

AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

现代英语口语入门



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AROUND THE WORLD IN ENGLISH

AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

by LEGER BROSNAHAN

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用英语环游世界

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51. Please put your hand luggage under your seat.



Flight Attendant : Welcome aboard ! Ming: Thank you. F. A: Can I see your boarding passes? M: Here they are. F. A: Your seats're 25 E and F. M: Where are they?

F.A: They're near the middle.

M: Thanks. We can find 'em.

F. A: Please put your hand luggage under your seat.

M: All right.

F. A: Please don't put it in the aisle.

M: Don't worry. We aren't going to put it in the aisle.

Notes

Background Information (51)

The flight attendant welcomes Huilan and Ming aboard the airplane for their flight from Beijing to Honolulu. Flight attendants examine passengers' boarding passes, which show that their tickets, passports, health <u>certificates</u>, and visas are in order and that they may board the airplane for an international flight. Later, they check that hand luggage or carry-on bags are properly stowed under the seats or in overhead compartments, that seat belts are properly fastened, and that passengers understand the use of safety equipment. Still later, they will pass out magazines and newspapers, serve drinks and food, sell duty-free items such as perfume, alcohol, and cigarettes, distribute immigration and customs forms for the country being visited, and generally help make the trip pleasant and easy for passengers.

Boarding passes usually carry passengers' seat numbers. The seats are usually numbered from front to back of the plane and lettered from left to right across each row as you face forward. In most planes seats A and F are window seats, C and D are aisle seats, B and E are middle seats though wide planes may have eight seats across and very large planes are divided into three or four sections the length of the plane. Seats are also divided into smoking

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and non-smoking for the comfort of different passengers.

Large and heavy bags and packages must be checked at the airport and are loaded into the cargo hold of the plane. One or two smaller bags, called hand luggage or flight bags or carry-on luggage, may be carried by passengers onto the plane. These carryon bags must be placed in the overhead compartments or under the seats. They cannot be left in the aisles.

背景知识(51)

空中服务员欢迎惠兰和明乘坐从北京飞往檀香山的班机。服务员检验乘 客的登机卡;登机卡说明他们的机票、护照、健康合格证明和签证都合乎手 续,乘客可以登机进行国际航行。之后,服务员要检查乘客的手提行李或随身 提包是否在座位下面或顶箱中放好,安全带是否系好,乘客是否明白安全装 置的使用。接着,服务员会发给乘客报刊、上饮料和食品,出售免税物品(如香 水、烟酒),分发所去国家的移民和海关登记表;他们通常要让乘客感到旅途 轻松愉快。

登机卡上通常有乘客的座位号码。座位通常由飞机前部向后编号,你面 对的那排从左向右用字母标出。大部分飞机上,A座和F座靠窗口,C座和D 座靠过道,B座和E座为中间座位;不过宽大的飞机每排有八个座位,而大型 客机根据飞机的长度分成三个或四个部分。为使不同的乘客感到舒适还将座 位分成可吸烟座和无烟座。

体积大、分量重的包必须在机场开包检查,然后装入所乘班机的行李舱。 一两件较小的包,称为手提行李或旅行手提包或随身行李,可由乘客带上飞 机。这些随身提包必须放在飞机顶箱里或座席下面,不能留在过道上。

EXERCISES

- A. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion
 1. I see 'em.
 I see 'em.
- 2. can I can see 'em.

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| 3. | your boarding passes | I can see your boarding passes. |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4. | ? | Can I see your boarding passes? |
| 5. | What | What can I see? |

B. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

| 1. Yo | our seats're 25 E and F. | Your seats're 25 E and F. |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. the | ey | They're 25 E and F. |
| 3. ne | ar the middle | They're near the middle? |
| 4. ? | | Are they near the middle? |
| 5. W | here | Where are they? |

C. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

| 1. We see 'em. | We see 'em. |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 2. can | We can see 'em. |
| 3. find | We can find 'em. |
| 4. ? | Can we find 'em? |
| 5. Where | Where can we find 'em? |
| | |

D. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

| 1. Here they are. | Here they are. |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. there | There they are. |
| 3. on the left side | They're on the left side. |
| 4. ? | Are they on the left side? |
| 5. Which side | Which side are they on? |

E. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

| | | | | | | _ | | |
|----|------------|----------|------|------------|----|-------|------|-------|
| 1. | Please put | it under | your | Please put | it | under | your | seat. |

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seat.

| 2. in the aisle | Please put it in the aisle. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3. not | Please don't put it in the aisle. |
| 4. we aren't going to | We aren't going to put it in the |
| | aisle. |
| 5. ? | Aren't we going to put it in the |
| | aisle? |
| 6. Why | Why aren't we going to put it in |
| | the aisle? |
| | |

F. Question and Answer

Ming and Huilan're aboard the plane. The flight attendant said, "Welcome aboard!" Ming showed her their boarding passes. Their seats 're 25 E and F. They're near the middle. They can find' em. They're going to put their hand luggage under their seat. They aren't going to put it in the aisle.

Repeat the following questions and answer them, first with a short answer and then with a long answer:

| 1. Are Ming and Huilan | Yes, they are. (Yes, they're |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| aboard the plane? | aboard the plane.) |
| 2. What're they aboard? | The plane. (They're aboard the |
| | planc.) |
| 3. Did the flight attendant | Yes, she did. (Yes, she said, |
| say, "Welcome aboard!"? | "Welcome aboard !") |
| 4. Did Ming show her their | Yes, he did. (Yes, he showed |

| boarding passes ? | her their boarding passes.) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5. What'd he show her? | Their boarding passes. (He |
| | showed her their boarding |
| | passes.) |
| 6. Are their seats 25 E | Yes, they are. (Yes, they're 25 |
| and F? | E and F.) |
| 7. Which seats are they? | 25 E and F. (They're 25 E and |
| | F.) |
| 8. Are they near the middle? | Yes, they are. (Yes, they're |
| | near the middle.) |
| 9. Are they going to put their | Yes, they are. (Yes, they're |
| hand luggage under their | going to put their hand luggage |
| seat? | under their seat.) |
| 10. Are they going to put it in | No, they aren't. (No, they |
| the aisle? | aren't going to put it in the |
| | aisle.) |
| | |

G. Reading

Ming and Huilan are aboard the plane. The flight attendant said, "Welcome aboard!" Ming showed her their boarding passes. Their seats are 25E and 25F. They are near the middle. They can find them. They are going to put their hand luggage under their seat. They are not going to put it in the aisle.

Recall that speech and hearing deal with sound but reading and writing deal with sight and not with sound. Reading is the silent visual skill of getting meaning from marks, so never read out loud or move your lips while reading. Since speech and writing are so different, speak only with other people or tapes of other people and always read *silently*. Reading an English text out loud is likely to ruin both your pronunciation and your reading. Written speech is also quite different from written General English. Read *silently* and compare passages F and G. Notice the contractions of written speech in passage F and their absence from written General English in passage G.

On the other hand, both good speech or hearing and good reading or writing is done not word by word or letter by letter but phrase by phrase. Mark the spoken and written phrases of passages F and G. Did you find any differences in the phrases? How many eye spans do you need to read a phrase? If it's more than one you should expand your eye span or shorten your phrases. Did you notice that your phrases tend to correspond to basic grammatical units of the sentence: subject, verb, object or complement, adverbial? For additional reading practice, reread the entire lesson silently and perhaps a few earlier lessons with which you are fully familiar.

H. Writing

Recall that writing, like reading, is a *silent* skill of expressing meaning through marks not sounds, so do not speak or spell aloud what you are writing or move your lips any more than you should in reading. You have already done a lot of copying and will continue to, but additional writing tasks will be gradually introduced.

Copy and compare passages F and G. Try to copy phrase by phrase after only a single glance at the phrases which you have already marked in the reading exercises. Notice particularly the differences between written speech in passage F and written General English in passage G. For additional copying practice, copy the entire lesson and even earlier reading passages and entire lessons. Always try to copy phrase by phrase with only a single glance at each phrase.

