

Travel Light Travel Right



Travel Series | Episode 6

PRE-LISTENING | Warm-up

Prepare before you listen to the conversation.

Brainstorm

1. Look at the topic of this episode. Do you have any personal experiences related to this topic? If not, do you have any thoughts or opinions about it?
2. Below, write notes about what comes to your mind.

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Vocabulary

1. What vocabulary do you think will come up in this conversation? If you can't think of the English word, check it in a dictionary.
2. Write the vocabulary that you came up with in the table below.

LISTENING | Exercise

Listen to the conversation – feel free to pause any time or go back if you miss something.

In the conversation, Colin and Su discuss the benefits of traveling light. They emphasize the convenience of carrying fewer bags, especially when dealing with crowded places like train stations and busy trains during rush hours. Traveling light not only eases the physical burden but also saves time, as travelers with carry-on bags can quickly exit the plane without waiting for checked luggage. They recommend layering clothing for versatility and advise packing items that allow for a smarter look on occasions when you want to blend in with locals or attend special events. Ultimately, traveling light reduces stress and offers flexibility for various situations, making it a practical choice for any traveler.

Note-taking

Identify the key points of the conversation and add notes on some details. Try to keep it short.

Key Points	Details

Quiz

Choose the correct answer – you can check your answers at the end of this PDF.

1. What is the main topic of the conversation?
 - a. Traveling in summer
 - b. Traveling light
 - c. Packing for different weathers
 - d. Tourist fashion

2. According to Su, what is one benefit of traveling light?
 - a. You have more outfit options.
 - b. You can save money
 - c. You can carry your bags easily.
 - d. You don't need to wait for your bags.

3. What does Colin suggest about packing clothing?
 - a. Pack only dark colors.
 - b. Layer your clothing for different weather.
 - c. Bring multiple pairs of shoes.
 - d. Choose a single outfit for your trip.

4. How do travelers with carry-on bags save time?
 - a. They avoid airline fees.
 - b. They have more outfit options.
 - c. They can leave the plane quickly.
 - d. They spend less money on clothing.

5. What does Su mention about packing clothing of the same color?
 - a. It helps you blend in with locals.
 - b. It's a good way to save money.
 - c. It makes your luggage easy to spot.
 - d. It reduces the number of clothing items you need.

6. When should travelers consider dressing a bit smarter than usual?
 - a. When wanting to look like a local
 - b. When visiting tourist attractions
 - c. When going to the beach
 - d. When attending a business meeting

7. How does Su describe how people in Madrid dress?
 - a. They wear beach attire.
 - b. They dress casually like tourists.
 - c. They often dress up a bit.
 - d. They always wear professional clothing.

8. What is the main advantage of having clothing for a smarter look during travel?
 - a. It saves luggage space.
 - b. It attracts attention.
 - c. It helps you blend in with locals.
 - d. It allows for last-minute dress-up options.

POST-LISTENING | Resources

Review the language used in the podcast

Word/Phrase	Class	Example Sentence
rush hour	<i>noun</i>	Trains can be quite crowded during rush hour.
The busy time when many people are traveling.		
versatility	<i>noun</i>	The versatility of her clothing allows her to dress for any occasion.
The ability to adapt to different situations.		
overpack	<i>verb</i>	I tend to overpack when going on a short trip.
To pack more than necessary or practical.		
checked bag	<i>noun</i>	I prefer to travel with just a carry-on bag to avoid checked bag fees.
A piece of luggage that is stored in the airplane's cargo hold.		
carry-on	<i>noun</i>	I always bring a carry-on for short trips.
A small bag or suitcase that can be taken onto the plane's cabin.		
overhead compartment	<i>noun</i>	Please stow your bags in the overhead compartment.
Storage space for carry-on bags in the plane.		
cultural	<i>adjective</i>	Experiencing local cultural events can enhance your trip.
Relating to the arts, customs, and traditions of a society.		
professional	<i>adjective</i>	He wore a professional suit to the business meeting.
Relating to work or a specialized occupation.		
beach resort	<i>noun</i>	We stayed at a beach resort during our summer holiday.
A location near the beach where people vacation.		
last minute	<i>adjective</i>	We made some last-minute changes to our travel plans.
Happening or being done at the final moment.		

