Everyday English for ESL

Lesson 4 — Airport Check-in

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**TRANSCRIPT**

**DIALOGUE**

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** Good morning, sir. Where are you flying today?

**PASSENGER:** I’m booked on the ten-thirty flight to Rome.

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** May I have your passport and ticket please?

**PASSENGER:** Certainly. Here you are.

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** That’s fine. And are you checking any luggage?

**PASSENGER:** No, I just have this carry-on.

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** OK, and would you prefer an aisle seat or a window seat?

**PASSENGER:** A window seat, please.

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** Alright, here’s your boarding pass. Your flight boards at gate number ten.

**PASSENGER:** Thank you very much.

**CHECK-IN AGENT:** You’re welcome. Have a good flight.

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

Check-in is usually the first procedure for a passenger when arriving at an airport, as airline regulations require passengers to check in by certain times prior to the departure of a flight.

For international flights, you are obliged to present a passport, but for domestic flights only a photo ID is usually required.

The airline agent will ask you if you want to check any luggage, or if you just have carry-on luggage.

Large or heavy suitcases and bags will have to be checked, and go in the aircraft’s cargo hold, but you can take smaller bags or cases with you on the plane as long as they will fit in the overhead bin above your seat in the plane’s cabin.

If you exceed the size and weight limits specified by your airline, you may have to pay an excess baggage charge.

After the agent gives you your boarding pass, you can go through security and make your way to the gate that corresponds to your flight.

Eventually, your flight will be called and you can board the plane.

**QUESTIONS**

- When was the last time you flew in a plane?
- How do you feel about flying?
- What do you usually take with you when you travel by plane?
- How do you spend your time during long flights?
- What’s your opinion of low-cost or budget airlines?
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. **To fly** is an irregular verb: fly, flew, flown.
2. **Ten-thirty** refers to the time, not the number of the flight, which usually comes after: *Flight MH370 is missing.*
3. **May I** is a polite way of asking permission. Note that to make a polite request you say ‘Could you’ and not ‘May you’: *Could you show me your passport, please?*
4. **Here you are** is a fixed expression used when handing something to someone.
5. **Check** is used here with a special meaning. If you ‘check’ luggage, you give it to the agent and it will travel in the aircraft’s hold during the flight, not with you in the cabin.
6. **Luggage** is uncountable so cannot be used in the plural or with an indefinite article: You’ve got too much luggage (not too many luggages). *I think I’ve lost a piece of luggage or some luggage (not a luggage).*
7. A **carry-on** (or carry-on bag) is a piece of luggage that you keep with you when you board the plane. There are strict regulations regarding the maximum size and weight of this type of luggage.
8. **Aisle** is pronounced just like ‘I’ll’ (the contraction of ‘I will’). You also find aisles in churches, supermarkets and cinemas.
9. Instead of saying ‘the passengers board the plane’, we can also say the **flight boards** (but not ‘the plane boards’). Alternatively, we can say that passengers ‘embark’ or ‘get on the plane’.
10. **You’re welcome** is a polite and rather formal way of responding when someone thanks you. A similar expression is ‘Don’t mention it’. A less formal expression is ‘That’s OK’.
11. Note that we must use gerund not an infinitive after ‘when’, ‘before’ and ‘after’: *You should wash your hands before eating* (not before to eat). Of course, you could also use a verb phrase: *Passengers have to check in after they arrive at the airport.*
12. **As** means the same as ‘because’ here. You could also use ‘since’.
13. Note that the phrasal verb **check in** does not have a hyphen, although the noun does have one (check-in). You also check in when you arrive at a hotel (and check out when you leave).
14. ‘**The check-in is normally handled ...**’ is the first of several passive sentences in the listening text. Can you identify them all?
15. If you do something on behalf of someone, you do it as their representative: *He accepted the prize on behalf of his brother, who could not attend the ceremony.*
16. **ID** is an abbreviation for ‘identity document’. Not a lot of people know that!
17. **As long as** means the same as ‘on condition that’. *You can come as long as you promise to behave.*
18. Here, **may** expresses a possibility. It’s not certain you will have to pay, but it’s possible.
19. **Baggage** is a synonym for ‘luggage’, and is also uncountable: *Her baggage is all made by Louis Vuitton.*
20. **Eventually** is a false friend for French learners of English (and perhaps others). It means ‘in the end’ (especially after a long delay, dispute, or series of problems). *Eventually, we gave up and went home.*
WORD LIST

