



English for Travel

PODCAST #S1E5 : Welcome to this new episode of “The Deep Dive” In today’s episode, Dan and Mary will talk about the vocabulary you might need when navigating airports and customs. We hope you enjoy it!

D: Hey, everyone. Welcome back for another deep dive. This time ... we're all about airports.

M: Airports. Yep.

D: We're gonna help you navigate those sometimes.

M: Yeah.

D: Stressful, sometimes crazy places.

M: Definitely.

D: Especially in English speaking countries.

M: Exactly.

D: If you're planning a trip soon. Or even if you're just curious about how to master that airport lingo

M: Right.

D: This one's for you.

M: Absolutely. I mean, airports, they can be a little intimidating. Right? Like, even if you're a seasoned traveler.

D: Oh, for sure.

M: Sometimes it's like sensory overload.

D: Totally.

M: So

D: Yeah.

M: Being able to communicate. Clearly, is like your superpower.

D: It is.

M: Makes everything so much smoother.

D: So picture this. You know, you're you're strolling through the airport

M: Okay.

D: Confidently.

M: Love it.

D: You know where you're going.

M: Yeah.

D: You're not fumbling for words when somebody asks you a question.

M: Exactly.

D: And you've got all the right phrases

M: Yes.

D: To just sail through, check-in, security customs

M: Smooth sailing.

D: The whole 9 yards.

M: Exactly.

D: We've got a fantastic resource for this today.

M: Awesome.

D: It's the English for travel guide.

M: Alright. Great.

D: But we're going deeper than that.

M: Love it.

D: We're also looking at some seasoned traveler blogs.

M: Oh, cool.

D: And even some airport staff forums.

M: Oh, wow. Insider tips.

D: Insider tips for sure.

M: Yeah.

D: So it's like a cheat sheet

M: I like it.

D: For airport success.

M: Airport hacks.

D: Airport hacks.

M: This is good.

D: Exactly.

M: So, we're gonna break down those must-know terms

D: Yeah.

M: All those essential phrases that you need. But we're also gonna dig into some of those, like, little known tips and tricks

D: Yes.

M: That can really make your life easier at the airport.

D: And save you a lot of stress.

M: Absolutely stress free travel. That's the goal.

D: Exactly. Okay.

M: Yeah.

D: So I wanna start with those basic words.

M: Okay.

D: You know, that we see everywhere in the airport.

M: Sure.

D: Like “*check-in*”, “*boarding pass*”. “*Gate*”, “*baggage claim*”.

M: Yeah. The classics.

D: You know?

M: Like...

D: The airport classic.

M: The bread and butter.

D: Exactly. But I've gotta admit...

M: Yeah.

D: I still sometimes get “*customs*” and “*immigration*” mixed up.

M: Oh, yeah. That's a common one.

D: Is it?

M: Yeah. A lot of people get those confused.

D: Okay. Good. I'm not alone then.

M: No. You're not alone at all.

D: Can you just clarify the difference for us?

M: Absolutely. So “*customs*” is all about the stuff that you're bringing into the country.

D: Okay.

M: Right? So think souvenirs. Electronics, anything that might be subject to, like, taxes or duties.

D: Okay.

M: “*Immigration*”, on the other hand, is all about you as a traveler.

D: Got it.

M: They're checking your passport, your visa

D: Right.

M: Making sure you're allowed to enter the country.

D: Okay.

M: So it's like, “*customs*” is for your stuff. “*Immigration*” is for you.

D: Okay. That makes it so much clearer.

M: Yeah. It's an easy way to remember it.

D: “*Customs*” is for my stuff. “*Immigration*” is for me.

M: Exactly.

D: I like it. Okay. So let's say I'm at check-in.

M: Alright.

D: And I wanna snag that coveted window seat.

M: Ah, yes. The window seat.

D: What's the magic phrase?

M: Okay. So the guide suggests keeping it simple.

D: Okay.

M: “*Can I have a window seat, please?*”

D: Okay.

M: Or “*can I have an aisle seat, please?*”

D: Right.

M: But, you know, you can be more specific if you want to.

D: Okay. How so?

M: Like, if you wanna be near the front of the plane, you can say, “*could I have a seat near the front?*”

D: Okay.

M: Or if you need a little extra leg room, you could ask, “*is there an exit row seat available?*”

D: Oh, that's a good one.

M: Yeah. It never hurts to ask.

D: For sure. Alright. So we've made it through check-in.

M: Okay. We're moving on.

D: Now we're at security.

M: Yes. Security.

D: Which can always be a little bit stressful.

M: Definitely can be.

D: What are some phrases that can help us breeze through?

M: Okay. Well, first off, be prepared to take your shoes and belt off. They usually ask you to do that, you can just ask, “*do I need to take off my shoes*”, or “*do I need to take off my belt*?”

