

Visiting Britain

the English you need

Frank Candlin

Visiting Britain

the English you need

Frank Candlin



Hulton Educational

SCE65/01

013197

First published in Great Britain 1984
by Hulton Educational Publications Ltd
Raans Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6JJ

Text © E. Frank Candlin 1984

Illustrations © Hulton Educational Publications Ltd 1984

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written consent of Hulton Educational Publications Ltd

ISBN 0 7175 1269 X

Printed in Great Britain by
Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press) Ltd, Bungay, Suffolk

CONTENTS

Living in Britain

Travelling by air	5	At the Post Office	22
Booking a flight	5	Using the telephone	23
In the departure lounge	6	Finding a number	23
On the plane	8	Calling a number	23
At a travel agency	10	Answering the telephone	24
Making a hotel reservation	11	Wrong number	24
By telephone	11	Asking your way in the street	25
By letter	12	Taxi!	26
Arriving at a hotel	13	Ordering a taxi by telephone	26
Where you have made a booking	13	Bus services	27
Where you have not made a booking	13	The London underground	28
Meals and mealtimes	14	Coach tours	29
Eating out	15	Going by train	30
Booking a table by telephone	15	Railway timetables	30
Ordering a meal	15	At the booking office	31
Asking for the bill	15	On the train	31
Making a complaint	15	Station announcements	31
The English pub	16	Going by road	32
Going Shopping	17	Hiring a car by telephone	32
In a shop	17	Driving in Britain	32
In a department store	18	At the petrol station	34
Giving change	19	An accident	34
Taking something back	19	Parts of a car	35
Booking theatre seats	20	Doctors and dentists	36
In the bank	21	The National Health Service	36
Travellers' cheques	21	Illness in a hotel	37
Changing money	21	Making an appointment with the dentist	37
		Lost and found	38
		Losing things	38
		Finding things	38

Using your English 39

Hello and goodbye	39
Introducing people	40
Replying to invitations	41
Asking permission	42
Requests	42
Apologizing	43
Help and advice	44
Wishes and preferences	45
Certainty and uncertainty	46
Simple calculations	47
Time	48
The weather	50
Test your spoken English	51

Facts and figures 52

Clothing sizes	52
Measurements	53
British Imperial measures	53
English money	54

Don't get it wrong 56

Present, past and future	56
'A' and 'The'	56
Countables and Uncountables	57
Question tags	57
'Some' and 'any'	57
British and American English	58

Key to test your spoken English Word pictures 62

LIVING IN BRITAIN

Travelling by air

Booking a flight



Passenger: I want to book a return flight to , please.

Booking clerk: When do you want to travel?

Passenger: On the twenty-first of May.

Booking clerk: Returning on ?

Passenger: On May the twenty-eighth—seven days.

Booking clerk: Are you travelling first class or economy?

Passenger: Economy class. How much will that be?

Booking clerk: For one person or two?

Passenger: Two.

Booking clerk: pounds each. A total of pounds. What names, please?

Passenger: A and B

Booking clerk: Here are your tickets. Your flight is British Airways flight number , and the departure time is thirteen fifteen. You should check in not later than twelve thirty.

In the departure lounge



Announcer: British Airways flight number now boarding at gate number seven.

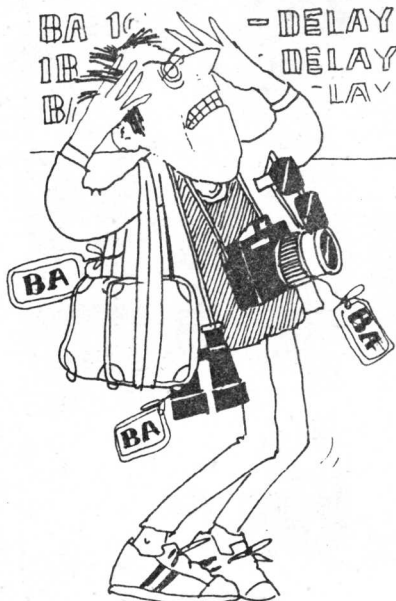
Announcer: Flight number BA to London Heathrow for immediate boarding at gate seven.





