

Vocabulaire Walk & Talk

Situations pratiques
Dialogues-clés
Expressions utiles

Coffret audio (CD + Livret)

L'anglais en voyage

Part 3. Taking the plane



Inquiring about flights

American Jack Finch is at a travel agency in London asking about flights back to Chicago. Listen to the following conversation.

Jenny Peters: Good morning, sir. How can I help you?

Jack Finch: I'd like to book a one-way flight to Chicago, please.

Jenny Peters: Which airport do you want to fly from?

Jack Finch: From Heathrow Airport.

Jenny Peters: When would you like to travel?

Jack Finch: On Sunday June 26th, if possible.

Jenny Peters: Lots of airlines have flights to Chicago from Heathrow. Do you have any preference?

Jack Finch: Which is the cheapest?

Jenny Peters: Let me just look for you, sir, and I'll let you know times and the price...

➔ Now practise it!

Listen to the conversation again. This time fill in Jack Finch's responses yourself. Remember that Jack needs to book a one-way flight to Chicago. He wants to fly from Heathrow Airport. He would like to travel on Sunday June 26th, and he wants to know which is the cheapest airline. You will hear what he said again after a pause, so that you can check your answers.

Making a booking

Jack Finch now has all the information he needs, so he asks Jenny Peters to book the flight for him.



- Jack Finch:** That looks fine. Could you please book the flight for me?
Jenny Peters: Certainly. So you would like the Ocean Airways flight to Chicago on the morning of Sunday June 26th. The flight leaves at 11am.
Jack Finch: What time will that arrive?
Jenny Peters: At 13.55 local time.
Jack Finch: And how long is the flight?
Jenny Peters: It's a direct flight and it takes eight hours and 55 minutes.
Jack Finch: Okay, that's fine. Thank you.
Jenny Peters: Business or economy class?
Jack Finch: Economy class, please. Here's my credit card.

➔ Now practise it!

Jack Finch said:

- I'd like to book a one-way flight to Chicago, please.

He could also have said:

- I'd like to book a return flight, please.
- I'll be traveling on the 1st of May.
- I would like to fly from Heathrow Airport.
- What time does the flight leave?
- What time does it arrive?
- I'd like to fly economy class.



Checking in

Jack Finch has arrived at the airport and needs to check in.



Jack Finch: Excuse me, is this the check-in desk for the 11am flight to Chicago?

Anna Jones: Yes, sir. Could I please see your ticket and your passport?

Jack Finch: Here you go.

Anna Jones: Thank you... That all seems to be in order. Did you want a window or an aisle seat?

Jack Finch: I prefer an aisle seat.

Anna Jones: Okay. Do you have any luggage with you?

Jack Finch: Just one bag.

Anna Jones: Did you pack the case yourself, sir?

Jack Finch: Yes, I did.

Anna Jones: Please could you put it on here and I'll weigh it... Right, your case is checked in and you now have to go through customs and into the departure lounge.

Jack Finch: Which gate do I have to go to?

Anna Jones: Just keep an eye on the TV screens in the departure lounge. Have a pleasant flight...

→ Now practise it!

Jack Finch asked:

- Which gate do I have to go to?

He could also have asked:

- What time does boarding begin?
- Where is the security check?
- How long does it take to get to the gate?
- Is the flight on time?

Following instructions

You may need to take a taxi from the airport to get around the city. Listen to American Pete Manson asking for directions.



Pete Manson: Excuse me. Can you tell me where to get a taxi, please?

Roger Davies: Just go down in the lift to the ground floor.

Pete Manson: The ground floor?

Roger Davies: Yes. Turn right out of the lift and go through the doors. The taxi rank is just outside.

Pete Manson: So I take the elevator to the ground floor, turn right and go through the doors?

Roger Davies: That's right. Just wait in the queue.

Pete Manson: Will it take long?

Roger Davies: No, there are plenty of taxis.



British people take the 'lift' and wait in the 'queue' whilst Americans take the 'elevator' and wait in the 'line'. Also British people call street level the 'ground floor' whereas Americans call it the 'first floor'.

→ Now practise it!

When Pete Manson confirms the directions he has been given, he said:

- So I take the elevator to the ground floor, turn right and go through the doors?

He could also have said:

- So I go straight ahead?
- I take the elevator to the first floor?
- I go down the stairs and turn right?
- I turn right out of the lift?
- Then I turn left at the bottom of the stairs?
- I go up the stairs and then straight ahead?



Taking a taxi at the airport

Pete Manson has just taken a taxi. Listen to his conversation with the taxi driver.



Taxi driver: Where do you want to go, mate?

Pete Manson: The Dorchester Hotel, please.

Taxi driver: No problem. You just arrived from America?

Pete Manson: Yes, I've just flown in from New York.

Taxi driver: On holiday?

Pete Manson: No, this is a business trip.

Taxi driver: Here we are then.

Pete Manson: Can I have a receipt, please?

Taxi driver: Sure.

Pete Manson: Thanks. Keep the change.

→ Now practise it!

Pete Manson asks:

- Can I have a receipt, please?

He could also have asked:

- Can I pay by credit card?
- Is it far to the hotel?
- How long will it take to get to the hotel?



Good to know

It is customary to tip a taxi driver 10 to 15% of the fare in both the UK and the US.



Don't be surprised if somebody in Britain calls you 'mate', 'love' or even 'duck'. For a man 'mate' is used whereas 'love' and 'duck' are used for women. It is best to avoid using them yourself!

Useful words and phrases

- I'd like to book a flight, please.
- I'd like to book a one-way flight to Chicago.
- What time does the flight arrive?
- I prefer an aisle seat.
- How long is the flight?
- Which gate do I have to go to?
- What time does boarding begin?
- Can you tell me where to get a taxi?
- I go down the stairs and turn right?
- I've just flown in from New York.
- Can I have a receipt, please?
- Keep the change.
- *Je voudrais réserver un vol, s'il vous plaît.*
- *Je voudrais réserver un aller simple pour Chicago.*
- *Quelle est l'heure d'arrivée du vol ?*
- *Je préfère un siège côté couloir.*
- *Combien de temps dure le vol ?*
- *À quelle porte dois-je aller ?*
- *À quelle heure commence l'embarquement ?*
- *Pouvez-vous m'indiquer où prendre un taxi ?*
- *Je descends les escaliers puis je tourne à droite ?*
- *J'arrive tout juste de New York.*
- *Puis-je avoir un reçu, s'il vous plaît ?*
- *Gardez la monnaie.*