

## 86 Air travel

### A Departures

This is the usual sequence of activities when you get to the airport.

First you go to the **check-in desk** where they weigh your **luggage**. Usually you are permitted 20 kilos, but if your bags weigh more, you may have to pay **excess baggage** (= you pay extra). The airline representative checks your ticket and gives you a **boarding card** for the plane with your seat number on it. Then you go through **passport control** where an official checks [NOT ~~controls~~] your passport, and into the **departure lounge**. Here, you can also buy things in the **duty-free**, e.g. perfume, alcohol and cigarettes. About half an hour or forty minutes before **take-off**, you are told to go to a gate number, e.g. gate 14, where you wait before you get on the plane. When you **board** (= get on) the plane, you find your seat. If you have **hand luggage**, you can put it under your seat or in the **overhead locker** above your seat.



The plane then **taxis** (= moves slowly) towards the **runway**, and when it has permission to **take off**, it accelerates along the runway and takes off.

*Note:* The verb to **taxi** is generally only used in this context.

### B The flight

You may want or need to understand certain announcements; these come from the **captain** (= the pilot) or from an **air steward** or **stewardess** / **cabin crew** / **flight attendants** (= people who look after the passengers):

Please **fasten your seat belt** and put your seat in the **upright position**.



We are now **cruising** (= flying comfortably) at an **altitude** (= height) of 10,000 metres.

May we **remind** passengers (= ask passengers to remember) that there is no smoking until you are inside the **terminal building** (= where passengers arrive and depart).

The **cabin crew** (= air stewards) are now coming round with **landing cards**. (These are cards you sometimes have to fill in when you enter certain countries.)

### C Arrival

When the plane **lands** (= arrives on the ground), you have to wait for it to stop / come to a halt. When the doors are open, you **get off** the plane and walk through the **terminal building** and go to the **baggage reclaim** where you collect your luggage. You then **pass through customs** (green = nothing to declare; red = goods to declare; blue = European Union citizens). If you are lucky, you can then get a bus, taxi or train to the centre of town without waiting too long. You can also **hire** a car (= **rent** a car) at most airports.

*Note:* In British English you normally **hire** something for a short period, e.g. hire a room for a party, and **rent** something for a long period, e.g. a flat; for a car, you can use both words.

## Exercises

**86.1** Complete the words or phrases below using words from the box.

off	control	free	card	baggage
in	lounge	luggage	reclaim	locker

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 boarding ..... | 6 duty .....      |
| 2 baggage .....  | 7 overhead .....  |
| 3 excess .....   | 8 take-.....      |
| 4 passport ..... | 9 departure ..... |
| 5 hand .....     | 10 check-.....    |

**86.2** What do you call:

- The place where you go when you arrive at the airport with your luggage?
- The card they give you with the seat number on it?
- The money you have to pay if your luggage is very heavy?
- The place where you sit and have a drink when you are waiting for your flight to be called?
- The bags you carry onto the plane with you?
- The place above your head where you can put your hand luggage?
- The part of the airport where the plane accelerates and takes off?
- The people who look after you on the plane?
- The part of the airport you walk through when you arrive or depart?
- The place where you collect your luggage after you land?

**86.3** Complete this part of a letter about an unpleasant flight.

Dear Tom

I've just arrived in Rome but I'm still recovering from a really terrible flight. We <sup>(1)</sup> two hours late because of bad weather, and then over the channel we hit more bad weather. The <sup>(2)</sup> announced that we had to <sup>(3)</sup> our seat belts, which was a bit worrying, and for half an hour we <sup>(4)</sup> through a terrible storm. It was still raining and very windy when we <sup>(5)</sup> in Rome and I was really glad to <sup>(6)</sup> the plane and get into the airport building.

Fortunately things have improved since then but I really hope the return <sup>(7)</sup> is a lot better.

**86.4** Think about the whole experience of flying (from check-in to the time you leave the airport at your destination) and answer these questions. If possible, discuss your answers with someone else.

- What is the most interesting part, and what is the most boring part?
- Where do you often have delays, and why?
- Is there any part that frightens or worries you?
- What do you usually do during most flights?
- Do you always eat the food they give you?
- Is there one thing which would improve flying and make the experience more interesting?



# 87 Hotels

## A Types of hotel

Hotels in Britain are graded with stars from one-star to five-star (five-star hotels are the best and most expensive). You can also stay in a **Bed & Breakfast (B&B)** (also called **Guest Houses**) where you pay for a bedroom, possibly an **ensuite** (= room with private bathroom) and breakfast.

