

English for Studying Abroad

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Lesson 1: Arriving at the airport

Introduction:

1. Have you ever been to an airport?
2. Have you flown on an airplane?
3. If yes, what happens after you get off the plane?

Vocabulary:

check-in counter	baggage counter	carry-on baggage	fragile luggage
security check	immigration*	travel documents	(dis)embarkation
baggage claim	duty free	customs	to declare

* Also called "passport control" or "border control"

Conversation:

- Immigration Officer: Good morning. May I see your passport please?
Maki: Yes, here you are. And here's my visa.
Immigration Officer: Thank you. Please state your full name, age, and nationality.
Maki: My name is Makiko Watanabe. I'm 18 years old, and I'm Japanese.
Immigration Officer: And what is the nature of your visit?
Maki: I'm a student. I'm going to study at Trinity Language Academy in Brighton.
Immigration Officer: Your papers are in order. You have a student visa for one year.
Maki: Yes, that's right.
Immigration Officer: And where will you be staying?
Maki: I'm staying with a homestay family in Brighton. This is their address.
Immigration Officer: Very well. Do you have anything to declare?
Maki: I'm sorry. I don't understand.
Immigration Officer: Do you have any valuables or alcohol to declare?
Maki: No, but I have these snacks from Japan.
Immigration Officer: Those are fine. Anything else?
Maki: No, that's all.
Immigration Officer: OK. You can go ahead. Enjoy your stay.
Maki: Thank you.

What to expect:

At immigration, you can expect long lines, and you may need to fill out a form while waiting so have a pen with you. The Immigration officer may also ask other questions such as, "How much money do you have for your trip?", "Have you been to (country) before? How long did you stay?", and "Who will you be visiting?". Try role-playing a conversation between you and an immigration officer.

When you've gone through immigration, you'll need to get your luggage from the baggage claim area, and then go through customs where they may search your bags. After that, you'll need to find your way out of the airport and into the city!

Extra:

YouTube video: "*At the airport_At immigration*" by Elena Adamova

Lesson 2: Getting to the city

Introduction:

1. What are some ways of getting from an airport to a city?
2. Have you ever been on a shuttle bus?
3. If yes, where did the shuttle bus take you?

Vocabulary:

shuttle	fare	one-way / single	round-trip / return
luggage rack	destination	curb	reservation
exact change	timetable	trolley	bus stand

Conversation:

Maki: Excuse me. Does this bus go to London Bridge?
 Bus Driver 1: No. You'll need the number 21 from stand 18A.
 Maki: Excuse me. Could you tell me where bus stand 18A is?
 Airport Staff: Certainly. It's at Terminal 2, across from the taxi rank.
 Maki: Oh, okay. Thank you. How do I get there?
 Airport Staff: Just follow those signs for Terminal 2.
 Maki: I see. Thank you.
 ...
 Maki: Excuse me. Does this bus go to London Bridge?
 Bus Driver 2: No, this is the 21A. Wait for the 21B. It'll be here soon.
 Maki: Okay, thank you. How often does it run?
 Bus Driver 2: Every 20 minutes.
 ...
 Maki: Excuse me. Is this the 21B for London Bridge?
 Bus Driver 3: Yes, it is.
 Maki: Great! I'd like a single ticket to London Bridge, then.
 Bus Driver 3: That'll be £7.50, please.
 Maki: Okay, here's £10.
 Bus Driver 3: Take your change from there, and put your suitcase on the luggage rack.
 Maki: Thank you. Oh, could you tell me when to get off?
 Bus Driver 3: Don't worry, you'll hear an announcement.
 Maki: Thank you!

What to expect:

Airports are huge, busy places, with a lot of taxis and buses. It can be difficult to find the bus you need so be prepared to get lost! Don't be afraid to ask for help, even from other travellers.

These days, it might not be possible to buy a ticket on a bus. Instead, you'll probably need to buy a ticket from a booking office within the airport's bus station. Try to role play a situation where you're looking for the place to buy a ticket.

You might be able to take a taxi or a train from the airport. Try to role play a situation where you need to get a taxi or find the right train. What problems might you encounter?

Lesson 3: Meeting your homestay family

Introduction:

1. What do you imagine when you hear the word, "homestay"?
2. Will you take a gift for your homestay family? If so, what?
3. What kind of things will you talk about with your homestay family?

Vocabulary / Phrases:

souvenir	do my laundry	jet lag	take a nap
take a shower	allergic to	wash up	housework

No, thanks. I'm full.	That's enough, thanks.	A little more, please.
I'm sorry, I didn't know.	Sorry, could you say that again?	Can I help you?

