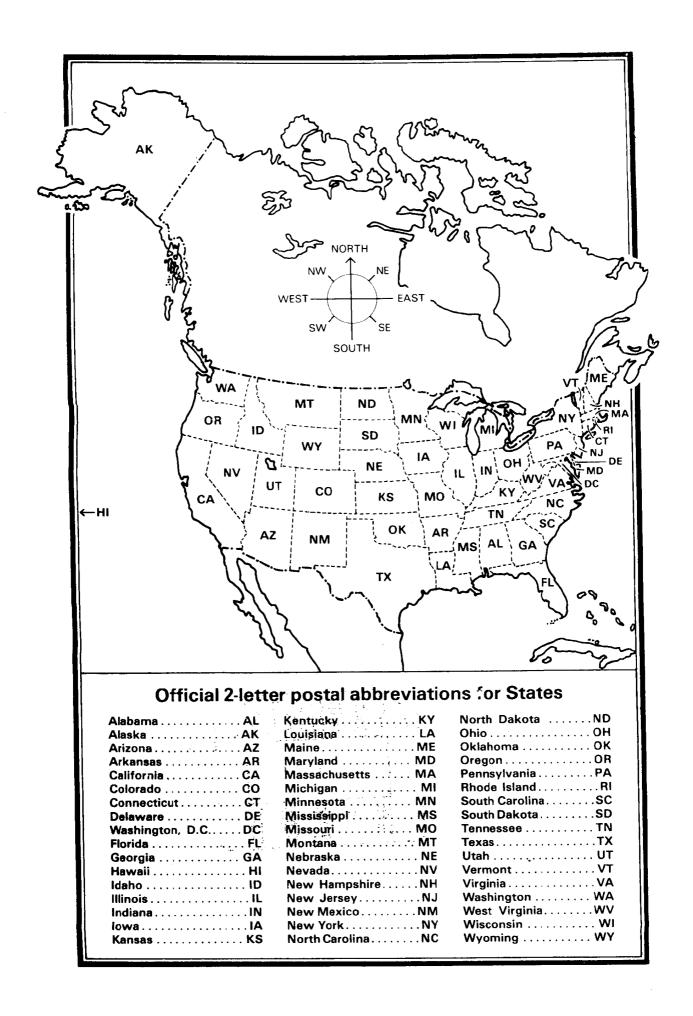
How to Survive in the U.S.A.

Nancy Church and Anne Moss

English for travelers and newcomers



Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank all of our patient friends, relatives and colleagues for help with the original recording and drawings, for facilitating overseas communication, for their constructive criticism, and for still being our friends, relatives and colleagues. A special thanks goes to Peter Uhden, who especially helped get this project off the ground.

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Photographs on pages 5, 11, 13, 21, 24, 32, 34, 36, 41, 43, 45, 47, 51, 61, 65, 67, 73, 77, 81, 87, 91 by Nancy Church Cartoons by Bryan Hendrix Book design by Gavin Martin Ltd, Cover design by Fred Charles Cover photo by Frederic Lewis, Inc.

Introduction

Who is this course for? How to Survive in the U.S.A. is an English Language Teaching book and cassette especially for people who already know some English and want to travel, vacation, study, do business, or live in the United States. It will help you to prepare for everyday language situations you may find yourself in when you are visiting the U.S. (or if you are meeting Americans* outside the U.S.)

What is in the book? There are ten units with many authentic examples of forms, documents, and written material that you may have to use or fill out in real life. There is useful information for you to look at and read in the illustrations, conversations, and texts. There are questions, answers, notes and additional recorded conversations to help you understand and test yourself.

What is on the cassette? There are 1) Listen and read conversations, in which you read the text after you have listened to it on the cassette and 2) Listen and answer and Look and listen conversations, which you only listen to on the cassette; we suggest that you do not read the texts of these conversations at all, but if you don't have the cassette you can find them at the back of the book in the Tapescript (pages 125–133). All the conversations are spoken by people from all parts of the U.S., from many social and cultural backgrounds in typical American accents. For review, the idioms from the Test yourself exercise at the end of each unit are also recorded on the cassette.