## B Types of hotel accommodation

a single room: for one person with a single bed  
a double room: for two people with one large double bed  
a twin room: for two people with two single beds  
full board: includes breakfast, lunch and dinner  
half board: includes breakfast and dinner  
B & B: just the room and breakfast

## C A visit to a hotel

We stayed in the Carlton Hotel for three nights in July, but I **booked** (= reserved) our room three months **in advance** (= before; in other words, in April) because it was the middle of the tourist season. When we arrived we **checked in at reception**, then the **porter** carried our suitcases up to our room. I gave him a small **tip** (n, v) – about 50p, I think. The staff were very friendly – we had a very nice **chambermaid** (= the woman who cleans the room) – and the room was very comfortable. The only problem we had, in fact, was with the shower which didn't **work** (= function) very well. (You could also say 'There was something wrong with the shower'.)



## D Useful words and expressions

Could I **book** (= reserve) a room for next Thursday?  
Could I have an **early morning call** at 7 a.m. please? (= Could you wake me at 7 a.m.?)  
Could you **put it on my bill**, please? (= add the cost to the bill, e.g. for a drink you have in the hotel bar)  
Could I **pay my bill**, please? (= pay for everything)  
Could you **order** (= call) a taxi for me to go to the airport?  
Are you **fully booked** (= completely full) next week?  
Is breakfast/dinner **included**? (= Does the price include breakfast/dinner?)  
Where's the **lift**? (= the machine which takes you up or down a floor) [AmEng = elevator]  
Excuse me. **How do I get to the underground station from here?**

## Exercises

### 87.1 Put these sentences in a logical order.

- 1 I paid my bill.
- 2 I checked in at reception.
- 3 I left the hotel.
- 4 I went up to my room.
- 5 I spent the night in the hotel.
- 6 I had an early morning call at seven o'clock.
- 7 I booked a room at the hotel.
- 8 I went out for dinner in a local restaurant.
- 9 I arrived at the hotel.
- 10 I got up and had a shower.
- 11 I had breakfast.
- 12 I tipped the porter who carried my luggage upstairs.

### 87.2 What would you say in these situations?

- 1 You want to stay in a hotel for two nights next week with your husband/wife. You phone the hotel. What do you ask or say?  
.....
- 2 You are at the hotel reception and you are planning to leave in about 15 minutes. What could you ask the receptionist?  
.....
- 3 You want to wake up at 7 a.m. but you don't have an alarm clock. What do you ask at reception?  
.....
- 4 You have a drink in the hotel bar. The barman asks how you want to pay. What's your reply?  
.....
- 5 When you turn on the shower in your room, the water comes out very very slowly. What could you say at reception?  
.....
- 6 You want to go to the nearest bank but don't know where it is. What do you ask at reception?  
.....

### 87.3 You are staying in quite a good hotel (e.g. two-star or three-star) in your country. Would you expect to have the following?

- 1 a room without a private bathroom
- 2 a hairdryer in the bathroom
- 3 a colour television in the room
- 4 a telephone in the room
- 5 writing paper in the room
- 6 a machine for making tea and coffee in the room
- 7 an electric trouser press (= a machine which presses/irons your trousers for you) in the room
- 8 air conditioning in the room

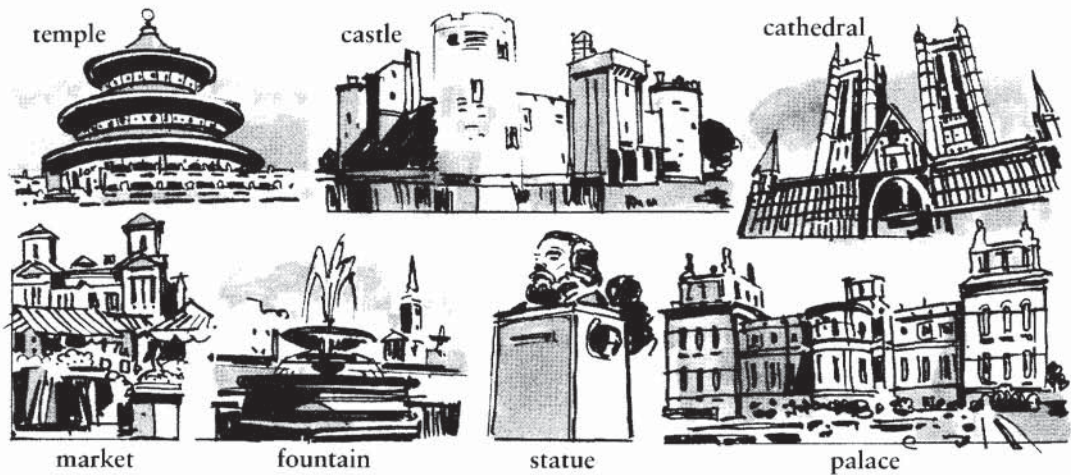
If possible, compare your answers with someone from a different country.



