

Unit 2 At the Airport

Listening for information (1)

A. At the Information Desk



- You will hear a dialogue. Listen and try to understand it without looking at the words in your book.

Naomi: Excuse me. Where's the check-in desk for Eurasia Airlines?

Information clerk: That's in Terminal 2. This is Terminal 1.

N: Is there a shuttle bus between terminals?

Ic: Yes. There's one right in front here.

- Now you can look at the Key Words while the teacher explains them.

Key Words

check-in *place where you report your arrival at an airport, etc.*

terminal *big building where people wait to get onto planes, buses, etc.*

shuttle bus *bus used for transporting people back and forth between two points*

Grammar Spot

Contraction

Where's = (contraction of) **Where is**

That's = (contraction of) **That is**

There's = (contraction of) **There is**

Exercise 1

How many be verbs can you see in the text?

Grammar Reference

There are two main functions of the be verbs as main verbs.

1. **Existence** verbs (e.g. There **is** a book on the desk. We **are** in Japan.)

2. **Linking** verbs : to link the subject to a noun or an adjective.

(e.g. My name **is** Naomi. My name = Naomi. I **am** happy. I = happy.)

The existence be verb is related to **place**.

The linking be verb is related to **equation**. (A = B: A is B)

Exercise 2

Classify the following *be* verbs into two groups.

1. Where **is** the check-in desk...
2. That **is** in Terminal 2.
3. This **is** Terminal 1.
4. **Is** there a shuttle bus ... ?
5. There **is** one ...



More polite way of asking for information

Where is the washroom / restroom?

- Could you tell me where the washroom/ restroom is, please? (US)
- Could you tell me where the toilet is, please? (UK)

Conversation Tips

The expression 'Excuse me.' is used to get somebody's attention.

© **Role-playing**

Listening for information (2)

B. At the check-in desk



- You will hear a dialogue. Listen and try to understand it without looking at the words in your book.

Check-in clerk: Good morning.

Naomi: Good morning. Is this the check-in for the flight to London?

Cc: Yes, it is. May I have your ticket and your passport, please?

N: Certainly. Here is my passport. And here is my ticket.

Cc: Could you put your baggage on this scale, please?

N: Can I take this brief case as hand baggage?

Cc: Yes, that's all right. Where would you like to sit? Smoking or no smoking?

N: No smoking, please.

Cc: Would you like an aisle or a window seat?

N: I'd like an aisle seat, please.

Cc: OK. Here is your boarding card and this is your baggage label. Your gate number is 18.

N: Can I board the aircraft now?

Cc: Could you wait for the boarding announcement for your flight?

Announcement: "Eurasia Airlines flight 401 to London is now boarding. Would all passengers proceed to gate 18?"

Cc: Boarding now at Gate 18.

N: Thank you.

- Now you can look at the Key Words while the teacher explains them.

Key Words

baggage/ luggage suitcases, bags, etc.

scale machine for weighing things

aisle seat seat next to a long passage between rows of seats

board get on a plane, ship, train etc.

boarding card (UK) = **boarding pass** (US) an official card to show before you get onto a plane

proceed to move forward to

Using the language

◎ Polite request

(a) 'May I . . .?' is used to request permission in a polite way with "I" as the subject.

'May' here is another modal auxiliary, used to ask politely for permission to do something.
(E.g. May I borrow your pen? May we use your office for a few minutes?)

(b) 'Could you . . .?' is used for a polite request with "you" as the subject.

'Could' here is again another modal auxiliary.

Exercise 3

Ask and answer polite request.

Student: Make a polite request for the given situation.

Teacher: Give a typical response.

1. *You want to ask your teacher a question.*

S: *May I ask you a question?*

T: *Yes, certainly.*

2. *You and your teacher are sitting at the dinner table. You want the butter.*

S: *Could you pass me the butter, please?*

T: *Certainly. Here you are.*

3. *You are at your friend's apartment. You want to use the phone.*

4. *You are at a gas station. You want the attendant to check the oil.*

5. *You want to borrow your teacher's dictionary. (borrow=use something that belongs to someone else for a period of time)*

6. *You want a stranger in an airport to keep an eye on your luggage while you get a drink of water.*

◎ Asking if you can do things

'Can I . . .?' is used to ask if you can do things.

Exercise 4

1. *You want to know if you can take your briefcase on the plane.*

Can I take my briefcase on the plane?

2. *You want to know if you can pay by cheque.*

3. *You want to know if you can take your laptop on the plane.*

4. *You want to know if you can use your cellphone on the plane.*

© How to make a question (Part 2)

Forming questions is one of the most important skills in learning English. There are two types of questions Yes / No questions and WH questions.

(A) Is this the check-in for the flight to London?

Does this question ask for a Yes or No answer? Yes. This is a Yes/ No question.

● **Yes/ No questions with the verb to be**

You make a statement with the verb to be, and then you simply put the be verb in front.

Statement A

There is a shuttle bus between terminals. (→ Existence be)

Is there a shuttle bus between terminals?

Answer

(Positive) → Yes, there is.

(Negative) → No, there isn't.

Statement B

This is the check-in for the flight to London. (→ Linking be)

Is this the check-in for the flight to London?

Answer

(Positive) → Yes, it is.

(Negative) → No, it **isn't**.

Grammar Spot

'not' expresses a negative idea, and immediately follows be or an auxiliary verb.

isn't is a contraction of is not

wouldn't is a contraction of would not

● **WH questions with the verb to be**

First, put a question word in front, and then put the be verb, and finally the subject.

E.g. Where is the check-in desk for Eurasia Airlines?

Exercise 5

Fill each gap with one suitable be verb.

1. Where he?
2. there taxis in Disney World?
3. Where you?
4. Where the washroom?
5. Where I?
6. Who she?
7. Where the boarding gate?

◎ **Countable Nouns vs Uncountable Nouns**

In English, nouns can be divided into countable and uncountable nouns.

Most common nouns are countable and have both singular and plural forms; e.g. a bag – two bags.

Other common nouns are uncountable; e.g. furniture ~~furnitures~~ a-furniture

luggage/ baggage ~~luggages~~ a-luggage

Exercise 6

Fill each of the gaps with a suitable word or phrase.

1. Some newhave arrived.
 - a) furnitures
 - b) pieces of furnitures
 - c) pieces of furniture
2. These are mine.
 - a) two luggages
 - b) two bags
 - c) two baggages

Conversation Tips

English for Travel is used between people you meet for the first time. So, we should try to focus on the importance of politeness.

please thank you

Would you like more tea? Yes, **please**. No, **thank you**.

◎ **Role-playing**

Vocab Review

Match the words with the meanings.

travel agency

'd like

(UK) **return** (US: **round trip**)

cf. (UK) **single** (US: **one way**)

certainly

flight

yes, of course

going to a place but not coming back

going to a place and back again

would like (= a polite way to say 'want')

journey in a plane

shop where you buy travel tickets