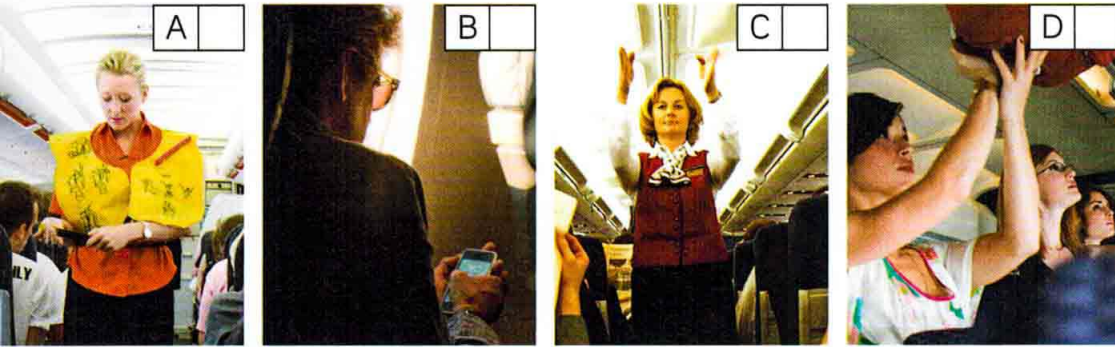


# 3A The truth about air travel

## 1 LISTENING & VOCABULARY air travel

- a 22)) Listen to some in-flight announcements and match them to pictures A–D. What information or instructions are the passengers being given?



- b Listen again. What word or phrase do the flight attendants use to mean...?

- 1 *small bags and cases*
- 2 *the cupboards above your seat*
- 3 *put on your seat belt*
- 4 *phones, tablets, etc.*
- 5 *the doors where you can get out of the plane quickly if there is a problem*
- 6 *the thing you have to put on if the plane is going to land on the sea*
- 7 *to blow air inside something*

- c ➤ p.154 Vocabulary Bank Air travel.

## Air Travel: the inside story

*Air Babylon* is a best-selling book, co-written by Imogen Edwards-Jones and anonymous airline staff whose identities must remain secret. It tells the 'inside story' about flying and answers all these questions and many more...

- Is it really worth listening to the safety demonstration telling you how to put your life jacket on?
- Why is there usually a big mirror when you are going through Customs?
- Why can you sometimes smell roast chicken in a plane when they are serving you fish?
- Why do airport staff get annoyed with some passengers who ask for a wheelchair?

## 2 READING

- a Read the back cover of a book about air travel. Can you guess the answers to any of the questions?

- b Now read the extract from *Air Babylon*. What are the answers to the questions, according to the text?

- c Now read the extract again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Underline the part of the text that gave you the answer.

- 1 Most airline passengers believe that the life jacket could save their life.
- 2 The passengers who inflated their life jackets too early didn't survive.
- 3 Customs officers can see through the mirror in Customs.
- 4 Passengers are often caught by customs officers because of their body language.
- 5 Small birds are more dangerous for planes than big birds.
- 6 Passengers get confused because what they can smell is not on the menu.
- 7 There aren't enough wheelchairs for all the people who need them.
- 8 One flight attendant sometimes makes sarcastic comments about passengers who don't really need a wheelchair.

- d Did you find any of the information surprising? Which? Do you believe it at all?



1 Most airline passengers think it is laughable  
that a small yellow life jacket with a whistle  
will make any difference if the plane crashes  
into the sea. However, in some cases, like when  
5 a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 landed  
in the Indian Ocean in 1996, it did. Despite  
instructions from the cabin crew not to pre-  
inflate their lifejackets inside the plane, several  
passengers did. They were unable to escape the  
10 rising water inside the plane. But others, who  
followed the pilot's instructions, survived. So  
it is probably a good idea to look up from your  
magazine when the flight attendant is giving the  
safety demonstration.

15 Customs officers are watching everywhere.  
They are watching you from the moment  
you walk off the plane, while you are standing  
in Baggage Reclaim waiting for your bag, and  
especially when you come out the other side of  
20 Customs, which is when people who are trying  
to smuggle something finally let their guard  
down and get caught. The large two-way mirror  
in Customs, (behind which customs officers sit  
and watch) is part of that process. As you walk  
25 past, it makes you look taller and thinner. So you  
feel good about yourself and you relax and smile.  
That's when a customs officer suddenly appears  
and asks you to open your case...

30 Birds are one of the major problems for any  
airport when planes are taking off and  
landing. Any large bird can easily cause an  
accident. It flies into the engine, totally destroying  
itself and the machinery. Smaller birds are less  
of a problem. In some cases they can do some  
35 damage, but usually they are just roasted. When  
this happens, there is often such a strong smell  
of roast bird that passengers on the plane think  
that chicken is being cooked, and they are often  
surprised when they're given a choice of fish or  
40 beef at dinner!

Wheelchairs are a big problem for airline  
staff. Not only is there always a shortage  
of them for the people who really need them,  
but worse still, some of the people who request  
45 them often don't need them at all. I've lost count  
of the number of times I have pushed someone  
through the airport, taken them through Customs  
and Passport Control, got a porter to pick up their  
luggage, and then seen the person jump up in  
50 Arrivals and move quickly towards their waiting  
relatives. One flight attendant I know gets so  
annoyed when this happens that as soon as the  
passenger gets out of the chair she shouts to  
the other passengers, 'Ladies and gentlemen!  
55 Another miracle, courtesy of the airline industry!  
After years in a wheelchair, he walks again!' The  
passenger is normally so embarrassed that he  
(and it's usually a 'he') disappears as quickly as  
he can.

From Air Babylon by Imogen Edwards-Jones

### 3 MINI GRAMMAR *so / such...that*

a Look at these two sentences from the *Air Babylon* extract.

