

How to Speak English at the Airport

From check in to boarding — every sentence you need

EPISODE 19 • LEVEL B1-B2

Episode summary

- The airport is not an English test, it is a system: signs first, people second, announcements last. Almost every conversation uses the same ten sentences.
- Check in with five sentences: “I would like to check in for my flight,” “Here you are,” “Just one bag,” “Could I have a window seat, please,” plus the overweight-bag fix — “Could I move some things to my other bag.”
- Security is silent: watch and copy the person in front of you. Four things you will hear — bags on the belt, laptops out, any liquids, anything in your pockets.
- Read the departure board (boarding / delayed / cancelled / on time), ask “Could you tell me where gate twelve is,” and train your ear for the four announcements: now boarding, final call, delayed, gate change.
- Delays: “Is my flight on time” and “Could you put me on the next flight.” Lost bag: “My bag did not arrive” plus three details (color, size, mark) — or just show the photo you took before check in.

What's inside this PDF

20 key words • the check-in sentence chart • the announcement ear chart • Say It Better upgrades • 3 practice exercises

Key Vocabulary

20 words from this episode — learn them, then use them this week

1. check in

to tell the airline you have arrived and get your boarding pass.
> We checked in two hours before the flight.

2. boarding pass

your ticket to get on the plane; it shows your seat and gate.
> My boarding pass says gate twelve.

3. gate

the door where you wait and then walk to your plane.
> Our gate changed from twelve to thirty one.

4. luggage

the bags you travel with.
> My luggage did not arrive with my flight.

5. delay

when your flight leaves later than planned.
> A two hour delay is a good time to practice English.

6. security

the check where officers look at your bags before you fly.
> Security took ten minutes this morning.

7. departures

the part of the airport where flights leave from.
> Follow the signs to departures when you fly out.

8. baggage claim

the place where you collect your bag after landing.
> We waited at baggage claim for twenty minutes.

9. passport control

where officers check your passport before you enter.
> Passport control took five minutes.

10. boarding

the moment passengers walk onto the plane.
> Boarding starts thirty minutes before departure.

11. final call

the last announcement before a flight leaves.
> Final call means run — this is the last warning.

12. gate change

when your flight moves to a different gate.
> A gate change means you move fast, calmly.

13. connection

your second flight when you change planes.
> Will I miss my connection?

14. overweight

in this episode: a bag that is too heavy for the limit.
> Your bag is overweight — could I move some things?

15. aisle

the seat next to the walking path in the plane.
> I like the aisle seat because I can stand up easily.

16. customs

where officers check what you bring into a country.
> Customs asked: Do you have anything to declare?

17. turbulence

shaking air during a flight.
> Turbulence is normal — stay seated, it passes.

18. announcement

a message spoken through the airport speakers.
> The announcement said our flight was delayed.

19. rebook

to move your ticket to a different flight.
> Could you put me on the next flight, please?

20. arrivals

the part of the airport where flights land.
> Walk out into the arrivals hall — trip complete.

The Airport in Five Stages

check in, security, gate, delay, lost bag — plus the plane

Check in: five sentences

“I would like to check in for my flight. Here you are. Just one bag. Could I have a window seat, please.”

Security: copy the person in front of you

Bags on the belt, laptop out, liquids in the bag, pockets empty. Watch, copy, done.

Gate: one frame + four announcements

“Could you tell me where gate twelve is.” Announcements: now boarding, final call, delayed, gate change.

Delay: two questions

“Is my flight on time.” Then: “Could you put me on the next flight.” Calm travelers who ask get helped first.

Lost bag: five words + a photo

“My bag did not arrive.” Describe it in three details — or show the photo you took before check in.

Say It Better — 10 upgrades

☐ “Where gate twelve?”

☐ “Could you tell me where gate twelve is?”

☐ “I want window seat.”

☐ “Could I have a window seat, please?”

☐ “My bag lost.”

☐ “My bag did not arrive. Could you help me find it?”

☐ “Flight late?”

☐ “Is my flight on time?”

☐ “Give me water.”

☐ “Could I have some water, please?”

☐ “I sit here?”

☐ “Is this seat taken?”

☐ “Hurry, my flight soon.”

☐ “Excuse me, my flight is boarding soon. Could you help me?”

☐ “Passport.” (silence)

☐ “Here you are.”

☐ “Bag heavy, problem.”

☐ “Could I move some things to my other bag?”

☐ “Late flight, angry.”

☐ “Could you put me on the next flight, please?”

Practice Time

3 exercises — do them today, not “someday”

Exercise 1 — Fill in the blank

Word bank: check in • boarding pass • gate • luggage • delay

1. To _____ means to tell the airline you have arrived and get your boarding pass.
2. My _____ says gate twelve.
3. Our _____ changed from twelve to thirty one.
4. My _____ did not arrive with my flight.
5. A two hour _____ is a good time to practice English.

Exercise 2 — Say it like a traveler

Upgrade each one to smooth airport English (answers below):

1. “Where gate?” > Ask staff politely:
2. “My bag no here.” > At the lost-bag desk:
3. “Water, now.” > On the plane:

Exercise 3 — The full airport walk

Out loud, walk through the whole airport in English: the check-in desk (five sentences), security (copy the person ahead), the gate (ask for directions), a delay (two questions), the lost-bag desk (five words). Time yourself — under three minutes means you own it.

- Check in: I would like to check in for my flight.
- Gate: Could you tell me where gate twelve is.
- Delay: Is my flight on time.

Answer key

Ex 1: 1 check in • 2 boarding pass • 3 gate • 4 luggage • 5 delay

Ex 2: 1 “Could you tell me where gate twelve is?” 2 “My bag did not arrive. Could you help me find it?” 3 “Could I have some water, please?”