Conversation:

Helen: Welcome Maki, you made it! How was your flight?
Maki: Hello. Nice to meet you! It was fine, thank you.
Helen: You must be tired, please come in.
Maki: Thanks. Oh, I have these souvenirs for you.
Helen: Why thank you! They look wonderful!
Maki: It's my pleasure.
...
Helen: Let me show you around the house. This is the kitchen.
Maki: Oh, it's so big!
Helen: Feel free to help yourself to the fridge. And here's the washing machine.
Maki: Okay, when should I do my laundry?
Helen: Oh, just put your things in the basket there and I'll do it.
Maki: Really? Are you sure?
Helen: Yes, it's no problem.
...
Maki: Where can I put my suitcase?
Helen: Bring it to your room. Follow me upstairs... Here, this is your room.
Maki: Wow, it's really nice! Are there any rules I should know about?
Helen: Well, we tend to go to bed before 11, so keep the music down if you stay up later. And the bathroom is yours between 8:00 and 8:30 in the morning.
Maki: Okay, got it. This is really nice. Thank you so much.
Helen: Oh, you're very welcome. We hope you enjoy your stay. Dinner will be ready at 7, so why don't you get unpacked and join us later?
Maki: Thanks, I'll do that.

What to expect:

It's important to make a good first impression, so be sure to smile and speak up. Be polite, so use "please" and "thank you" often. Phrases such as "Where should I...?", "What should I...?" and "Do you mind if I...?" will be useful. Also, "Could you tell me how to...?" is another good one.

Try role-playing dinner conversations, talking about your own family, town, etc. And also, asking your homestay family about how to do things, e.g. use the microwave, get to your school, etc.

Lesson 4: First day

Introduction:

1. What do you think you will do on the first day of your homestay?
2. What information might you need to know?
3. What could go wrong?

Vocabulary / Phrases:

cereal / corn flakes
an adaptor

to register
to figure out

currency
emergency

to charge a battery
paperwork

I was wondering....

Can I ask if/whether?

Do you know where/when/how...?

Conversation:

Helen: Morning Maki! How did you sleep?
Maki: Good morning. I slept well, thanks.
Helen: What would you like for breakfast? Cereal or toast?
Maki: I'll have cereal, please. Thank you.
Helen: No problem. Oh, you must tell me if there's anything you're allergic to.
Maki: I'm not allergic to anything, but I don't like things that are too sweet.
Helen: Okay, I'll keep that in mind. Here's your cereal.
...
Helen: So you have a busy day today. First, I'll take you to the Language Academy so you can register for your classes.
Maki: Okay, can you tell me what I need to take?
Helen: If I were you, I would take my passport and any documents you have from the school. And you'll need some money, too. Do you have any English money?
Maki: A little, but I think I need to go to a currency exchange shop.
Helen: Okay, I know a place we can go to.
Maki: That'll be great, thanks. And I was wondering if I can get a phone?
Helen: Yes, we'll go into town for lunch and get you what you need.
...
Maki: Sorry, can I ask if you have WiFi? I brought my tablet with me and was wondering if I can connect to the internet.
Helen: Yes, hang on, I'll get the password for you.
Maki: Thanks. Actually, I think I need to charge the battery first. Oh no, my power cord from Japan won't work here. Do you know where I can get an adaptor?
Helen: Okay, we'll figure something out. Before I forget, here's a list of emergency contact numbers for you.
Maki: Ah, thank you. That's really helpful.

What to expect:

Some homestay families will have everything planned for you. Other families might not have prepared anything! Be ready to ask for help and advice whenever you need it.

Try role-playing a conversation at a currency exchange shop, a mobile phone shop, or asking for an adaptor at an electronics shop.

Lesson 5: At school

Introduction:

1. What do you remember about your first day at school / your club activity, etc.. ?
2. What do you think you will do on your first day at school overseas?
3. What are you most worried about? What are you most looking forward to?

Vocabulary / Phrases:

recess	to fill out a form	assessment	facilities
school supplies	to introduce	deadline	requirements
orientation	counselor	attendance	to spell

Sorry, I didn't catch that.

Could you say that again?

What does (that) mean?

Conversation:

Staff 1: Hello there, can I help you?
 Maki: Hello. Yes. It's my first day. Can you tell me where I should go?
 Staff 1: Certainly. Do you know your student ID number?
 Maki: Yes, I have the information here.
 Staff 1: Let me see... (*checks computer*) .. ah yes, it's Maki Watanabe, yes?
 Your orientation starts at 9:30 in Room 2A. That's up the stairs and on the left.
 Maki: Thank you. Sorry, is there a toilet here?
 Staff 1: Right behind you!
 ...
 Staff 2: Good morning everybody. Welcome to Trinity Brighton. I'm Louise Burton, and I'm the Student Counselor. If you need any help during your stay here, please come and see me. Today is your orientation, so we'll go through everything you need to know about the school and your classes. First, though, I'd like to check the attendance.
 ...
 Maki: Hi, I'm Maki, nice to meet you.
 Amelia: Sorry, did you say Mickey?
 Maki: No, it's Maki, that's M-A-K-I.
 Amelia: Ah, okay! Nice to meet you, Maki, I'm Amelia. I'm from Singapore. And you?
 Maki: I'm from Japan. Do you mind if I sit with you?
 Amelia: No, not at all.

