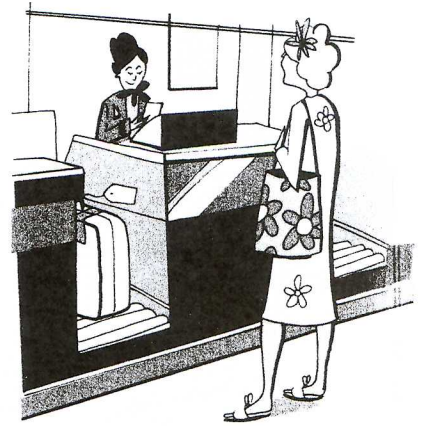


# Air travel

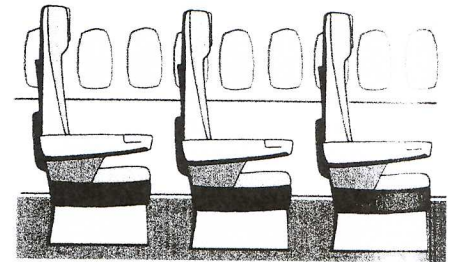
When you arrive at the airport, you can look at the **departures board** which shows the **flight numbers** (e.g. BA735), **departure times** (e.g. 0840) and **destinations** (e.g. Venice). At the **check-in desk** they **weigh your luggage**. Usually you can take about 20 kilos. If it is more, you may have to **pay excess baggage** (= you pay extra). They also check your ticket and give you a **boarding card** for the plane with your seat number on it. Then you go through **passport control** where an official **checks your passport**, and into the **departure lounge**. Here, you can also buy things in the **duty free**, e.g. perfume or alcohol. About half an hour before **take-off**, you 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. If there are no **delays** (= when you have to wait until a later time for some reason), the plane moves towards the **runway**. (= the area where planes take off and land)



**Delay** can be used as a noun and verb. It is a common word at airports.  
There's a two-hour **delay** on our flight.      Why is the flight **delayed**?  
What's the reason for the **delay**?      We were **delayed** at Athens airport.

The **captain** (= the pilot) or **cabin crew** (= people who look after passengers) may say these things:

- Please **fasten your seat belt** and put your seat in the **upright position**.
- **May we remind passengers** (= to passengers: please remember) that there is no smoking now until you are inside the **terminal building**. (= the part of the airport where passengers arrive and depart)
- The **cabin crew** are now coming round with **landing cards**. (= cards you have to fill in when you enter certain countries)



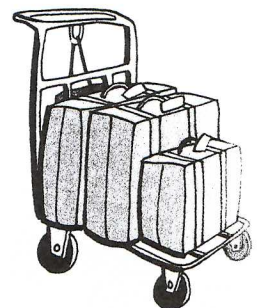
## NOTE

The cabin crew are both men (**stewards**) and women (**stewardesses**). They are also called **flight attendants**.

## NOTE

You **hire** something for a short period, and **rent** something for a long period, e.g. a flat. For a car you can use both.

When the plane **lands** (= arrives on the ground), you have to wait for it to stop. When the doors are open, you **get off** the plane and walk through the **terminal building** and go to the **baggage reclaim** (= place where you collect your luggage). You **go through customs** (GREEN = nothing to declare; RED = goods to declare). At most airports, you can **hire** a car. (= **rent** a car)



luggage trolley

## Exercises

89.1 Complete the words or phrases below using words from the box.

control	number	desk	card	baggage
lounge	luggage	reclaim	locker	

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

89.2 What do you call these?

- 1 The place where you go when you arrive at the airport with your luggage.
- 2 The card they give you with the seat number on it.
- 3 What you have to pay if your luggage is very heavy.
- 4 The bags you carry onto the plane with you.
- 5 The place above your head where you can put these bags.
- 6 The part of the airport where the plane accelerates and takes off.
- 7 The people who look after you on the plane.
- 8 Another verb used to say 'rent' a car.

89.3 Complete these sentences with a suitable word.

- 1 There was a mechanical problem, and we ended up with a two-hour .....
- 2 Several passengers had to fill in landing .....
- 3 I went through passport control and sat in the departure .....
- 4 If you have nothing to declare, you follow the green sign when you go through .....
- 5 A woman at the check-in desk weighed my .....
- 6 I looked for our flight number on the departures .....

89.4 Fill the gaps in this letter.

Dear Tom,

I've just arrived in Rome but I'm still recovering from a really terrible flight. We (1) ..... two hours late because of bad weather, and then over the channel we had more bad weather. The (2) ..... told us to (3) ..... our seat belts, which worried me a bit, and for half an hour we (4) ..... through a terrible storm. I was almost sick, but the cabin (5) ..... were really nice. It was still raining and very windy when we (6) ..... in Rome and I was really glad to (7) ..... the plane and get into the airport building. I really hope the return (8) ..... is a lot better ...

89.5 Answer these questions. If you don't fly very much, try to ask someone who does.

- 1 What is the most interesting part of the flight, and what is the most boring part?
- 2 Where do you often have delays, and why?
- 3 What do you usually do during the flight?
- 4 Do you always eat the food they give you? Do you ever drink alcohol on the flight?