ESL Tutoring Session 5: Travel and Transportation

Tutor Guide

This 40-minute Zoom tutoring session is designed to help develop clear English communication skills. Remember to:

- Speak clearly at a moderate pace
- Face the camera directly when speaking
- Use visual cues and gestures alongside verbal instructions
- Provide immediate, supportive feedback
- Use the icons for visual reinforcement

How to Use This Guide

- 1. Review the entire worksheet before the session
- 2. Follow the section order, spending about 5-7 minutes per section
- 3. Use the icons for visual cues:
 - | Elistening activity
 - = Speaking activity
 - • Visual observation
 - ✓ = Practice task

Section 1: Conversation Practice (7 minutes)

Asking for Directions

Instructions: Practice these ways to ask for directions. Tutor demonstrates first, then student repeats.

Pattern 1: "Excuse me, how do I get to _____?"

Pattern 2: "Could you tell me the way to _____, please?"

Examples:

- "Excuse me, how do I get to the train station?"
- "Could you tell me the way to the museum, please?"
- "I'm looking for the bus stop. Is it nearby?"

✓ Student Practice:
Tutor's Notes:
Giving Directions
Instructions: Practice giving directions to help someone find their way.
Pattern 1: "Go straight for, then turn"
Pattern 2: "It's the"
Examples:
"Go straight for two blocks, then turn left."
 "Walk to the end of this street and turn right at the traffic light."
"It's next to the bank, across from the supermarket."
✓ Student Practice:
/ Tutor's Notes:
Buying Tickets
Instructions: Practice phrases for purchasing transportation tickets.
Pattern 1: "I'd like a ticket to, please."
Pattern 2: "How much is a ticket to?"
Examples:
"I'd like a round-trip ticket to Boston, please."
"One adult ticket to New York, please."
"How much is a one-way ticket to Chicago?"
✓ Student Practice:
/ Tutor's Notes:

Section 2: Minimal Pairs & Phonological Awareness (8 minutes)

Listening for Different Sounds

Instructions: Today we'll focus on four minimal pairs that are especially important for travel and transportation contexts. Say each word pair clearly with emphasis on the different sounds.

Today's Focus Pairs:

1. /w/ vs. /v/ (Consonant Pair)

- west (direction) vs. vest (sleeveless garment)
- way (direction, path) vs. vase (container for flowers)
- wine (alcoholic drink) vs. vine (climbing plant)
- •• Visual Cue: For /w/, round your lips without teeth touching lip. For /v/, bottom lip touches upper teeth.

✓ Practice Sentences:

- "Which way is west? I need to put my vest in that vase."
- "We're traveling west to buy a new vest."
- "There was **wine** growing on the **vine** at the station."

2. /d/ vs. /t/ (Consonant Pair)

- down (lower direction) vs. town (urban area)
- ride (travel in vehicle) vs. right (correct; opposite of left)
- day (24 hours) vs. tray (flat carrying surface)
- **Visual Cue:** For /d/, tongue position is same as /t/, but /d/ uses voice (feel vibration) while /t/ does not.

✓ Practice Sentences:

- "Go down into the town center."
- "Turn right after the bus ride."
- "The flight attendant brought a tray of drinks during the day."

3. /n/ vs. /ŋ/ (Consonant Pair)

- thin (not thick) vs. thing (object)
- win (be victorious) vs. wing (airplane part)
- run (move quickly) vs. rung (step on a ladder)

Visual Cue: For /n/, tongue tip touches behind upper teeth. For /ŋ/ (ng), back of tongue touches roof of mouth.
✓ Practice Sentences:
• "That thin man is looking for his thing ."
• "I will win a ticket for the airplane wing seat."
• "I need to run to the highest rung of the stairs."
4. /oʊ/ vs. /aʊ/ (Vowel Pair)
• road (street) vs. round (circular)
• go (travel) vs. gown (formal dress)
• boat (water vessel) vs. bout (short period)
👀 Visual Cue: For /oʊ/ (road), lips start rounded and end slightly more closed. For /aʊ/ (round), lips start open and end rounded.
✓ Practice Sentences:
• "The road goes round the mountain."
• "I'll go wearing my travel gown ."
• "The boat trip was just a short bout of sailing."
✓ Student accuracy: □ Got it! □ Needs more practice
/ Tutor's Notes:

Section 3: Transportation Vocabulary (7 minutes)

Types of Transportation

Instructions: Learn these common transportation words and their meanings.