POST-LISTENING | Activities

Shadowing

Choose one part of the conversation and listen to it again. Try to repeat what you hear out loud. Make sure you copy pronunciation, pauses*, and stress*.

*Use the transcript to mark the **pauses** with a slash / and the **stress** with an underline ___.

Speaking Practice

Below are two questions you can use for speaking practice.

- 1. Read each question and write some notes. Keep them short and only use bullet points or a mind map – these notes are just to help you organize your ideas.*
- 2. Record yourself answering the questions. Try to speak for at least 2 minutes for each question.*

Packing for a Trip: Discuss your experiences and preferences when packing for a trip.

Q: Do you prefer to travel light or do you tend to overpack?

Airport and Travel Troubles: Talk about challenges you've had at airports or train stations when traveling.

Q: Have you ever travelled with heavy luggage? How did you try to make the travel experience smoother?

Transcript

Colin: This is episode six of our travel series and today's topic is travel light, travel right. That's a good test of L and R pronunciation. Um, hello Su.

Su: Hey.

Colin: How are you?

Su: Good, how are you?

Colin: I'm very well. Um, so travel light. We're saying that traveling with as little baggage as you can is a positive thing. What are the first benefits of traveling light that we're going to talk about?

Su: I think the fact that you don't have to carry so much stuff around. Uh, well, you need to get yourself to the airport. Once you arrive to wherever you're going, you have to carry these bags with you. Uh, train stations sometimes are difficult and with many stairs.

Colin: Train stations, um, and also just trains, you know, if you've got a huge suitcase and you're trying to get on a busy train at five, six o'clock in the evening or you know, seven, eight o'clock in the morning, this rush hour period, it's going to be difficult.

Colin: Um, so yeah, traveling with as little baggage as possible is going to make things easier. Um, we were traveling in the summer and we saw some people with so many bags. We saw a couple, both of them had three cases each.

Su: Two big ones and one small one each.

Colin: Yeah. I don't know what they were doing. I don't know what kind of traveling they were doing, but it was a lot. Um, so yeah, you can move around much more easily. You don't have the stress of having to carry or move these huge bags or cases around.

Su: And often I feel like, uh, you can overpack. You pack more things than you're going to use.

Colin: Yeah, you always think the worst is going to happen.

You always think like, Oh, what if all my shirts get dirty or my trousers get dirty, or what if I ruin these shoes or whatever? So you always plan with the idea that you need extra, you need a backup option in terms of clothing. Um, with experience traveling you realize that these horrible things don't happen. Uh, and if they do, it's fine. If you need to get a new T-shirt, you can get a new T-shirt. There are shops in other countries, in other places.

Su: You can probably wash your clothes.

Colin: Exactly. You can wash your clothes. Um, so yeah, traveling like, I think reduces a little bit of the stress of travel because you have less things to carry around, less things to worry about, and also, when you have a really big case, you're trying to find something small in your case and you just can't find it because you've got so much stuff with you, whereas if you have a small case or a small bag, you know exactly what you have with you the whole time. Um, what about The cost, is it cheaper to travel light?

Su: I think these days it is, yes, um, because now airlines will charge more for checking-in bags.

Colin: Yeah, there'll be an extra cost. If you have only a carry-on, and carry-on means you take it onto the plane with you, into the cabin of the plane. Very often that's, uh, free. But, if you have a case or a big bag and you want to check it in, which means it goes into the storage area of the plane, they're gonna charge you for that.

