JUST WORDS.

AN ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ENGLISH IN REAL LIFE



At the Airport

Nine words from check-in to landing.
Every stop of the journey, in English.



Fig. 01 — The whole journey in one room: the seats, the windows, and your plane, waiting.

01 · THE JOURNEY

A flight is a journey — and every airport speaks the same language.

Think of your last trip. You arrived at the airport, showed your documents, left your bags, found your gate, and waited. Then the plane moved, the ground disappeared, and hours later a new city opened its doors below you.

In English, each of those moments has its own word — and when you know the nine words in this set, the airport stops being a labyrinth: you understand the announcements, you read the screens, and you travel calmly. This is not a list to memorise. It is a route.

01	**check in**	02	**boarding pass**	03	**luggage**
04	**gate**	05	**take off**	06	**aisle seat**
07	**layover**	08	**delay**	09	**land**

Read it once. Keep it on your phone. Open it at your next airport, anywhere in the world.

Nº 01 — YOU ARRIVE

check in

01

/tʃek ˈɪn/ · phrasal verb

To tell the airline that you have arrived for your flight, show your documents and receive your boarding pass.

En español — registrarse para el vuelo (documentarse)

"You can check in online or at the airport."

"We checked in two hours before the flight."

COLLOCATIONS

check in online · the check-in desk · check-in closes 45 minutes before

Nota — También es sustantivo, con guion: «the check-in desk». El check-in en línea abre en horarios distintos según la aerolínea — por lo general entre 24 y 48 horas antes; revisa el de tu vuelo.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***I'd like to check in, please.***

Nº 02 — YOUR KEY

boarding pass

/ˈbɔːdɪŋ pɑːs/ (GB) · /ˈbɔːrdɪŋ pæs/ (US) · noun

The card or phone document that shows your seat and lets you get on the plane.

En español — pase de abordar

"Keep your boarding pass in your hand."

"My boarding pass is on my phone."

COLLOCATIONS

a digital boarding pass · show your boarding pass · scan the boarding pass

Nota — En Reino Unido también se oye «boarding card», pero boarding pass es la forma más común en casi todas partes. Sin pase, no hay vuelo.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***Here is my boarding pass.***



Fig. 02 — Your key to the plane.

Nº 03 — YOUR BAGS

luggage

/ˈlʌgɪdʒ/

noun (uncountable)

All the bags and suitcases that you take with you when you travel.

En español — equipaje

"How much luggage can I take?"

"Her luggage is very heavy."

COLLOCATIONS

hand luggage · checked luggage · a piece of luggage



Nota — Es incontable: no se dice «luggages». Para contar se usa «a piece of luggage». En EE. UU. también se oye mucho «baggage», con el mismo significado.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***Just one piece of luggage.***

Nº 04 — YOU WAIT

gate

/geɪt/ · noun

The area in the airport where you wait for your flight and get on the plane.

En español — puerta de embarque

"Our flight leaves from gate 24."

"Please wait at the gate until your group is called."

COLLOCATIONS

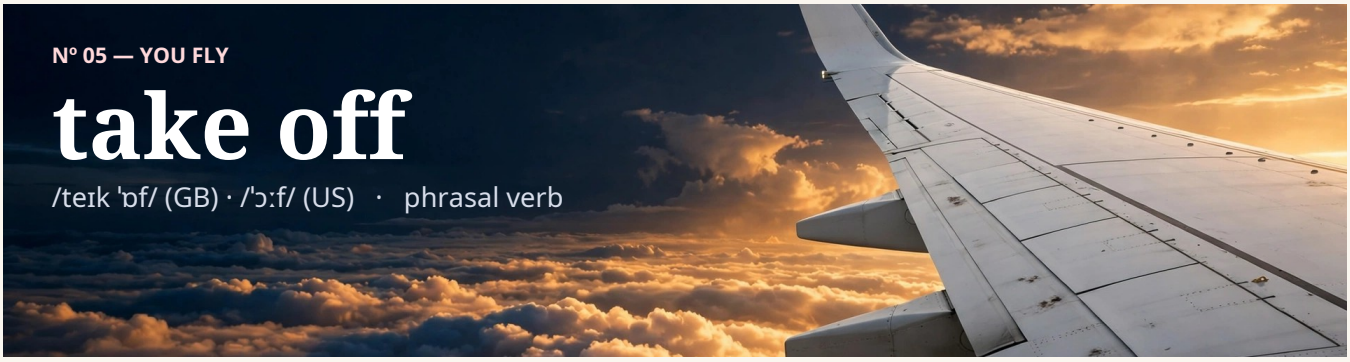
gate number · at the gate · the gate opens

Nota — El número de puerta puede cambiar a última hora: confírmalo en las pantallas del aeropuerto, no solo en tu pase de abordar.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***Which gate is it?***



Fig. 03 — Your plane, from your gate.