How do you use the course? You can use the book with or without a teacher, with or without a partner, and with or without the cassette. (When you see this symbol in your book, you can find the conversations on the cassette.) If you do not understand every word when you are reading or listening, don't worry. Read or listen to the part several times and it will get easier each time. Always try to get the general meaning first without using the glossaries or the dictionary – and without looking up answers to the questions. You can look them up after you understand the general idea of the conversation.

Self-study guide

Each unit has five parts. Be sure to read the directions before you start each new part.

PART I sets the scene of each unit.

- A. Study the illustration.
- B. Read the information.
- C. Answer the questions.
- D. Listen and answer presents a recorded conversation which you do not see. Read the questions first; then listen to the conversation on the cassette several times and answer the questions.
- E. Listen and read. Without looking, just listen to the conversation on the

cassette. While you are listening a second time, read the conversation. Listen and read several times until you are ready to answer the questions that follow.

F. Answer and act. If you are using the book with a partner, you can act out the conversation together when you see this symbol . After you have played one role, trade roles (exchange parts) with your partner. If you do not have a partner, cover one of the parts and act out the other part yourself.

^{*} People from the United States usually refer to themselves as "Americans." People from Canada (Canadians) and Latin America (Latin Americans – Brazilians, Mexicans, etc.) are Americans, too, but the name of the country, not the continent, is usually used to describe nationality.

PART II presents a problem for you to solve.

- A. Study the illustration carefully.
- B. Answer the questions. You are likely to learn some new words!
- C. Look and listen presents three or four recorded conversations. Read the directions and exercises you see there first; then listen to the conversations on the cassette several times. While you are listening, look at the illustration (A) on the opposite page. Take information from the illustration or the conversations, and use it to do the exercises.
- D. Problem solving gives you a chance to create your own conversations and say as much as you can. (If you do not have a partner, imagine the situation and think of what you would say.)
- E. Make conversations like the ones on the cassette in Look and listen (C) above.

Put yourself in the place of one of the cartoon characters and act out that part. Your partner can act out the other part. Follow the instructions in the speech balloons. Here is an example of how you could do both parts of the pattern in Unit 1 (page 5) to make a conversation about Asking and giving directions:

- Excuse me. Could you please tell me the way to the Northwest counter?
- -Sure, just go up the escalator and you'll see it on your right when you get to the top.
- Okay, let's see . . . I take the escalator up and it'll be at the top?
- -Right.
- -Great. Thanks.
- You're welcome.

Use some of the ideas in the directions, and then think of one or two of your own.

PART III presents more language situations.

- A. Study the illustration.
- B. Answer the questions.
- C. Listen and read. Listen to each of the conversations on the cassette first without looking. While you are listening a second time, read the first conversation. Listen and read again, if you want to.
- D. Answer the questions about the first conversation. Do the same for each of the conversations.
- E. Act out the scenes with a partner, if you have one. Put yourself in the situations, and practice some of the things you heard in the conversations.

PART IV gives some useful things for you to know.

- A. Read the information about traveling and living in the United States. If you have a chance, talk about this and other things you know with people interested in the same subject.
- B. Compare the meanings and uses of the American and British English words. Remember that many words sound different in British English.

GLOSSARY. At the end of each unit there is a list of important words with definitions in simple English. Some words may have more than one meaning, but only meanings from the units are in the glossaries. Abbreviations (short forms) used in the glossaries are:

- (n) noun
- (v) verb
- (adj) adjective
- (adv) adverb
- (prep) preposition
- (interj) interjection
- (e.g.) for example
- (etc.) et cetera, and so on

PART V gives you a chance to see how much you've learned. First study the illustration and do the exercise, then go on to the Activities.

information about American weights and measures.