FLIGHT INFORMATION

BA 16 - DELAY
 1A - DELAY
 BA - LAY



Announcer: Last call for British Airways flight number to London at gate seven.

Announcer: British Airways regret to announce that their flight number to London, due to depart at thirteen fifteen is delayed. Its departure time will now be fourteen twenty. This delay is due to the late arrival of the incoming aircraft.

On the plane

Passenger: Can you tell me where our seats are, please?

Stewardess: May I see your boarding cards? Row ten, seats B and C on the right.

Passenger: Have you any English newspapers, please?

Stewardess: I'll see if we have any left.

Passenger: Am I allowed to smoke here, please?

Stewardess: No, sir, I'm afraid not. This is a non-smoking area. If you wish to smoke would you mind moving to the smoking area a little further back? There are plenty of empty seats there.



Stewardess: Would you like a drink, sir?

Passenger: Yes, please. May I have a whisky and soda? My wife would like a gin and tonic, and my daughter will have a lemonade, please.

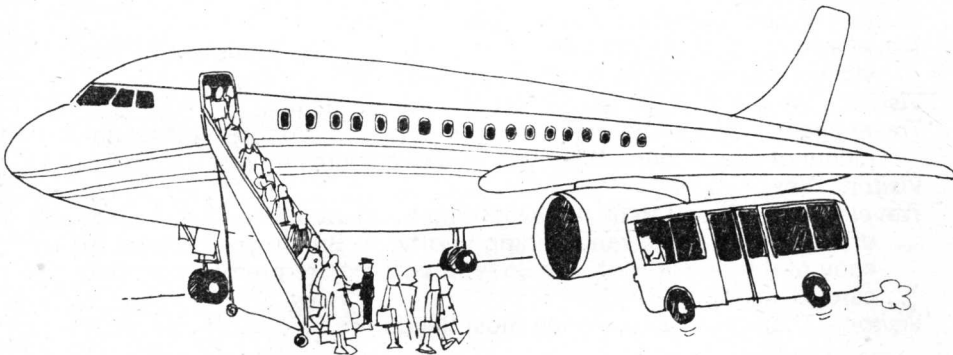


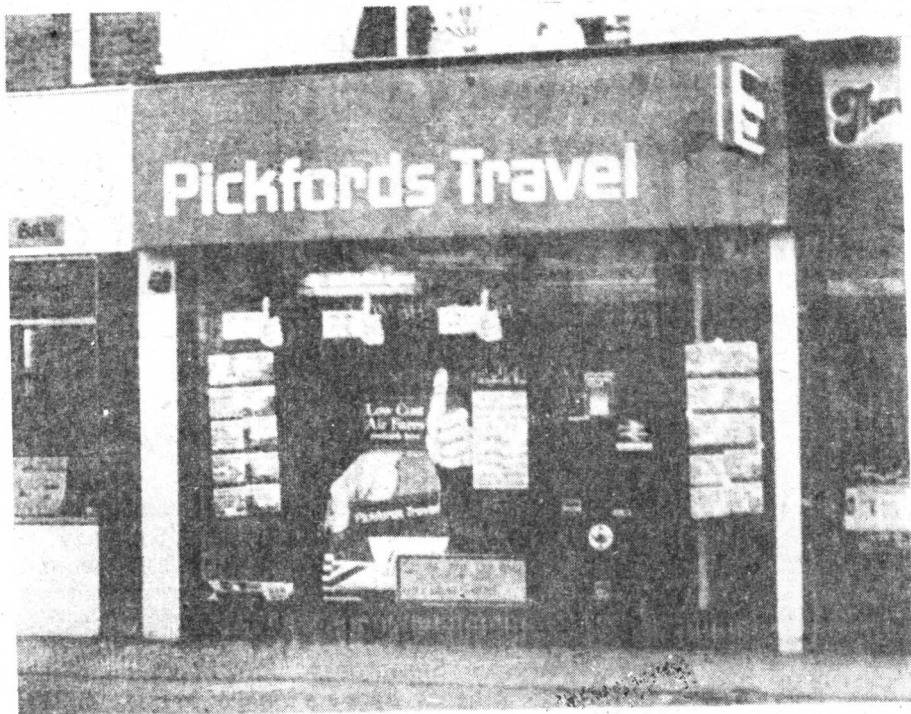
Passenger: I don't feel very well.
Would you be so kind as to
bring me a glass of water,
please?
Stewardess: Certainly. And would
you like some aspirin?
Passenger: Yes, please. How very
kind of you.