The passenger is normally **so embarrassed that** he disappears as quickly as possible.

When this happens there is often **such a strong smell**, of roast bird **that** passengers on the plane think that chicken is being cooked.

We often use *so / such...that* to express a consequence.

- Use *so* + adjective  
*The flight was so bumpy (that) we all felt sick.*
- Use *so* + adverb  
*The taxi driver drove so quickly (that) we got to the airport on time.*
- Use *so much / so many* + noun  
*There was so much traffic that we nearly missed our flight.*
- Use *such a* + adjective + single countable noun  
*It was such a great hotel (that) we want to go back there next year.*
- Use *such* + adjective + uncountable noun  
*We had such terrible weather that we didn't really enjoy the holiday.*
- Use *such* + adjective + plural noun  
*They were such uncomfortable seats (that) I couldn't sleep at all.*

b Complete the sentences with *so, so much / many, such, or such a*.

- 1 The flight was \_\_\_\_\_ long that I got really bored.
- 2 I had \_\_\_\_\_ noisy child sitting beside me that I couldn't sleep at all.
- 3 My suitcase was \_\_\_\_\_ heavy that I had to pay excess baggage.
- 4 I slept \_\_\_\_\_ badly on the flight from New York that the jet lag was worse than usual.
- 5 We were served \_\_\_\_\_ terrible food that I couldn't eat a thing.
- 6 There were \_\_\_\_\_ people at check-in that we had to queue for ages.
- 7 We had \_\_\_\_\_ luggage that we had to get another trolley.
- 8 The people we met on holiday were \_\_\_\_\_ nice people that we kept in touch with them.

### 4 SPEAKING

In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- 1 How do you feel about flying?
- 2 How often do you fly? What for?
- 3 When was the last flight you took? Where did you fly to?
- 4 Have you ever...
  - been very delayed at an airport? How long for?
  - missed a flight? Why?
  - been stopped in Customs? Were you carrying anything that you shouldn't have?
  - had very bad turbulence on a flight? How did you feel? Was anyone on the flight injured?
  - flown long haul? Did you get jet lag?
  - flown or been upgraded to business class? What was it like?
  - been on a flight where there was an emergency? What happened?
  - sat next to a screaming baby on a flight (or a child that kept kicking your seat)? What did you do?

### 1 AT THE AIRPORT

a Match the words and definitions.

- |   |   |                    |    |                  |
|---|---|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | A | Airport terminal   | 6  | Departures board |
| 2 |   | Bag(gage) drop off | 7  | Gate             |
| 3 |   | Baggage reclaim    | 8  | Runway           |
| 4 |   | Check-in desk      | 9  | Security         |
| 5 |   | Customs            | 10 | VIP lounge       |

- A a building at an airport divided into **Arrivals** and **Departures** (**domestic** and **international flights**)
- B an electronic display showing **flight times** and if the flight is **on time**, **boarding**, **closed**, or **delayed**
- C where you give in any checked-in **luggage** (bags, cases, etc.) and are given a **boarding pass**
- D where you take your luggage to check it in if you already have your boarding pass
- E where they check that you are not trying to take prohibited items (e.g. **liquids** or **sharp objects**) onto the plane, by **scanning** your **hand luggage**, and making you walk through a metal detector
- F where passengers who are travelling **business** or **first class** can wait for their flight
- G where you show your boarding pass and ID and **board** your flight
- H where planes **take off** and **land**
- I where you **collect** your luggage on arrival, and there are usually **trolleys** for carrying heavy cases
- J where your luggage may be **checked** to see if you are bringing **illegal goods** into the country

b (23)) Listen and check.

### 2 ON BOARD

a Complete the text with the words in the list.

aisle /aɪl/ cabin crew /'kæbɪn kruː/ seat belts /'si:t belts/  
 connecting flight /kə'nektɪŋ flaɪt/ turbulence /'tɜːbjələns/  
 direct flights /dɪ'rekt flaɪts/ jet lag /'dʒet læg/  
 long-haul flights /lɒŋ haʊl flaɪts/

I often fly to Chile on business. I always choose an <sup>1</sup>aisle seat, so that I can get up and walk around more easily. Sometimes there is <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ when the plane flies over the Andes, which I don't enjoy, and the <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ tell the passengers to put their <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on. There aren't any <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to Chile from London, so I usually have to get a <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in Madrid. Whenever I take <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ I always suffer from <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ because of the time difference and I feel tired for several days.

b (24)) Listen and check.

### 3 TRAVEL, TRIP, OR JOURNEY?

a Complete the sentences with *travel* (verb or noun), *trip*, or *journey*.

- We're going on a five-day *trip* \_\_\_\_\_ to the mountains.
- A Did you have a good \_\_\_\_\_ here?  
B No, my flight was delayed for six hours.
- Do you have to \_\_\_\_\_ much in your job?
- Have a good \_\_\_\_\_. See you when you get back.

b (25)) Listen and check.

c What's the differences between the three words?

### 4 PHRASAL VERBS RELATED TO AIR TRAVEL

a Complete the sentences with a phrasal verb from the list in the past tense.

check in drop off fill in get off get on pick up  
take off

- My husband *dropped* \_\_\_\_\_ me *off* \_\_\_\_\_ at the airport two hours before the flight.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ online the day before I was going to fly.
- As soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ the plane I sat down in the first empty seat.
- The plane \_\_\_\_\_ late because of the bad weather.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ the immigration form for the US, which the cabin crew gave me shortly before landing.
- When I \_\_\_\_\_ the plane I felt exhausted after the long flight.
- When I \_\_\_\_\_ my luggage at baggage reclaim I bumped into an old friend who had been on the same flight.

b (26)) Listen and check.

◀ p.24