# 88 A sightseeing holiday

## A Sightseeing

You may do a bit of sightseeing on holiday, or you may do a lot of sightseeing, but you will probably go to a museum or art gallery, and see or visit some of these things:



Many people go on a sightseeing tour of a town (usually in a bus); they can also go on a tour of the castle / the cathedral / the art gallery, etc. When you are sightseeing, it helps to buy a guidebook (= a book of information for tourists) and a map of the town you are in.

## B Things that tourists often do on holiday

look round the shops / have a look round the shops  
 take photographs  
 spend a lot of / lots of money  
 buy souvenirs (= typical products from the country)  
 get lost (= lose their way)  
 go out most evenings (= go to different places for social reasons, e.g. restaurant or disco)  
 have a good/great time (= enjoy themselves)

## C Describing 'places'

The word **place** is very common and can describe a building, an area, a town, or country:  
 Bruges is a lovely **place** (= town) and we found a really nice **place** (= hotel) to stay.  
 The town is full of interesting **places** (= areas/buildings).

These words are often used when we describe places:

Venice is beautiful but it's always **packed** (= very crowded/full) with tourists in the summer.  
 New York is very **cosmopolitan**. (= full of people from different countries and cultures)  
 Vienna has lots of **historical monuments**. (= places, e.g. castles, built a long time ago)  
 Many beautiful cities have become very **touristy**. (= a negative word: 'too much tourism')  
 Sao Paulo is a really **lively** place (= full of life and activity) and the **night-life** is fantastic.

*Note:* If you want to ask if it is 'a good idea' to visit a place, you can use **worth + -ing**:

A: If I go to Scotland, is it **worth** spending a few days in Glasgow?

B: Yes definitely. And if you want to travel round a bit, it's **worth** renting a car.

## Exercises

- 88.1** Complete this postcard that John sent to his family while he was on holiday. You may need a word or phrase in each space.

Hi everyone, I've been in Paris for almost a week now and I'm having a <sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I spent the first few days <sup>(2)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ — The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and all the usual tourist attractions. Most places are absolutely <sup>(3)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ with tourists (it's the time of the year I suppose), so yesterday I decided to have <sup>(4)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ round the shops and I bought a few <sup>(5)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Today I've been to a couple of very interesting art <sup>(6)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I got <sup>(7)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on my way back to the hotel but it didn't matter because I discovered a really fascinating <sup>(8)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of little stalls selling just about everything from apples to antiques. I ate in the hotel the first night but usually I <sup>(9)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and have dinner in a restaurant — the food is fantastic. I'm afraid I've <sup>(10)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money, but it's a great place and I've <sup>(11)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lots of photographs so you'll be able to see for yourself when I get back home on the 24th. See you then, John

- 88.2** Which of these places do you usually visit or go to when you are on holiday?

museums   art galleries   churches/cathedrals   tourist shops   concerts  
discos / night clubs   castles/palaces/temples   the cinema   markets   restaurants  
bars   the theatre

- 88.3** Confirm the information in the questions without repeating the same words and phrases. Use words and phrases from the opposite page.

*Example:* A: You've got quite a few pictures, haven't you?

B: *Yes, we took lots of photos.*

- 1 A: Is it a nice city?  
B: Yes, it's a \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A: There's a big mix of people in New York, isn't there?  
B: Yes, it's very \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A: Was it very crowded?  
B: Yes, it was \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A: There's a lot to do in the evenings, isn't there?  
B: Yes, the \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A: Did you enjoy yourselves?  
B: Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_

- 88.4** Without using one town more than twice, name a town or city in your country which is:

lively	packed with tourists in the summer
cosmopolitan	famous for its historical monuments
very touristy	really worth visiting if you are interested in architecture
not worth visiting	