Um, I remember when I started travelling, they didn't have that system. Um, having a checked bag was part of your ticket price. Um, but now maybe tickets are cheaper, but if you want to check-in a bag, they're gonna charge you for it. Um, when we were traveling in the summer, we saw a lot of people traveling only with carry-on bags. So they took the bags onto the plane with them and they didn't have check-in baggage?

Su: No. Uh, what I noticed was, um, it took more time for us to get into the plane because everyone has to find a spot for their carry-ons.

Colin: Right. So actually, once you're on the plane, in the overhead compartment, there's a lot of organization that has to happen.

Su: Indeed. But these people that travel with the carry-ons, we arrive to a place and they can just walk out. They don't need to wait for their bags.

Colin: Yeah, once the plane lands, they've got their bags with them and they can leave immediately so they can save a lot of time.

Okay, so traveling with less is a good thing. Um, a good tip I think in terms of clothing is something called layering. So if you're traveling, you don't know what the weather's gonna be like. You know, the weather could be hot one day, cold another day, might rain. Um, you don't really know what kind of weather to expect, but if you layer your clothing, so you have thin layers of clothing, maybe a T-shirt a long sleeve shirt, maybe a fleece, a light jacket. You've got layers of clothing. That gives you some options. So if it's hot, you just wear the T-shirt, if it's a little bit cooler, you've got a long sleeve shirt or maybe a jumper, if it's cold and raining, you've got your, your jacket, but having those layers is going to help you.

Su: Yeah, and, uh, you can mix and match these layers. So that's always, uh, good. Sometimes, uh, when I'm packing, I try to pack the same colors, so I only need a pair of shoes that match everything.

Colin: Right, yeah, so this is kind of versatility.

Su: Yeah.

Colin: You're looking for a bit of versatility in your packing. So that top goes with those trousers, for example. Everything kind of works together, so you have many, many different... Um, outfits.

Su: Yes, you have options with very little, uh, clothing, let's say. So yeah, like choosing, uh, some colors and you just go with that.

Colin: Yeah.

Su: Um, it really saves space.

Colin: Something that I think is an important thing to do when travelling is try to remember that there will be occasions when you want to look a little bit more smart than a typical tourist. So when you're a tourist, you spend a lot of time outside running around, seeing things, doing things, so you wear comfortable clothing. Maybe you've got comfortable shoes, you know, T-shirt, shorts, baseball cap, whatever. But maybe there are times when you want to do something a little bit fancy. Maybe you want to go for a nice meal, or you want to go to the theater or something, or go to a fancy bar, or just not look like a typical tourist for a while.

So try to think about clothing that can look a little bit smart, even if it's just like a, a white shirt that can look smart or maybe shoes that are not, you know, running shoes, um, or sandals, you know, something that looks a bit different. And I noticed this when we were in Spain. It was my first time going to Spain and you told me, try not to dress like a tourist, okay? I know it's hot, but bring some chinos, bring shirts, try to look smart. And that's the way that people in Madrid dress.

Su: Yeah, it's a city that is hot, but it's still a city. So people do dress up, you know, it's not, it's not the beach and yeah, I think we were able to just pass as not locals, but we didn't call that much attention, uh, being tourists.

Colin: Yeah, I think they are probably used to seeing the tourists from the beach in the city and they're clearly tourists. So yeah, I thought that was an interesting, uh, way to think about it. You're in a city. There's lots of professionals, business people, you know, um, working, living their, their life. Um, and yeah, it's not a beach resort, so it doesn't have to be complicated, but, you know, make sure that you've got at least something that allows you to, to dress up a little bit. Um, and it will help you make choices at the last minute. Say you decide to go for a nice dinner. Um, or do something kind of a little bit more cultural. You have that option. You've got a light jacket that you can wear or a shirt or a pair of, uh, leather shoes. Something that makes you look like you're not a tourist, uh, for a couple of hours.

Su: Exactly.

ANSWERS – Multiple-Choice Questions

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|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. c | 3. b | 4. c |
| 5. d | 6. b | 7. c | 8. d |