Transportation Type	Definition	
Bus	A large vehicle that carries many passengers along a fixed route	
Train	A connected series of vehicles that runs on rails	
Airplane	A powered flying vehicle with fixed wings	
Subway/Metro	An underground railway system	
Taxi/Cab	A car with a driver that you pay to take you somewhere	
Bicycle	A two-wheeled vehicle that you pedal	
Ferry	A boat that carries people and vehicles across water	
Tram/Streetcar	An electric vehicle that runs on tracks in a city	

✓ Practice using these words in sentences:

- "I take the bus to work every day."
- "The train arrives at platform 3 in ten minutes."
- "My airplane departs at 2:30 PM."
- "The subway is faster than taking a taxi during rush hour."

	Tutor's	Notes:	
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Places Related to Transportation

Instructions: Learn these words for places related to travel and transportation.

Place	Definition	
Airport	Where airplanes take off and land	
Station	Where buses or trains stop	
Terminal	A building where passengers start or end their journeys	
Platform	A raised area beside railway tracks where passengers wait	
Gate	The place where you board an airplane	
Ticket office	Where you buy tickets	
Departure lounge	Where passengers wait before boarding	
Baggage claim	Where you collect your luggage after a flight	
4)	

✓ Practice using these words in sentences:

- "We need to be at the airport two hours before the flight."
- "The bus station is on Main Street."

- "Go to the ticket office to buy your train ticket."
- "Our flight leaves from gate B15."

Tutor's	Notes:	

Section 4: Prepositions of Place and Movement (6 minutes)

Prepositions of Place

Instructions: Learn these prepositions that describe where things are located.

- in inside an enclosed space (in the car, in the station)
- **on** touching a surface (on the bus, on the train)
- at a specific location (at the airport, at the bus stop)
- next to/beside very close to, at the side of (next to the ticket office)
- between in the space separating two things (between the train station and the mall)
- across from on the opposite side from (across from the bank)
- **in front of** in a position just ahead of (in front of the entrance)
- **behind** at the back of (behind the building)

Prepositions of Movement

Instructions: Learn these prepositions that describe how people or things move.

- **to** in the direction of (walk to the station)
- from indicating a starting point (travel from London)
- **through** from one side to the other (go through the tunnel)
- around in a circular path (drive around the roundabout)
- **into** to the inside of (go into the terminal)
- out of to the outside of (get out of the taxi)
- **up** to a higher place (walk up the stairs)
- **down** to a lower place (go down the escalator)

√ Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition:

1. The bus stop	is the ban	k.
2. We're flying	Paris	Rome.
3. Walk	the street and turi	n right.

4. The train station is the post office and the library.
5. Please go the train and find your seat.
6. The taxi is waiting of the hotel.
7. Take the elevator to the third floor.
8. The airport is 10 miles the city center.
Tutor's Notes:
Section 5: Understanding Announcements (6 minutes)
Listening to Public Transportation Announcements
Instructions: Listen to these common transportation announcements and identify the key information.
Airport Announcement: "Attention, passengers. This is the final boarding call for flight AC123 to Toronto. All passengers should proceed to gate B15 immediately. The flight will depart in 15 minutes. Thank you."
Key information:
Flight number:
Destination:
Gate number:
Time until departure:
Train Announcement: "The train now approaching platform 3 is the 9:45 express service to Manchester calling at Birmingham New Street and Stockport only. Please mind the gap between the train and the platform."
Key information:
Time of train:
Destination:
Platform number:
• Stops:
Bus Announcement: "Route 42 to Downtown is delayed by approximately 10 minutes due to heavy
traffic. We apologize for any inconvenience. The next bus will arrive at 2:15 PM."