## 89 On the beach and in the country

### A Places to stay

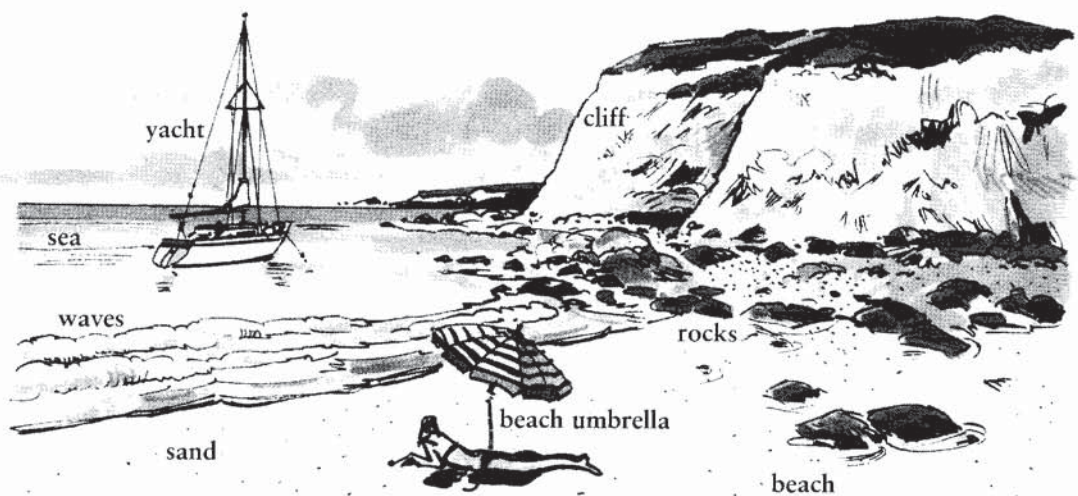
When people go on holiday they stay in various places (= a number of different places): some go to hotels; others rent an **apartment** (a 'holiday' flat) or **villa** (= a house by the sea or in the countryside; often in the Mediterranean / southern Europe); some prefer sleeping in a **tent** at a **campsite**.



### B At the beach

Many people spend their holiday in **seaside resorts** (= towns by the sea for tourists, e.g. Malaga, St. Tropez, Okinawa) where they can spend most of their time on the beach. Some people enjoy swimming, others love **sunbathing** (= **lying on the beach** in order to get a **suntan**). If you like sunbathing, you should use **suntan lotion** to help you get a **tan** and **protect your skin**. If you don't have any protection, you may get **sunburn**, which is painful and can be dangerous. And if you want total protection you should use **sunblock**, or sit under a **beach umbrella**.

Swimming can also be dangerous if there are **rocks** under the water or if the sea is **rough**, e.g. with big waves.



### C In the country

People who live in large towns often like to **get away** (= leave the place where they live) at weekends or in the summer, and enjoy the **peace and quiet** (= calm and tranquillity) of the country (also called the **countryside**). Some people just like to **put their feet up** (= relax and do nothing) and occasionally go for a **stroll** (= a slow casual walk); while others enjoy **hiking** (= long walks, often hill walking) across hills and valleys. And the countryside is a great place to have a **picnic** (= eating a prepared meal of cold food outside).

*Note:* Learners sometimes say 'I love to be in the nature'. This is usually a translation from their first language and it is not correct in English. The nearest we can say is probably 'I love being in the countryside'.

## Exercises

- 89.1** Write down at least five words beginning with 'sun'. You can check your answers on the opposite page and in the index.

sun..... sun..... sun.....  
sun..... sun.....

- 89.2** Match a word from the left with a word from the right to form eight words or phrases.

1 sandy	waves
2 suntan	bathe
3 beach	beach
4 rough	lotion
5 sun	sea
6 sea	cliff
7 big	side
8 steep	umbrella

Now write answers to these questions.

- Why do most people go to seaside resorts?
- Why do people sunbathe?
- Why do they use sunblock?
- Why do they use suntan lotion?
- How does it feel if you get sunburn?
- What sport requires big waves?
- Have you been in a boat when the sea was very rough? Were you seasick?

- 89.3** Complete this short text with a suitable word or phrase in each gap.

I live and work in Milan but I like to (1)..... at the weekend if possible. My parents have a small house in the (2)....., about 100 kilometres from Milan, and it's a great place to go if you want a bit of peace and (3)..... In the summer you can just (4)..... by the pool during the hottest part of the day, then in the evening go for a (5)..... through the village or over the fields. Sometimes we go out for the whole day and have a (6)..... somewhere, by the lake or next to one of the many vineyards.

- 89.4** Fill the gaps with a suitable word. (One word only for each gap.)

- Would you prefer a holiday in a seaside ..... or a holiday in the country?
- Would you prefer to stay in one place, or would you rather (= prefer to) go to ..... places?
- Would you prefer to spend your time ..... on a beach or would you rather go for long walks?
- Would you prefer to stay in a hotel or ..... an apartment?
- Would you prefer to eat in a restaurant or have a ..... in the open air?
- Would you prefer somewhere that was quite lively, or would you rather go to a place where there was peace and .....?

Look at the questions again. Which would you prefer? If possible, discuss your answers with someone else.