D: Okay.

M: And about your laptop, “*can I keep my laptop in my bag*?”

D: Got it.

M: Just to be sure.

D: Okay.

M: And then, of course, liquids.

D: Yeah.

M: Always a tricky one.

D: Always.

M: Just have them ready. In a clear bag, And you can say it something like, “*I have some liquids in my carry on. Is that okay*?”

D: Perfect.

M: Just to be sure.

D: Okay. Speaking of being prepared

M: Yes.

D: Our guide really stresses

M: Yeah?

D: Having all your documents ready.

M: Oh, absolutely crucial.

D: It seems obvious. But I'm sure we've all had that moment

M: Oh, yeah.

D: Of panic like, where's my passport?

M: Oh, totally. I've been there.

D: Right.

M: Heart's skipping a beat.

D: Exactly.

M: But you know what? I saw this great tip on one of the traveler blogs.

D: Okay.

M: Take photos of all your important documents.

D: Oh, that's smart.

M: Like your passport, your visa, your itinerary

D: Yeah.

M: And keep them on your phone

D: Good idea.

M: Just in case you misplace the originals.

D: Yeah. That's a lifesaver.

M: Absolutely a lifesaver.

D: Okay. So let's move beyond the basics here.

M: Alright. Let's get into it.

D: What about those unexpected airport hiccups?

M: Oh, yeah. The curveballs?

D: Yeah. Like, my flight gets delayed.

M: The worst.

D: What are my options?

M: Okay. First things first. Don't panic.

D: Okay. Good advice.

M: Check the airline app or the airport monitors for updated information.

D: Okay.

M: Then politely approach the gate agent.

D: Yeah.

M: And you can say, "*my flight is delayed. Can you tell me more about what's happening?*"

D: Okay.

M: And remember, patience is key in these situations. Good advice. Airlines are doing their best.

D: They are. Okay. What about another dreaded scenario?

M: Okay.

D: Lost luggage.

M: Oh, no. The nightmare.

D: Right. What do I do?

M: Okay. So first, head straight to the baggage claim area

D: Alright.

M: And find your airline's baggage service counter.

D: Okay.

M: Have your baggage claim tag handy. And explain the situation calmly.

D: Okay.

M: You can say something like, “*my luggage didn't arrive. Can you help me locate it?*”

D: Okay.

M: And most airlines are really helpful in these situations.

D: That's good to know. Okay. So we've covered

M: Yeah.

D: Essential vocabulary. Phrases

M: Ok.

D: Even some tips for dealing with the unexpected.

M: Exactly.

D: But now I wanna talk airport hacks.

M: Oh, yes. Let's get into those time saving secrets.

D: Yes. What are your favorites?

M: Okay. Well, first off, check-in online. That's a must.

D: Big time saver.

M: Huge time saver. It can save you so much time at the airport.

D: Yeah.

M: But here's a pro tip.

D: Okay.

M: Download your mobile boarding pass to your phone's wallet.

D: Oh, that's a good one.

M: No more scrambling for printed papers.

D: I love that.

M: Right.

D: Okay. Any tips for navigating security like a pro?

M: Okay. So this one might sound silly.

D: Okay.

M: But choose the shortest security line

D: Okay.

M: Even if it means walking a little farther.

D: Okay.

M: It often moves faster.

D: That's true.

M: And then wear shoes that are easy to slip on and off.

D: Good point.

M: And pack your liquids in a clear quart-sized bag.

D: Right.

M: Being organized is key.

D: It makes all the difference.

M: Absolutely.

D: Alright. So we've talked about the words, the the phrases, the hacks. But let's not forget.

M: Yes.

D: About the human element.

M: Oh, that's so important.

D: It is.

M: You know, a smile and a polite “*please*” and “*thank you*” can go a long way.

D: Absolutely.

M: Airport staff are there to help you.

D: They are.

M: So be kind to them. And, you know, don't underestimate the power of non-verbal communication either.

D: Like what?

M: Like a friendly nod or a gesture of understanding. Those can often bridge language barriers.

D: That's true.

D: So it's not just about the words.

M: It's not just about the words.

D: It's about the attitude.

M: Exactly. It's about approaching the whole airport experience. With a positive and respectful attitude

D: Yeah.

M: That's gonna make your journey so much smoother.

D: I love that.

M: Yeah.

D: Well, I feel like we've really covered a lot of ground here.

M: We have.

D: From the essential phrases to the insider tips. You are now armed and ready

M: Yes.

D: To navigate any English speaking airport

M: You got this.

D: With confidence

M: Absolutely.

D: So as you prepare for your next adventure

M: Yeah.

D: Remember the airport is just the beginning.

M: It is just the beginning.

D: Enjoy the journey.

M: Safe travels, everyone.