Key information:

•	Route number:
•	Reason for delay:
•	Length of delay:
•	Next arrival time:

✓ Practice responding to these announcements:

- "I need to go to gate B15 right away for my flight to Toronto."
- "The 9:45 train to Manchester will stop at Birmingham and Stockport only."
- "Bus 42 is running 10 minutes late because of traffic."

Tutor's Notes:	
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Section 6: Reading Practice (6 minutes)

A Trip to New York - Reading Practice

Tutor Instructions:

- 1. First, ask the student to read the entire paragraph out loud
- 2. Next, you (the tutor) model-read the entire paragraph with proper pronunciation, stress and intonation
- 3. Then, read one sentence at a time and have the student repeat after you, correcting any pronunciation errors
- 4. Finally, ask the student to read the entire paragraph again on their own

Reading Passage:

A Trip to New York

Last summer, I took a trip to New York City. I was very excited because it was my first time visiting such a big city.

I flew from Chicago to New York. At the airport, I took my passport and ticket to the check-in counter. The airline employee checked my bags and gave me a boarding pass.

My flight was at 10:30 AM. I went through security and found my gate. The flight was on time, and we boarded the plane at 10:00 AM.

The flight took about two hours. When we landed at JFK Airport, I collected my luggage and looked for transportation into the city.

I decided to take the subway because it was cheaper than a taxi. I bought a MetroCard at the station and found the right train.

In New York, I stayed at a hotel in Manhattan. It was close to a subway station, which made it easy to travel around the city.

During my trip, I visited many famous places: Times Square, Central Park, the Empire State Building, and the Statue of Liberty.

I walked a lot, but I also used the subway and sometimes took buses. New York has excellent public transportation!

After five days, it was time to go home. I took a taxi to the airport because I had heavy luggage. The driver knew a shortcut, so we arrived quickly.

It was an amazing trip. Next time, I want to visit for longer and see even more of the city!

Tutor's Notes:	
✓ Student Reading:	
5. How did they return to the airport at the end of their trip?	
4. Name two famous places they visited in New York	
3. How did they get from the airport to the city?	_
2. What did they do at the airport check-in counter?	
1. How did the person travel to New York?	

Section 7: Practice Conversation (Remaining time)

Asking for Directions

Instructions: Practice this dialogue with your tutor. Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation.

Tourist: Excuse me, can you help me? I'm trying to get to the art museum.

Local: Yes, of course. Are you taking the bus?

Tourist: I was planning to, but I'm not sure which one I need.

Local: You should take bus number 15. It stops right in front of the museum.

Tourist: Great! How often do the buses come?

Local: They come every 20 minutes. The next one should be here soon.

Tourist: How many stops will it be until the museum?

Local: It's about 5 stops. You'll see the museum on your right. You can't miss it!

Tourist: Should I press the button to get off?

Local: Yes, press the stop button when you see the museum.

Tourist: Thank you so much for your help!

Local: You're welcome. Enjoy the museum!

Wrap-Up

Areas That Need More Practice:

✓ Practice Dialog: _____

Tutor's Notes: ______

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Overall Difficulty Rating:

Very Easy	Easy	Just Right	Challenging	Very Difficult
1	2	3	4	5
0	0	0	0	0

Note for the tutor: The minimal pairs in this session focus on sounds that are particularly important for travel and transportation contexts. The /w/ vs. /v/ distinction is critical for words like "west" vs. "vest," while the /n/ vs. /ŋ/ distinction helps with words like "win" vs. "wing" (important for air travel). Pay special attention to the prepositions section, as using incorrect prepositions can lead to confusion when giving or following directions.