Test yourself by listening to the ten idioms on the cassette. They are expressions you will have heard in the unit. Listen several times before you do the matching exercises and answer the questions.

ANSWERS AND NOTES. Answers to all the questions and exercises are on pages 107–124. Think about your answers on your own before you look them up. Then, even if you think you know the answers, look them up, because you will often find extra information about the United States with the explanations and answers.

TAPESCRIPT. The texts of all the recorded conversations in Listen and answer and Look and listen are on pages 125–133. It is best to read them only after you have listened to the cassette and only if you really need to. If you do not have the cassette, read each of the conversations before you answer the questions for that part.

At the beginning of the book, you will find a map of the United States with names of all the states, the points of the compass, and the abbreviations for the states.

At the end of the book, there is a list of abbreviations often used in the U.S. There is also

means "work with a partner if possible." means "use the cassette."

How to Survive in the U.S.A.

WELCOME TO THE U.S.A.!



PART I

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C. Answer the questions

- 1. Who requires this form?
- 2. Who has to fill it out?
- 3. Do you have a middle name?
- 4. What's your address in your country of residence?
- 5. Is your country of citizenship the same as

,	/ IMPORTANT NOTICE
For sale by	 You are authorized to stay in the U.S. only until the date written on this form. To remain past this date, without permission from immigration authorities, is a violation of law.
by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. (SURRENDER THIS PERMIT WHEN YOU LEAVE THE UNITED STATES
å	By sea or air, to transportation line.
1	 Over Canadian border, to Canadian Official.
Past of I	Over Mexican border, at the designated location.
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r, U.S. Government Printing Office 1. 20402	
nat Printi	DEPARTURE RECORD
ě	Port:
2	Date:
	Carrier:
	Flight No./Ship Name

B. Read

This form is called an I-94. It is the first U.S. form you see (except the ones you filled out to get your visa) and you see it whether you enter the country by air, sea or land. If you come by air, your flight attendant gives you one before the plane lands. After landing, you go to Immigration (INS), where you have to wait in line until the counter is free. Then the inspector checks your visa, completes your I-94 and staples it to your passport. Your next stop is the baggage claim area. Then you go through Customs. After that, you're on your own!

your country of residence?

- 6. What should you do with this form while you're in the U.S.? What about when you leave?
- 7. Try to fill out the form.

You can look up words on page 9.

D. Listen and answer

You will hear a conversation at a Customs desk. Listen first and then answer the questions.

- 1. Who are the speakers?
- 2. Where are they?
- 3. Why does the man ask so many questions?
- 4. Have you ever gone through U.S. Customs?
- 5. Where do you go after Customs?

E. Listen and read

These people have just gone through Customs at JFK (John F. Kennedy International Airport is known as "JFK") in New York.

PETER: Well, this is it! Welcome to America!

COLLEEN: Thanks.

PETER: What are your plans?

COLLEEN: I want to go into Manhattan for a

few days.

PETER: That's a good idea. It's a great town, New York. You going to take the bus to the East Side Terminal?

COLLEEN: Where?

PETER: The East Side Terminal. That's in Manhattan. There's a bus from here every half hour or so. The stop is right over there.

COLLEEN: Oh, thanks. Aren't you going to Manhattan?

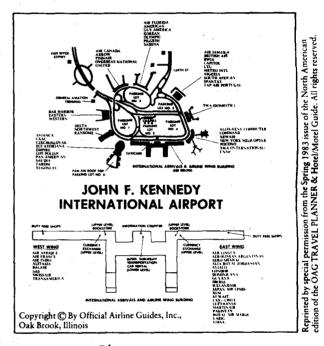
PETER: No. I've got to catch a flight to L.A. in a couple of hours. I'll be taking the shuttle to LaGuardia.

COLLEEN: Did you say "shuttle"?

PETER: Mmm-hmm.
COLLEEN: What's that?