Nº 05 — YOU FLY

take off

/teɪk ˈɒf/ (GB) · /ˈɔːf/ (US) · phrasal verb

Fig. 04 — Take-off: the ground lets go, and the journey really begins.

When a plane leaves the ground and starts to fly.

En español — despegar

"The plane took off on time."

"We take off at ten fifteen."

COLLOCATIONS

take off on time · ready for take-off · the plane takes off

Nota — La misma expresión significa quitarse ropa o accesorios — por eso en seguridad oirás «Take off your shoes». El contexto lo deja claro.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***We are ready for take-off.***



Fig. 05 — Window, middle, aisle.

Nº 06 — YOUR PLACE

aisle seat

/aɪl siːt/ · noun

A seat next to the long central space of the plane, not next to the window.

En español — asiento de pasillo

"I prefer an aisle seat."

"Is the aisle seat free?"

COLLOCATIONS

a window seat · a middle seat · choose an aisle seat

Nota — «Aisle» se pronuncia ÁIL: la S no suena. Y prepárate para la pregunta clásica al documentar: «Window or aisle?»

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***An aisle seat, please.***

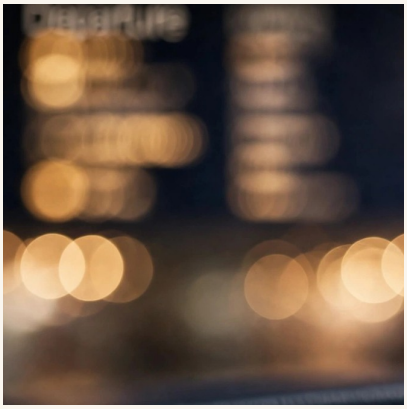


Fig. 06 — Somewhere between two flights.

Nº 07 — THE STOP

layover

/ˈleɪəʊvə/ (GB) · /ˈleɪoʊvər/ (US) · noun

A stop in another city between two flights of the same journey.

En español — escala

"We have a two-hour layover in Dallas."

"The layover is only forty minutes — too short!"

COLLOCATIONS

a long layover · a short layover · a layover in Dallas

Nota — En Reino Unido se oye más «stopover», sobre todo para escalas largas; layover es la palabra más común en EE. UU. Ambas se entienden en todas partes.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***A layover of two hours.***

FLIGHT INFORMATION · Nº 08

delay

DELAYED

/dɪˈleɪ/ · noun & verb

When a flight leaves later than planned — and the extra time you must wait.

En español — retraso / retrasarse

"There is a delay of one hour."

"Our flight was delayed by the weather."

STATUS — The flight is delayed.

COLLOCATIONS

a long delay · be delayed · delayed by the weather

Nota — Funciona como sustantivo y como verbo sin cambiar de forma: «a delay» y «the flight is delayed». Cuando lo escuches, busca tu nueva hora en las pantallas.

Nº 09 — YOU'RE THERE

land

/lænd/ · verb

When a plane returns to the ground and arrives at the airport.

En español — aterrizar

"The plane landed at midnight."

"We land in Toronto at six."

COLLOCATIONS

land on time · land safely · the plane lands

Nota — Ojo: «land» también es sustantivo, pero ahí significa tierra o terreno. Como verbo, en el aeropuerto, siempre es aterrizar.

KEEP THIS PHRASE ***We land at six.***

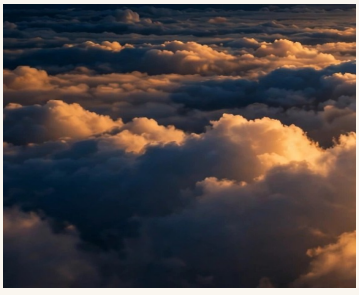


Fig. 07 — The last minutes.

