

Airline Security

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading activities

1 Vocabulary

Put the words in this list into two groups – one for words connected with travelling by plane and the other for words connected with studying a language.

to learn	passenger	check-in	vocabulary	grammar	bag
dictionary	pronunciation	airline	to board	flight	pen

2 True or false

Read the following statements. Then look at the text to check if they are

TRUE FALSE

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. A group of passengers was waiting to fly from Dallas-Fort Worth to Baltimore. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. It was Christmas Day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. One of the passengers was a secret serviceman travelling to the White House in Washington. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The man filled in a special form twice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. The man had an Arabic name. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. The airline staff at the check-in desk became very angry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. They didn't search the man's bag. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Finally he was allowed to board the plane. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Since September 11th, people of Middle Eastern appearance are checked more carefully at airports. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. The man didn't have a gun. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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On Christmas Day last year, three months after the attacks on New York on September 11th, a group of passengers was waiting to board a flight from Baltimore to Dallas-Fort Worth. One of the passengers was a secret serviceman, who was on his way to guard President Bush at the "Western White House" in Texas.

Because he was a secret serviceman, the man was carrying a gun. He wanted to take the gun with him onto the plane, so he had to fill in a special form. He filled in the form but he made some mistakes, so he had to fill in the form again. He made some mistakes the second time too. The airline staff at the check-in desk asked him a lot of questions. They also searched his bag. The man's name was Walied Shater, an Arabic name. His parents were from the Middle East. In his bag, the airline staff found a

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book on Arab history. They asked him more questions. Mr Shater became very, very angry. The Secret Service had confirmed that he was a secret serviceman and he did not know why the airline staff were asking him so many questions. In the end they decided that he could not board the plane and he was left at the airport in Baltimore.

There are many questions about this case. Some people say that Mr Shater was not allowed to board the plane because he was an Arab-American and that, after September 11th, people of Middle Eastern appearance are checked more carefully at airports. They say that this is not fair and that this is against civil rights. The airline, American Airlines, says that this is not true and that Mr Shater was not allowed to board the plane because he was angry and aggressive and because he made mistakes when he filled in the form asking for permission to take his gun onto the plane.

Now there is a big discussion in the United States about this question. Some airlines now check passenger lists for Islamic names and many people of Middle Eastern appearance have not been allowed to board planes. The airlines say that this is for "security" but critics say that this is racist and should not be allowed. It is a very difficult question.

3 Vocabulary

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns on the right:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| a to board | a bag |
| b to ask | a ticket |
| c to search | a mistake |
| d to fill in | a flight |
| e to make | a question |
| f to buy | a form |

4 Prepositions

Complete these sentences using a preposition. Check your answers by looking in the text.

- a The passengers were waiting _____ a flight to Dallas-Fort Worth.
- b Mr Shater was _____ his way to guard the President.
- c He had a gun _____ him.
- d He wanted to take his gun _____ the plane.
- e They asked him to fill _____ a special form.
- f They found a book _____ his bag.
- g In the end he was left _____ Baltimore Airport.
- h Checking some people more carefully may be _____ their civil rights.

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5 Prepositions.

Look at the second paragraph again.

- He wanted to take the gun with him onto the plane, so he had to fill in a special form.
- He filled in the form but he made some mistakes, so he had to fill in the form again.
- The airline staff at the check-in desk asked him a lot of questions.
- His parents were from the Middle East.
- In his bag, the airline staff found a book on Arab history.
- In the end they decided that he could not board the plane and he was left at the airport in Baltimore.

Prepositions are very common in English. In this paragraph there are many different ways that prepositions are used.

Infinitive He wanted to take the gun (verb 'He wanted' + (to + verb) 'to take' + object 'the gun')

Phrasal verb He filled in the form (verb 'filled' + preposition 'in' + object 'the form') there are many phrasal verbs in English. Often adding a preposition, or changing a preposition changes the meaning..

Set phrases In the end (In set phrases the group of words have a set meaning)

Prepositions He was left at the airport. In his bag

Complete the sentences.,

- a He wanted to _____ board the plane but they would not let him.
- b He was travelling from _____ to _____
- c There was a gun in his _____
- d He made some mistakes. They asked him to _____ the _____ again.
- e They did not let him travel in _____
- f There was a lot of discussion at the _____ desk.

6 Discussion

Is it important to check passengers before they board planes?

What kind of checks do you think should take place?

Should passengers be checked because of their nationality or appearance?