Passenger: Could I trouble you for
a cushion, please? The baby
has gone to sleep, and I want
something to put under his
head.
Stewardess: Yes, of course. and
here's a blanket to put over
him.

(For making and responding to
requests, see page 42)





At a travel agency

Travel agent: Good morning. Can I help you?

Visitor: We are in England for two weeks. Can you give us some advice on where to go and what to see?

Travel agent: Yes, certainly. Have you been to England before?

Visitor: No, we haven't.

Travel agent: Well, I think you should begin in London.

Visitor: Where would you advise us to stay?

Travel agent: We have a number of good hotels on our list. We can make a booking for you.

Visitor: Where else should we go after London?

Travel agent: You ought to see either Oxford or Cambridge, and most visitors like to include Stratford-on-Avon.

Visitor: What's the best way to get about in England?

Travel agent: You could go from place to place by train, and there are plenty of coach tours. Have you an international driving licence?

Visitor: Yes.

Travel agent: Then I think the best thing to do would be to hire a car and drive around. But if you're going to drive in Britain you'd better get a copy of the British Highway Code; the police are pretty strict about careful driving.

Visitor: Thank you. You've been most helpful.

(For asking and giving advice see page 44)

Making a hotel reservation

By telephone

Hotel operator: Grand Hotel. Can I help you?

Visitor: Reservations, please.

Reservations clerk: Reservations.

Visitor: I want to book a single (double) room for the twenty-first to the twenty-seventh of May, please.

Clerk: Are these dates inclusive?

Visitor: Yes, seven nights.

Clerk: One moment, please

..... Yes, we can do that.

One single (double) room for the nights of the twenty-first to the twenty-seventh of May. The charge will be pounds per night, including continental breakfast.

Visitor: Thank you. I'll take that.

Clerk: Thank you, sir. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you.
We'll take that.

Thank you sir.
We look forward
to seeing you.



• By letter

3 May 1984

The Reception Manager
Grand Hotel
Piccadilly
London W1A 2AB

Dear Sir

Confirming my phone call, I
wish to book a single room
for the nights of 21st - 27th
May inclusive. As my flight
is due at Heathrow in the
early evening, I may be a
little late in checking in at
the hotel.

Yours faithfully

T.A. Baker

Arriving at a hotel

Where you have made a booking

Visitor: I wrote to (telephoned, cabled, telexed) you to book a room for one (two, seven) night(s). The name is A

Reception clerk: Yes, we have the booking—a single room for two nights, Mr A Will you pay by cash or credit card?

Visitor: By credit card—American Express.

Reception clerk: Thank you. Your room number is two one five. The boy will bring up your baggage. Have a nice stay.



Where you have not made a booking

Visitor: Can you let me have a double room for three nights, please?

Reception clerk: Have you a booking, sir?

Visitor: No, I'm afraid not.

Reception clerk: One moment, please Yes, I think we can do that.

Visitor: How much will that be?

Reception clerk: pounds per night for a double room with continental breakfast.

Visitor: Thank you. That's all right.

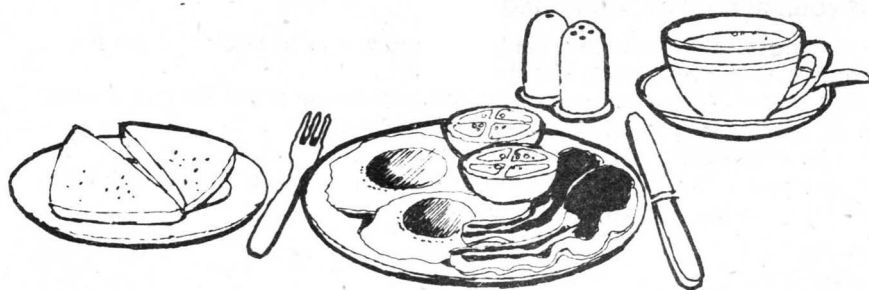
Reception clerk: How will you pay, please? By cash or credit card?