PETER: A bus that goes from JFK to
LaGuardia. There are also a lot of shuttle
flights to other airports and there are
shuttle buses between the nine terminals

here at the airport.



COLLEEN: Oh.

PETER: Look, there's a shuttle pulling out now. Costs quite a bit, but it's still a good

deal. Hey! Here comes your bus!

F. Answer and act

Listen to the conversation two or three times. Then try to answer the questions without looking at the text.

- 1. What are Colleen's plans?
- 2. What does Peter think of New York?
- 3. How can Colleen get to the city?
- 4. Where is the East Side Terminal?
- 5. How often do the buses go?
- 6. What are Peter's plans?
- 7. How is he going to get to LaGuardia?
- 8. Does he think the airport shuttles are cheap?

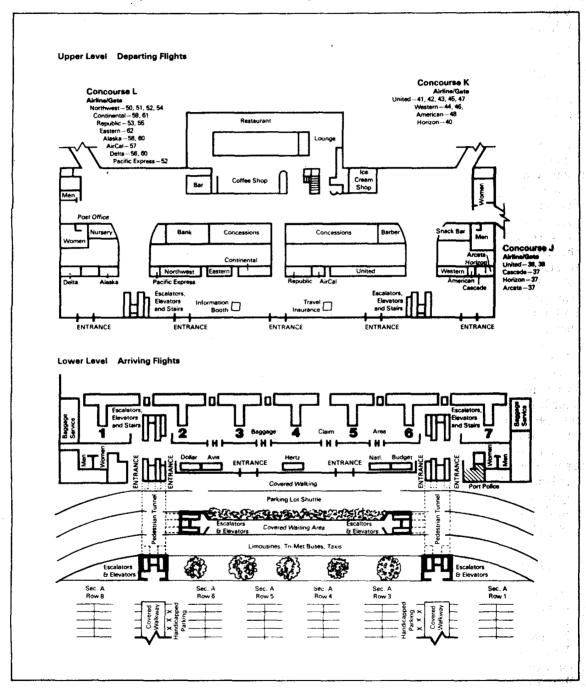


Read the conversation with a partner. Then one of you can read Peter's part while the other covers the page and plays Colleen. Trade roles.

PART II

A. Study this map

This is the terminal layout of a small American airport.



B. Answer the questions

- 1. If your flight is leaving from Gate 42, which concourse do you take?
- 2. When you enter the airport on the upper level, where are the nearest restrooms?
- 3. There's more than one place to get something to eat. Can you name two?
- 4. You land here and want to rent a car. Can you?
- 5. Do you have to walk to the parking lot? How can you get there?
- 6. Is this airport served by buses?

C. Look and listen

You will hear three conversations at the airport. Looking at the map on page 4, figure out where the speakers are and where they have to go. Listen to the way people ask for and give directions.

EASTERN CONTRACTOR





D. Problem solving

Look at the map on page 4 again. Work with a partner.

- 1. You arrive by taxi for an Eastern flight to Boston. Where do you go? Ask someone near the taxi stand for directions to the Eastern counter.
- 2. You have just picked up your luggage from baggage claim area 3. Ask someone near there how to find the restrooms.

E. Asking for and giving directions

Using the following pattern and working with a partner, ask or tell the way from the information booth to the Northwest counter, Gate 39, the baggage claim area, the post office, the taxi stand, the concessions area, the restrooms, the travel insurance desk and the shuttle to the parking lot.

Get attention and ask directions.

Give directions.

Confirm or correct.

Thank.

Respond.

PART III

A. Study this form

You will get this form when you enter the U.S. See if you can understand it.

В.	Answer the	
au	estions	

- 1. Who do you have to give this form to?
- 2. Which members of your family do you have to list on this form?
- 3. Do you have to declare the amount of money you're bringing into the country?

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C. Listen and read

Here are two conversations that often take place at airports. The first one is at the check-in counter.

AGENT: Good morning. Your ticket, please? And set your suitcase upright and I'll check it through.

PASSENGER: Okay.

AGENT: And where would you like to sit?

PASSENGER: Make it a window seat, but if
there aren't any left, I'll take an aisle seat.

AGENT: Smoking or nonsmoking?

PASSENGER: Nonsmoking.

AGENT: Uh-huh, here you go. I'm sorry, but

there will be a 20-minute delay, so your flight will be boarding in about half an hour.

PASSENGER: I sure hope that's the only delay. Oh, where are my baggage claim checks?

AGENT: They're here with your ticket, sir. PASSENGER: Great! Uh, thanks a lot.

AGENT: You're welcome. Have a nice flight.

OLEO

After you get your boarding pass, you have to go through the security

OFFICER: Put all your carry-on luggage on the belt, ma'am.

PASSENGER: My purse and camera, too?
OFFICER: Yes, ma'am, everything. Won't hurt your film.

PASSENGER: But it's 400 ASA film.

OFFICER: Take your camera out, then, and I'll check it through by hand.

PASSENGER: Okav.

DILLEGE: Fhank you. Now step through here. Are you wearing any metal, ma'am? PASSENGER: Mmm... why, yes, this bracelet.

OFFICER: I'm afraid you'll have to take it off, ma'am, and step through again...

Mmm-hmm. Fine, thank you. Here's your bracelet. Have a good flight now.

PASSENGER: Okay, thanks.

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After you land, you want to fly to another city. This is a recording you might get when you try to call an airline.

Hello. TWA reservations. All our customer service lines are busy at this time. But if you hold the line, the first available agent will help you. Thank you for calling TWA.

D. Answer the questions

- 1. Where does the first passenger want to sit?
- 2. Why can't he board the plane now?
- 3. Where does the second passenger have to put her carry-on luggage?
- 4. Why does she have to put her purse and camera there, too?
- 5. Why does she have to go through security again?
- 6. What does the recording tell you to do? Why?

E. Act out the scenes 64

- 1. Read the first conversation aloud several times with a partner. Trade roles.
- 2. Cover the text and tell exactly
 - how the check-in clerk asked where the man wanted to sit/how he answered.
 - -- what the check-in clerk said about boarding time.
 - how the man asked about his baggage claim checks how the clerk answered.
- Read the second conversation aloud with a partner. Trade roles.

- 4. Cover the text and tell exactly
 - how the security guard tells the woman to go through the security check.
 - how she asks the passenger if she is wearing any metal.
 - how she asks the passenger to remove her bracelet.
- 5. Listen to the recorded message again. What will you say when the ticket agent answers the phone? How will you say where you want to go? Practice with your partner.

PART IV

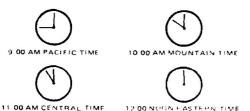


A. Read

Here are some more helpful things to know.

Airports are not always named after the city they are in. New York City has two international airports: John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia. Chicago's international airport is called O'Hare, and there's another for flights within the U.S. called Midway. The same with Washington, D.C. There's Dulles International, and National for flights within the U.S. The airport in Boston is Logan. In Seattle you'll find Seatac, from Seattle and the name of a neighboring city, Tacoma.

There are four time zones in the U.S.:



If you have to fly through several time zones in 12 hours or less, you may feel an upset of your body clock after the long flight. This is jet lag. Doctors say the best thing you can do is rest on the plane and perhaps have a drink of water and rest at your hotel when you arrive.

Larger airports with lots of international traffic have employees who speak languages besides English to help you, but smaller ones don't.

You can bring a total of one quart of alcoholic beverages and one carton of cigarettes (200) cigarettes) into the U.S. duty free. If you bring more, you have to pay tax.

If you lose something on the plane or can't find your baggage at the claim area, you should report it to your airline. If you lose something in the airport, you should go to the lost and found.

B. Compare

American English

Excuse me?
purse/pocketbook/handbag
last name/family name
month/day/year
elevator
restroom
lost and found
ma'am

British English

Pardon? handbag surname day/month/year lift toilet lost property madam

GLOSSARY

abbreviation (n): a short form of a word agent (n): a person who acts for or represents a company by helping customers airline (n): an airplane business that carries passengers by air regularly aisle (n): a long narrow space for walking, which usually divides rows of seats

alarm (n): a bell that goes off to warn people that somethins is wrong

alien (n): a person who is not a citizen arrival (n): here, a plane that has just arrived attendant (n): a person who serves customers authorized (adj): allowed

available (adj): ready; there when it is needed baggage claim area (n): the place to pick up suitcases and bags after a plane flight

bathroom (n): toilets

belt or conveyor belt (n): an endless moving band carrying things from one place to another

beverage (n): something to drink

board (v): to get on a plane, train or ship

booth (n): a small enclosed space or compartment, e.g., information booth, telephone booth

bracelet (n): an arm band; jewelry for your arm carry-on luggage (n): a traveler's small bags carried on board a plane

check (n): a ticket given in exchange for something that will be reclaimed later, e.g., baggage check (also known as "claim check");
(v): to examine; (v): to put something in a place to be looked after, e.g., to check bags, coats, etc.; check-in time (n): the time at which you must report to the airline counter before the plane leaves

concessions (n): small stands or shops that sell snack foods, such as hot dogs and soft drinks, in public places

concourse (n): a hall or open public place where people pass through or gather, especially in an airport

counter (n): a narrow, high table or flat surface in a bank, shop, etc., behind which someone stands and serves customers

covered (adj): protected by a roof from the weather

currency (n): the particular type of money used in a country; currency exchange (n): the place for buying and selling international currency

Customs (n): the government office that examines imported goods; customs duty (n): tax collected on imported goods

declare (v): to tell Customs whether you are importing something that requires duty delay (n): the amount of time that something is late

departure (n): here, a plane that is about to leave directions (n): instructions for finding a place elevator (n): a closet-sized room that moves up and down in a building to take people from one floor to another

escalator (n): moving steps that take people from one floor to another

figure out (v): to decide or understand about something

gate (n): that last door you pass through in an airport before you enter the airplane

illegal (adj): not lawful

Immigration (n): the government office that examines visas and passports and admits foreigners to a country

initial (n): the first letter of a name

inspector (n): a person who examines or checks, e.g., an Immigration inspector

insurance (n): a business agreement or contract in which money is paid to a company so that, if something is lost or damaged (e.g., property, life, health), the company will pay you an amount of money agreed to in the contract

L.A. (n): Los Angeles legible (adj): readable level (n): floor of a building

line (n): people standing behind each other; a

telephone connection

locate (v): to find

lost and found (n): the office where you take things you've found and look for things you've lost

naturalization (n): the process of making a person who was born elsewhere a citizen of a country newsstand (n): a small stand or shop that sells newspapers and magazines

nursery (n): a room where parents can take care of babies

pedestrian (n): a person walking
 permanent (adj): unchanging, fixed
 porter (n): a person who carries your luggage
 print (v): to write in legible block letters
 reservation (n): the booking or arranging of a
 place (airplane seat, hotel room) ahead of time
 residence (n): the place and address at which a
 person lives; resident (n): a person who lives in

a place and is not a visitor restroom (n): toilets retain (v): to keep

security (n): safety, protection from danger shuttle (n/adj): short, connecting transportation between two places, e.g., shuttle buses between

terminals, shuttle flights between nearby towns snack bar (n): a place to eat food quickly

