

Air Travel Vocabulary

From booking your ticket to boarding the plane

This reference guide contains essential vocabulary for booking a flight, checking in, going through security and customs, and understanding airline announcements.

1. Booking an Airline Ticket

Word / Phrase	Meaning
book a flight	buy or reserve a seat on a plane
departure	the time or place where a flight leaves
arrival	the time or place where a flight arrives
destination	the place you are travelling to
one-way ticket	a ticket for travelling in one direction
round-trip ticket	a ticket for going and returning
direct flight	a flight that does not require changing planes
connecting flight	a flight you take after changing planes
layover	a period of waiting between flights
fare	the price of a flight
economy class	the standard, usually least expensive, class
business class	a more expensive class with additional services
seat	a place where you sit on the plane
aisle seat	a seat next to the walkway
window seat	a seat next to the window
passport	an official document used for international travel
confirmation number	a number that identifies your booking

2. Checking In

Word / Phrase	Meaning
check in	register for your flight
check-in counter	the place at the airport where you check in
boarding pass	a document that allows you to board the plane
baggage / luggage	bags and suitcases you take when travelling
carry-on bag	a small bag you take onto the plane

Word / Phrase	Meaning
checked baggage	luggage stored in the aircraft's baggage area
baggage allowance	the amount of luggage included with your ticket
weigh	measure how heavy something is
overweight baggage	baggage heavier than the allowed limit
gate	the place where passengers board a plane

3. Airport Security

Word / Phrase	Meaning
security screening	the process of checking passengers and belongings
security checkpoint	the area where security checks passengers
security officer	a person who checks passengers and bags
metal detector	a machine that detects metal on your body
scanner	a machine used to check people or bags
tray	a container used for items during security screening
remove	take something off or out
liquids	drinks and other liquid substances
electronic devices	phones, laptops, tablets, etc.
security check	an examination for safety

4. Immigration and Customs

Word / Phrase	Meaning
immigration	the process of checking people entering a country
customs	the official process of checking goods brought into a country
border officer	an official who checks travellers entering a country
declare	officially tell an officer about something you are bringing in
purpose of your trip	the reason you are travelling
business trip	travel for work
tourism	travelling for pleasure
length of stay	how long you will remain in a country
return ticket	a ticket showing that you plan to return
declareable goods	items that must be reported to customs

5. Airline Announcements

Word / Phrase	Meaning
boarding	getting onto the plane
boarding gate	the gate where passengers enter the plane
final call	the last announcement asking passengers to board
delayed	happening later than planned
cancelled	no longer happening
on time	happening at the scheduled time
depart	leave
arrival	when a flight reaches its destination
gate change	when passengers must use a different gate
passenger	a person travelling on a plane
proceed to	go to a particular place
estimated	expected, but not certain

Useful Airport Expressions

Booking

I'd like to book a flight to Toronto.
What flights are available?
How much is a round-trip ticket?
Is there a direct flight?
What time does the flight depart?
I'd prefer a window seat.

Check-in

I'd like to check in for my flight.
I have one bag to check.
Is this bag allowed as a carry-on?
How much baggage can I take?
What gate do I need to go to?

Security

Do I need to remove my shoes?
Should I take my laptop out of my bag?
Where should I put my liquids?
Can I take this through security?

Immigration

I'm here for tourism.
I'm visiting family.
I'm here on business.
I'm staying for two weeks.
I'm staying at a hotel in Toronto.
Yes, I have a return ticket.

Customs

Do you have anything to declare?
No, I don't.
Yes, I have some food to declare.

At the gate

Has the flight been delayed?
What is the gate number?
When does boarding begin?

Common Airline Announcements

Announcement	Meaning
"Flight 205 to Toronto is now boarding."	Passengers should go to the gate and get ready to board.
"Please proceed to Gate 12."	Go to Gate 12.
"The flight has been delayed."	The flight will leave later than planned.
"There has been a gate change."	Check the new gate number.
"This is the final call for passengers."	Passengers should board immediately.