Visitor: By cash.

Reception clerk: Your room number is four six two. The boy will bring up your baggage. Have a nice stay.

Visitor: Thank you.

Meals and mealtimes



Breakfast

Continental Breakfast—A light meal without a main cooked dish. This is often included in the cost of a hotel room.

English (or American) Breakfast—A more substantial meal, with a choice of hot or cold, cooked dishes—boiled or fried eggs, fried bacon, sausages, etc.

Lunch

(The formal term is Luncheon) Served from 12.30 to 2.00 p.m. The midday meal. For those families for whom it is the main meal of the day it is often called 'dinner'.



Tea

A light afternoon meal, with tea, bread and butter and cakes. Usually served at about four o'clock.

Dinner

Usually served between seven and eight o'clock in private houses and between seven or seven-thirty and eleven or eleven-thirty in hotels and restaurants. The main evening meal. Often used as a social occasion for entertaining guests. The informal term is 'supper'.

Eating out

Booking a table by telephone

'I want to book a table for two for lunch (dinner) for tomorrow (on Thursday, on the fifth of June)'
'What name, please?'
'Thompson. What time do you serve lunch (dinner)?'
'From twelve-thirty to two (from seven-thirty to eleven).'
'One o'clock, please. (Eight o'clock, please).'

Ordering a meal

Customer: May I have the menu, please? And the wine list.

Waiter: Certainly, sir.

Customer: My wife will have melon and the lamb cutlets, and I'll have mushroom soup and the roast beef. And a bottle of claret—number sixty-three.



Asking for the bill

'Could (May) I have the bill, please?'
'Thank you. Have you included a service charge?'

Making a complaint

'I'm afraid this steak is over-cooked. I ordered it medium.'
'I'm afraid this soup is quite cold. Could you change it for me, please?'
'I think there's a mistake in this bill. Would you check it, please? Neither of us had a starter, and the menu says that coffee is included in the price of the meal.'



The English pub

People go to public houses ('pubs') to drink and to meet their friends. Many pubs now also serve snacks or even hot meals. There is no waiter or waitress service in a pub; the customer orders drinks and/or food from the barman or barmaid and drinks or eats it standing at the bar or takes it to a table. Drinks and food are paid for immediately, as they are handed over. Pubs are open ('licensing hours') from half past ten or eleven in the morning (twelve o'clock on Sundays) to half past two or three in the afternoon, and then from half past five or six to half past ten or eleven in the evening. Pubs have to be very strict about closing time. Ten minutes before, the landlord will call 'last orders, please' and then 'Time, ladies and gentlemen, please'. Customers are allowed a few minutes 'drinking up time' and then they leave and the pub doors are firmly shut.



George: What'll you have, Mary?

Mary: A gin and tonic, please.

George: What's yours, Harry?

Harry: A pint of bitter.

George: And I'll have a Guinness.

(to the barmaid) A gin and tonic, Miss, a pint of bitter and a Guinness, please.

Barmaid: Bottled or draught Guinness?

George: Draught, please.

Barmaid: That's, please.

Harry: Does anyone want anything to eat? I'm starving.

Mary: What've they got?

Harry: There's the menu up on that board.

Mary: Steak and kidney pie

Sausage and chips

Shepherd's pie and chips.

George: They're all hot dishes.

Haven't they got anything cold?

Harry: There's a cold buffet over there by the bar.

Mary: That's better. There's ham and salad, Scotch eggs, ploughman's lunch. I think I'd like a ham salad.

Harry: So would I.

George: And I'll have a ploughman's lunch—bread and cheese with pickles.

Harry: Right. You find a table, Mary, and I'll order.