What to expect:

It's quite likely that you'll have to make a short self-introduction in front of your classmates. Keep it short and easy to understand. Maybe your classmates can't speak English so well. For example,

"My name is Maki. I'm 18 years old and I come from Japan. I like drawing pictures and my favorite food is ice-cream. Nice to meet you all."

Sometimes, you'll miss key information and need to ask a classmate for it. For example:

"Could you tell me what page the homework is? I didn't hear it." - *indirect question*
 "Sorry, did she say lunchtime finished at 1:15 or 1:50?" - *reported speech*

Lesson 6: Hanging out with friends

Introduction:

1. What do you talk about with your friends?
2. Have you ever had friends from a different country?
3. What things would you like to do during your homestay?

Starbucks English:

whip cream	tall, grande, venti	double, triple	latte, cappuccino
frappuccino	espresso	hot, iced	with room for milk
soy milk	decaf	no foam	extra hot, extra foam

Order: size – temperature* – foam* – milk* – decaf* – number of shots* – drink type

**optional*

Conversation:

Maki: Erm...Mi Sun, what are you doing after class?
 Mi Sun: Well, I was going to go to the library.
 Maki: Oh, well, do you mind if I join you?
 Mi Sun: Hmm... well, in that case, why don't we go and get a coffee instead?
 Maki: Okay, that sounds good. Let's meet outside the school then.

... later at Starbucks...

Barista: Hi! What can I get you?
 Maki: I'll have a tall cafe mocha with whip please.
 Barista: Okay, what's your name?
 Maki: It's (Maki).
 Barista: That'll be £3.79.
 ...
 Maki: How's your homestay family?
 Mi Sun: They're really nice, and yours?
 Maki: Same here. Hey, have you been to the Pier yet?
 Mi Sun: No, but I really want to go!
 Maki: How about we meet at the school on Saturday morning, and go there together?
 Mi Sun: I'd love that! But let me check with my homestay mum first.

What to expect:

Don't be shy about speaking to the other students in your class. Without friends, you may feel homesick. Invite them out, collect their contact information, and you may have friends for life! Plus, it's more fun to study with friends.

People from different countries have different English accents, but trust me, you will get used to them quite quickly. And remember, the more you speak, the better and more confident you'll get!

Role play ordering a coffee at Starbucks. It's not so hard. Check out this video:

Youtube: "Ordering Coffee at Starbucks | English Class" by Eat Sleep Dream English (5:53 ~ 6:30)

Lesson 7: Getting around town

Introduction:

1. How do you get around your hometown?
2. What do you know about traffic laws in other countries?
3. Have you ever gotten lost? If so, what did you do?

Prepositions of place and direction:

at	on	in	under	in front of
behind	next to	above	below	opposite
across from	through	inside	outside	over
onto	around	along	on the corner of	by
at the end of	close to / near	between ___ and ___		

Conversation:

Maki: Helen, what's the best way to get to Brighton Pier?
 Helen: Hmm..., well, you'll want to get the bus to Churchill Square. I think they run every half hour from here. Then walk down West Street to the beach and you'll see the Pier. It's not far.

Maki: Okay, great! Thanks a lot.
 ...

Mi Sun: This must be Churchill Square, Maki. Now what?
 Maki: We need to find West Street. Hmm... I have no idea. Let's ask someone.
 Mi Sun: Excuse me! Do you know how to get to West Street?
 Pedestrian: Hmm, I don't know. Where are you going?
 Mi Sun: We're looking for Brighton Pier.
 Pedestrian: Ha! Well, that's easy. Just walk that way. Keep going and you'll get to the seafront.

Mi Sun: Great! Thanks for your help!
 ...

Maki: Ah! There it is! Wow! Wait, wait. Let's get a picture!
 Mi Sun: Excuse me, could you take a photo of us?
 Pedestrian: Sure. Ready? Say "cheese"!
 Mi Sun: Thank you. By the way, do you know where there's a fish and chip shop?
 Pedestrian: Yep, there's one on the Pier, next to the entrance. Have fun!

