arrive at the airport three hours early. 


First, I go to the check-in counter. "Hello, I'd like to check in for the flight to London," I say to the agent.



"May I see your passport and reservation, please?" she asks. 

I hand her my documents. After a few moments, she says, "Here's your boarding pass. Your gate is B17, and boarding starts at 3:30 PM." 


"Thank you. Do I need to check my luggage?" I ask. 

"Yes, please place your suitcase on the scale," she responds. "Your bag is within the weight limit." 


Next, I go through security. "Please remove your laptop and liquids from your bag," the officer instructs.



After security, I check the departure board. My flight is on time!  

I find my gate and wait for boarding. "Now boarding flight BA287 to London," announces the gate agent. 

On the plane, the flight attendant welcomes me. "Good afternoon. Your seat is 14A, by the window." 






When we land in London, I go through immigration. "What is the purpose of your visit?" asks the officer. 

"I'm here on vacation for two weeks," I reply. 

"Enjoy your stay in the United Kingdom," he says, stamping my passport. 

Finally, I collect my luggage and go through customs. My journey has gone smoothly so far!  

Reading Tips:

- Pause at commas (,) 
- Stop at periods (.) 
- Sound excited at exclamation points (!) 
- Make your voice go up for questions (?) 
- Use different voices for dialogue (" ") 

Tutor's tip: _____

Section 7: Writing Practice: My Travel Experience

How to do this:

1. Write 5-7 sentences about a real or imagined travel experience
2. Use travel vocabulary (airport, flight, passport, etc.)
3. Try to use some new vocabulary from this lesson

My Travel Experience:

Tutor's tip: _____

Wrap-Up: For Next Time

Travel Words I Want to Learn:

Things to Practice:
