

What Comes Next?: Travel Small Talk

Introduction

This simple activity has students match a positive and negative response to common small-talk situations you may encounter while traveling.

Before the Lesson

Print (A4 size), laminate and cut out the cards. In lieu of laminating, print on thicker A4 cardstock paper. Be sure to print enough copies for the amount of students you have, *for example, if you have 15 students in class, print the pdf five times and group students into threes.*

In the Lesson

Ask students to choose a partner (or assign partners yourself) or form groups of three. Distribute a set of cards to each group. They should collaborate to match positive and negative responses to various situations.

Clarify any new vocabulary they might come across.

Once they have correctly matched all the cards, instruct each group to select one situation (aim for each group to choose a different one) and write a short dialogue based on it. Finally, have the students take turns reading their dialogues aloud.

Focus	Aim	Level	Time
Travel Small Talk	To practice various small-talk responses to given situations.	A2	45 minutes



On a plane – "Hi, is this your first time visiting London?"	"No, this is my second visit! London has so much to see."	"Actually, I was supposed to go somewhere else, but my flight got changed."
In a hotel lobby – "Could you recommend a nice local restaurant?"	"Sure! There's a fantastic seafood place just around the corner."	"Sorry, I'm not familiar with the area either—I just checked in myself!"
At a souvenir shop – "Do you have anything handmade from this country?"	"Yes, we do! These necklaces are handmade by local artisans."	"Sorry, most of our items are factory-made, but we have some nice keychains."
At a train station – "Excuse me, does this train go to Rome?"	"Yes, it does! The next stop is Rome."	"No, this train goes in the opposite direction. You'll need to take the next one."
Waiting in line at a food stall – "Wow, this line is so long!"	"Oh, I know! But I heard the food is amazing, so it's worth it."	"Yeah, and I'm starving. I might just find something else instead."
At a beach resort – "The ocean looks amazing today!"	"It sure is! Perfect weather for a swim."	"Actually, I was hoping for clearer water, but it's a bit rough today."
Taking a taxi – "What's the best way to see the city in one day?"	"Definitely! You should take a city tour bus—it stops at all the main attractions."	"Honestly, traffic is so bad today that you won't see much."
At a café – "This coffee is really good!"	"Thanks! We use freshly roasted beans from a local farm."	"Oh really? I think it's a bit too bitter for me."



On a hiking trail – "This view is incredible!"	"Yeah, it's incredible! This is my first time hiking here."	"It is, but I didn't expect it to be this difficult—I'm exhausted!"
Asking for directions – "Hi, how do I get to the city center from here?"	"Just walk straight for two blocks, then take a left."	"I'm not sure, sorry. I'm visiting too!"
In a museum – "This painting is really beautiful!"	"I agree! The colors are so vibrant, and the details are amazing."	"I don't really get abstract art. It just looks like random shapes to me."
At a bus stop – "Do you know when the next bus arrives?"	"I think the next one comes in about 10 minutes."	"Not sure—this bus schedule is really unreliable."
Talking to a fellow tourist at a landmark – "Wow, this place is even better than I expected!"	"Yes! I've read about this place for years, but it's even more beautiful in person!"	"I thought it would be bigger. It looks smaller than in the pictures."
At an airport baggage claim – "I hope my suitcase arrives soon!"	"Yeah, me too. Hopefully, it comes out soon!"	"Mine was lost last time I flew, so I'm really worried."
In a bookstore – "I'm looking for a good book to read on my trip. Any recommendations?"	"Sure! If you like adventure, I'd recommend this travel novel."	"I was looking for something, but the selection here isn't great."
At a hotel: "Are you visiting for business or vacation?"	"Vacation! I've been looking forward to this trip for months."	"Business, unfortunately. I won't have much time to explore."