What to expect:

When you go to a new place, whether it's a city or Disneyland, it's a good idea to choose a **landmark**:

Landmark (noun): *an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially one that enables someone to establish their location.*

If you get lost, you can always find your way back to that landmark. Look at a map of Brighton. Choose a landmark and role play asking for directions to get to it.

Take care crossing the street! Traffic in different countries might not behave like it does in Japan. Also, be careful who you give your camera to. If it's expensive you might not get it back! Most importantly, stay with your friends or homestay family. It can be dangerous to go into a big city alone.

Lesson 9: Sightseeing

Introduction:

1. What are some tourist attractions in your own city / region / country?
2. What would you like to see while on a homestay?
3. What rules are common at popular sightseeing spots?

Vocabulary / Phrases:

tourist information	overrated	underrated	lively, bustling
scenic	secluded	unspoiled	touristy
polluted	overdeveloped	crowded	hectic
souvenir shops	amusement arcades	promenade	entertainment venues

It's included in the price of admission.

What's that (building) called?

Conversation:

- Amelia: Have you been to the Royal Pavilion yet, Maki?
- Maki: Yes, I have! It's really beautiful. I totally recommend it. There's a museum there, as well.
- Amelia: Interesting. I heard it was overrated, but perhaps I should check it out.
- Maki: Yeah, you've got to go. It was the summer home of King George IV.
- ...
- Amelia: Excuse me, Ms. Burton. Maki and I want to go sightseeing this weekend. Can you recommend somewhere?
- Ms. Burton: Well, there's the Palace Pier. It's a bit touristy, but there are a lot of souvenir shops.
- Amelia: Yes, we've already been there. It was great, but a bit crowded.
- Ms. Burton: Well, then. If you want to get away from the city and find somewhere more secluded, I suggest you go on the Bluebell Railway.
- Amelia: Oh, that sounds interesting!
- Maki: Oh yeah! It's here in the brochure. Let's do that!
- Amelia: Sounds good! Erm.. Ms. Burton, could you tell us about the Brighton Festival? I heard it starts next week, but... erm... what is it exactly?
- Ms. Burton: Ah, yes! Well, it runs for three weeks. Artists and musicians, from all over the world, come here to perform. Here, let me show you the website so you can see what's on and how to get tickets.
- Amelia: Wow, that sounds amazing!

What to expect:

Besides the popular tourist attractions, be sure to ask local people to recommend sightseeing spots that are "off the beaten path". You could discover some amazing places that most tourists never see.

Keep your eyes peeled for tourist signs. Here are some examples from the UK:

https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=File:TSRGD_Section_of_Tourist_Symbols_II.png

Here are the most popular tourist attractions in Brighton:

<https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/brighton-eng-es-brighton.htm>

Lesson 10: Saying goodbye

Introduction:

1. Have you had friends who moved away? Do you still keep in touch?
2. What information might you exchange with your homestay family when you leave?
3. Security is very strict at airports. Why do you think this is?

Vocabulary:

departures, arrivals	boarding pass	prohibited, not permitted	restrictions
aerosols	gels	flammable liquids, gasses	weapons
connecting flight, via	aisle seat	empty your pockets, bags	remove

Conversation:

Helen: It's been lovely having you here, Maki. You're always welcome to visit us again. Do send me a message when you get home so I know you've arrived safely.

Maki: I will. Thank you for everything. You've been so kind. Come and visit me in Japan! Here's my address and phone number.

...

Announcement: Flight 482 is now boarding.

Check-in Staff: Hello! Where are you going today?

Maki: I'm heading to Nagoya, Japan, via Helsinki.

Check-in Staff: Okay, may I see your ticket and passport please?

Maki: Yes, here you are.

Check-in Staff: Thank you. Are you traveling alone?

Maki: Yes, I am.

Check-in Staff: And how many bags do you have with you?

Maki: Just one suitcase, and this carry-on bag.

Check-in Staff: Please put it on the scale. Would you like a window or an aisle seat?

Maki: I'd like a window seat, please.

Check-in Staff: Okay madam, here's your ticket and your passport. You'll be departing from gate 32A. Please arrive at your gate at least 30 minutes before your departure time.

What to expect:

Be sure to swap addresses, phone numbers and social networking info with your homestay family and friends.

If you're bringing back a lot of things, consider sending some by post instead of carrying it back by hand. You'll probably want to buy *more* things at the airport duty-free shops and won't have space to carry everything! For souvenirs from the UK, websites like *lambertsouvenirs.com* ship overseas.

Narita Airport's prohibited items: <https://www.narita-airport.jp/en/airportguide/security/master-sheet/>

Role play situations where things don't go so well. For example, you miss a connecting flight, your bag sets off the alarm when going through the scanner, or you've lost your ticket or passport.

Finally, be sure to keep all your flight information safe, with backup copies in every bag!