agent ................................................. a person who represents an organization or company
aircraft ........................................... a plane or other vehicle that can fly
airline ............................................. a company that takes goods or people to places by plane
airport ............................................ a place where passengers get on and off an aircraft
aisle .................................................. the space you can walk along between rows of seats
bag ..................................................... an object that you put things in and carry with you
baggage [U] ..................................... the cases and bags a person takes with them when they travel
board (v) ......................................... to get on a plane or ship, bus or train
boarding pass ................................. a card you need to show someone before you can get on a plane, ship, etc.
book (v) ........................................... to buy tickets for something
budget (adj) ..................................... a budget airline is one that does not cost a lot
cabin ................................................ the part of an airplane where the passengers sit
call (v) ............................................. if your flight is called, an official announcement is made telling you that it is time to
check (v) ......................................... to give your bags and suitcases to an official at an airport so that they can be put on
check in (v) ....................................... to arrive at an airport and show your ticket to an official
check-in ........................................... the place where you check in at the airport, or the act of checking in
departure ......................................... when someone or something leaves a place
domestic .......................................... to do with one country and not international
eventually ......................................... finally, in the end
exceed ............................................. to be greater than a particular limit or amount
excess ............................................... too much of something
fit (v) ............................................... to be the right shape or size
flight ............................................... a journey in an aircraft
fly (v) ............................................... to travel by air
heavy .............................................. something that is heavy weighs a lot
gate ................................................... the place where passengers get on or off a plane at an airport
hold (n) ............................................ the place in a ship or plane where goods and bags are stored
ID ..................................................... an official document that proves who you are
low-cost .......................................... charging a very low price for something
luggage [U] .................................... a traveller’s bags and cases
normally ......................................... usually, most of the time
obliged ............................................. if you are obliged to do something, you must do it
overhead bin ................................. the container above the seat in an airplane where you put your bags
passenger ........................................ a person travelling by plane, ship, bus, train, etc.
passport ........................................... an official document with your photo that you need to travel abroad
prior to ............................................. a formal expression meaning ‘before’
procedure ........................................ a specific way of doing something
regulation ........................................ a rule or law
require ............................................. to officially ask someone to do something
seat ................................................... a chair where you sit in a vehicle
security ........................................... the place in an airport where officials inspect luggage for dangerous goods
size ................................................. how big something is
suitcase ........................................... a container for carrying clothes, etc. when you travel (also ‘case’)
ticket ............................................. a small piece of paper that shows you have paid to do something
travel (v) ......................................... to go from one place to another
weight ............................................. how heavy something is
window seat ................................. a seat next to the window on a plane, train, or bus
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

security  boarding  passenger  airline  suitcase  boarding card  check-in  aisle
passport  luggage  airport  gate  airport seat  carry-on  overhead bin

1  2  3  4

5  6  7  8

9  10  11  12

13  14  15  16
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

B. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. You have to present a passport for domestic flights.
2. Checked luggage goes in the cargo hold.
3. The overhead bins are for small bags or cases.
4. The excess baggage charge is measured in kilos.
5. You go through security after receiving your boarding pass.

C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Check-in is usually the first procedure for a passenger when arriving (1) at/to an airport, as airline regulations require passengers to check in by certain times prior to the (2) departure of a flight.

For international flights, you are (3) obliged to present a passport, but for domestic flights only a photo ID is usually (4) required.

The airline agent will ask you if you want to check (5) any luggage, or if you just have carry-on (6) luggage.

Large or heavy suitcases and bags will have to be (7) checked, and go in the aircraft’s cargo hold, but you can take (8) smaller bags or cases with you on the plane as long (9) as they will fit in the overhead bin above your seat in the plane’s cabin.

If you (10) exceed the size and weight limits specified by your airline, you (11) must have to pay an excess baggage charge.

After the agent (12) gives you your boarding pass, you can go through security and make your way to the gate that (13) corresponds to your flight.

Eventually, your flight will be called and you can (14) board the plane.
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

ANSWER KEY

A. MATCH THE WORDS AND PICTURES

1. check-in
2. plane
3. airport
4. luggage
5. suitcase
6. passport
7. gate
8. passenger
9. aisle
10. boarding pass
11. boarding
12. overhead bin
13. airline
14. carry-on
15. security
16. seat

B. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. FALSE — a photo ID is usually sufficient for domestic flights
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. FALSE — the excess baggage charge is an amount of money you have to pay
5. TRUE

C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

1. at
2. departure
3. obliged
4. required
5. any
6. luggage
7. checked
8. smaller
9. as
10. exceed
11. may
12. gives
13. corresponds
14. board
EVERYDAY ENGLISH Lesson 4 — Airport Check-In

CROSSWORD

Across
2 Air travel document (8, 4)
6 It's measured in kilos or pounds (6)
8 One way to get to the airport (3)
9 Something you put in a case? (4)
10 Passageway between rows of seats (5)
13 What time's the ____ plane to London? (4)
14 Place where people get on a plane (4)
15 A passport shows your ____ (3)
16 British Airways (2)
20 Heathrow, for example (7)
21 easyJet is one (7)
22 May I see your ____ please? (6)
24 Travel by air (3)
25 Weighing a lot (5)
26 All flights ____ of Gatwick are cancelled (3)
27 How big (or small) something is (4)
28 Money you have to pay for a service (6)

Down
1 Give your bags to be put in the aircraft's hold (5)
2 Suitcases and bags (7)
3 Identity document (2)
4 People travelling by plane (10)
5 I always prefer a window ____ (4)
7 Synonym for 28 across (3)
11 Synonym for 2 down (7)
12 You need one to travel abroad (8)
14 To disembark is to ____ off the plane (3)
17 Airline employee (5)
18 Bag you take with you on the plane (5-2)
19 A journey by plane (6)
23 A piece of luggage (4)
24 Is this the queue ____ the flight to Lisbon? (3)
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

WORD SEARCH

Agent
Airline
Airport
Aisle
Baggage
Boarding pass
Carry-on
Case
Charge
Check-in
Domestic
Flight

Fly
Gate
Heavy
ID
Luggage
Passengers
Passport
Seat
Size
Ticket
Weight
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 4 — AIRPORT CHECK-IN

CROSSWORD — SOLUTION

WORD SEARCH — SOLUTION