Passages F and G are written in a mixture of present and past and future tenses. Try rewriting passages F and G entirely in present tense, then entirely in past tense, then entirely in future tense. Do the cosistent-tense versions seem better or worse than the mixed tense version? If time allows additional rewriting, rewrite passage G changing the positive sentences to negative and the negative sentence to positive. The situation suddenly seems rather angry and spiteful, doesn't it?

52. Did you fasten your seat belt?



Flight Attendant : Excuse me. Is this your flight bag? Huilan : Yes, it is.

- F. A : Please put it under your seat.
 - H : Oh, yes. I forgot about that.
- F. A : Did you fasten your seat belt?
 - H : I was just going to fasten it.
- F. A : We're going to take off in a few minutes.
 - H : Thank you.
- F. A : Do you want a piece of gum?
 - H : No, thank you.
- F. A : Enjoy your flight!

Notes

 flight bag 航空包(指 overnight bag, take off 起飞 供空中旅行用的轻便手提包)
 a piece of 一块,一片 gum = chewing gum 口香糖

 fasten ['fæsn] 系上,扣上
 gum = chewing gum 口香糖

 seat belt 座席安全带
 flight [flait] 飞行,航行

Background Information (52)

The flight attendant says "Excuse me" before she asks Huilan whether the bag in the aisle is hers. This small, conventional apology is normal English usage when addressing a stranger and means "Please excuse me for disturbing your quiet or interrupting your conversation or intruding on your privacy." It is a common courtesy and will hardly be heard when spoken, but if not spoken, the question or statement of a stranger is likely to be felt abrupt, intrusive, or impolite.

It is important that bags be placed out of the aisles and either under the seat or in overhead compartments because they otherwise obstruct the narrow aisles or even fly about a bit if the weather is rough. Seat belts must be fastened on take-off and landing for safety, and it is wise to keep them fastened whenever you are seated in case the plane encounters turbulence which might throw you about a bit. Gum and candy are frequently distributed by flight attendants because the chewing and swallowing helps your ears adjust to the changing air pressure as the plane rises. Yawning or holding your nose and blowing it are also effective for "clearing your ears" ie. equalizing the interior and exterior pressure on your ears. Unequal pressure makes your ears feel stopped up, dulls your hearing, and can sometimes be irritating or painful.

Huilan says, "No, thank you." Many people consider gumchewing messy or vulgar and prefer simply to swallow, yawn, or blow their noses. Huilan's gesture, however, is a gesture of surprise because she forgot and left her bag in the aisle. It resembles covering a yawn but is not because they have not yet taken off and she would not yet feel any pressure on her ears.

背景知识(52)

空中服务员在问惠兰过道上的包是否是她的之前说了声 "Excuse me"。 这个习惯的简短致歉是在向一位陌生人打招呼时正常的英语用法,意思是: 对不起打扰了或打断了你们的谈话或介入你的个人天地。这是常用的客套, 说话时几乎听不到;但如果不说,陌生人的问话就会让人感到唐突、打扰或不 礼貌。

重要的是包应放在座席下面或顶箱中,不要放在过道上,否则它们只会 挡住狭窄的过道,如果天气不好也不稳当。飞机起飞和着陆时安全带必须系 上,以保证安全;你在座位上时一直系着安全带是明智的,以免飞机在遇到气 流时把你甩开。空中服务员不时地发口香糖和糖果,因为嚼咽帮助你的耳朵 适应飞机起飞时的气压变化。打呵欠或拧着鼻子擤对于"清耳朵"也有效果, 也就是平衡你耳朵的内外压力。压力不平衡会使你的耳朵感到被塞住了,听 力迟钝,有时会令人烦躁或造成疼痛。

惠兰说:"No, thank you"。许多人认为嚼口香糖污秽不净,喜欢简单的 吞咽、打呵欠,或擤鼻子。然而惠兰的手势是吃惊的样子,因为她忘了放在过 道上的包。她的姿势像是捂住呵欠,可并非如此,因为飞机还未起飞,她的耳 朵还不会感到任何压力。

EXERCISES

A. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

| 1. This's mine. | This's mine. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. yours | This's yours. |
| 3. flight bag | This's your flight bag. |
| 4. ? | Is this your flight bag? |
| 5. Whose flight bag | Whose flight bag's this? |