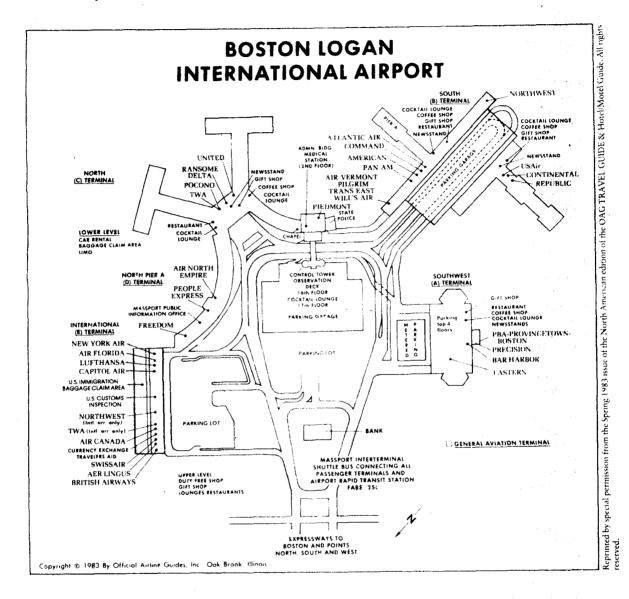
staple (v): to fasten papers together with a small machine using small pieces of metal

surrender (v): to give up, to hand over terminal (n): a building where public transportation departs from or arrives

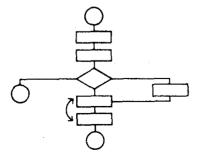
type (v): to write with a machine (typewriter) valid (adj): officially accepted; in force; in effect violation (n): a breaking of a law or rule

REVIEW 1

This is a map of the international airport in Boston. Study it and Unit 1 carefully before you answer the questions below.



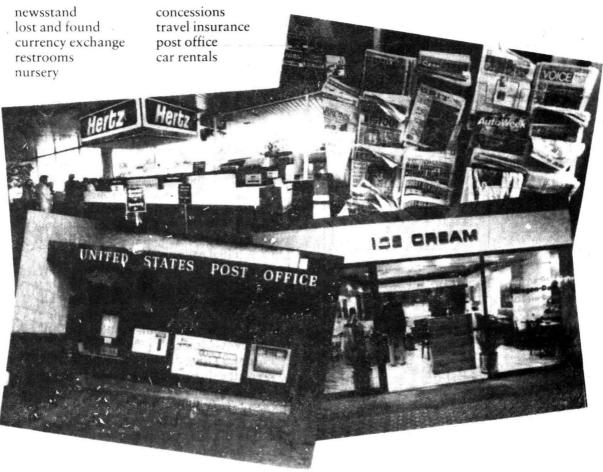
1. This is a chart showing the steps you take when you arrive in the U.S. on an international flight. Fill in the letters of the steps to the right. Find the beginning and end first.



- A. Go into the city.
- B. Buy a ticket for a connecting flight.
- C. Go through Immigration.
- D. Go to South (B) Terminal.
- E. Go to the check-in counter.
- F. Departure.
- G. Go through Customs.
- H. Get your baggage.
- I. Arrival in the U.S.
- 2. There are four places marked on the map of Boston's international airport where you would do D, G, H and C. See if you can find them.

Activities

These are signs you can find at most airports. Why do people go to these places?



Test yourself 🖃

Listen to these words and phrases from Unit 1. You may already know them, but in the conversations they have special meanings. Match them with the words on the right that mean the same. Write the letters in the blanks. (Some letters may be used more than once.)

- 2. Uh-huh.
- 3. Huh-uh.
- . .
- 5. Excuse me!
- 6. Great!
- o. Great.
- 7. You're on your own!
- 8. Hold the line.
- 9.Any time.
- 10. ... Excuse me?

- a. Pardon me?
- b. You won't have any help now.
- c. I'd like to ask you something.
- d. Good. Thank you.
- e. Wait on the phone.
- f. No.
- g. You're welcome.
- h. Okay.
- i. Yes.

Which idioms mean Yes? Which ones mean No? Which ones would you use to respond to Thanks? To attract attention?