

Talk a Lot

Airport

Role Plays

1. "He's completely harmless!"

- Place: A customs area at a major international airport
Time: 8.45 pm
Characters: You and a customs officer
Situation: You are an explorer, just returned from a trip to the rainforests of South America. You are trying to smuggle a ten-foot-long poisonous snake into the country, by wrapping it around your neck and pretending it's an exotic scarf
- Scenes:
- i) The eagle-eyed customs officer spots the snake and asks you to explain what you're doing trying to bring it into the country illegally
 - ii) The snake gets loose and attacks the customs officer, giving them a nasty bite. The customs officer believes that they're going to die and starts to make a will, but you explain that the snake has had all of its poison removed
 - iii) In the confusion the snake escapes and slithers away into the airport, causing pandemonium. You and the customs official try to catch it, whilst at the same time reassuring members of the public that it's harmless...

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *Another customs official, who has a more relaxed attitude to their job*
- b) *A member of the public who panics and tries to kill the snake with their umbrella*

2. "Do you really need to fly?"

- Place: On the pavement outside a large international airport
Time: 10.42 am
Characters: You are a climate change protestor, and the other person takes three different roles
Situation: You have been standing outside the airport in the rain on your own for two days, protesting about the damage that air travel is doing to the environment
- Scenes:
- i) You recognise a passenger entering the airport. It's one of your neighbours. They explain why they need to travel – for business. You argue that they don't need to fly and could use other means of transport
 - ii) A few hours later you meet a close friend coming out of the airport. They have just flown back 4,000 miles from a family reunion. Explain that they should have used video conferencing or Skype to get together instead
 - iii) The next day you get a phone call from an influential climate change campaigner – one of your heroes – thanking you for your efforts and inviting you to attend an international conference on global warming this weekend. Unfortunately, the only way to get there in time is by plane. What do you do?

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *Another climate change campaigner, who is terrified of being arrested*
- b) *A security guard working at the airport who wants you to "Clear off!"*

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Role Play Extensions

Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Airport":

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1. You are in a taxi on the way to the airport. Your flight leaves in about an hour and you're worried that you're going to miss it. Your driver is less bothered and you start to panic when you realise that they've taken a wrong turn. The driver turns round and you find the right road. They begin telling you all about their life story, and how difficult things have been since their partner left them. Suddenly the taxi hits a bump in the road and all of your luggage falls out onto the road. Having collected your bags and repacked them, you become more and more anxious about missing your flight. The driver goes faster and faster but all of a sudden they are stopped by the police for speeding and given a fine. You finally get to the airport, but when you refuse to give the driver a tip they chase you through the terminal. Will you catch your flight?

2. You are in an airport late at night waiting for the check-in desk to open. You fall into a deep sleep and when you awake you can't remember anything at all about yourself, either who you are or what you're doing. You've got amnesia! You ask a member of the airport staff to help you recover your identity. You start to remember slowly, but you can't recall what you're doing in the airport or what you have to do in order to catch your flight. You find your plane tickets and passport in your bag, and the other person guides you through the process of catching your flight: check in yourself and your luggage; show your passport; go through the security check; go through the duty-free area; find the correct gate; get on the plane. As they help you, your memory starts to return and you're able to follow their advice...

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