02 · IN REAL LIFE

Seven a.m. at the airport

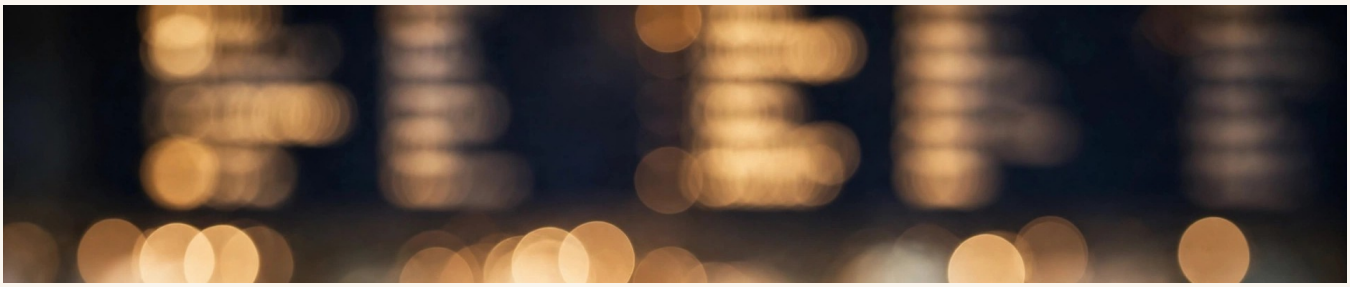


Fig. 08 — The departure board glows. Ana and Leo are about to cross it.

AGENT Good morning. Where are you flying today?

ANA To Toronto. We already **checked in** online.

AGENT Perfect. Can I see your **boarding passes** ?

LEO Here they are — on my phone. And this is our **luggage** .

AGENT One suitcase to check. Your flight leaves from **gate** 24.

ANA Is everything on time?

AGENT Yes. You **take off** at ten fifteen. Have a good flight!

LEO Wait — did I get the **aisle seat** ?

ANA Yes, 14C. And after the **layover** in Dallas, we **land** in Toronto at six. No **delay** , please!

THE NINE WORDS, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

1 **check in** — *you start*

2 **boarding pass** — *your key*

3 **luggage** — *your bags*

4 **gate** — *you wait*

5 **take off** — *you fly*

6 **aisle seat** — *your place*

7 **layover** — *the stop*

8 **delay** — *the wait*

9 **land** — *you're there*

THE SAME JOURNEY, AS A STORY

Ana and Leo arrived at the airport at seven. They **checked in** online the night before, so they only showed their **boarding passes** and left their **luggage** at the desk. At **gate** 24 they waited with a coffee. The plane **took off** at ten fifteen; Leo slept in his **aisle seat** while Ana watched the clouds. After a short **layover** in Dallas — no **delay** , everything on time — they flew the last part of the journey, and at six in the evening the plane **landed** in Toronto. The trip was over. The city was waiting.

READ IT TWICE

First, just enjoy the story. Then read it again and find the nine words — each one appears at its exact moment of the journey.

“Nine words. One journey. Zero getting lost.”

03 · THE COLLECTOR'S PAGE

Keep this page.

The whole set, indexed. Save it, screenshot it, use it on your next trip.

SAY IT LIKE THIS — USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Have a good flight!
¡Buen vuelo!

Safe travels
Buen viaje (al despedirse)

Window or aisle?
¿Ventana o pasillo?

Your flight is now boarding
Tu vuelo ya está abordando

Final call for...
Última llamada para...

Hand luggage only
Solo equipaje de mano

Fasten your seatbelt
Abróchate el cinturón

We are now landing
Ya estamos aterrizando

THREE USEFUL WORDS TO KNOW

passport /ˈpɑːspɔːt/ (GB) · /ˈpæspɔːrt/ (US) *noun*
El documento oficial que te identifica para viajar a otro país. “Never travel without your passport.”

terminal /ˈtɜːmɪnəl/ *noun*
El edificio del aeropuerto de donde salen y llegan los vuelos. “Your flight leaves from Terminal 2.”

announcement /əˈnaʊnsmənt/ *noun*
Un mensaje por los altavoces con información importante de los vuelos. “Listen — that announcement is about our gate.”

THE SET AT A GLANCE — AN INDEX

- **aisle seat** — asiento de pasillo
- **boarding pass** — pase de abordar
- **check in** — documentarse
- **delay** — retraso
- **gate** — puerta de embarque
- **land** — aterrizar
- **layover** — escala
- **luggage** — equipaje
- **take off** — despegar

THE JOURNEY, IN ORDER — ALL NINE WORDS

1 **check in** 2 **boarding pass** 3 **luggage** 4 **gate** 5 **take off**
6 **aisle seat** 7 **layover** 8 **delay** 9 **land**

JUST IN ENGLISH by Valencia

“Words are not studied. Words are collected.”

SABER INGLÉS ES SABER USARLO

Next Wednesday: JUST WORDS Set 003. Same time, a new world of words.