

How to describe an event

In this lesson you will learn language for explaining something that happened to you.

Starter

- 1 What is happening in the picture?



- 6.1 ◦ 2 Listen to this conversation in an office. What are they talking about?

Expressions

- 6.2 ◦ 1 Mark, Gina, and Simon are talking during a coffee break at their office in New York. Listen and answer the questions.
- 1 Why was Simon in London?
 - 2 What was the problem at Heathrow Airport?
 - 3 What did the airline staff ask the passengers?
 - 4 What did Simon say?
- 6.3 ◦ 2 Listen to the final part of the conversation. Put the questions in the correct order and answer them.
- 1 second / he / did / what / say / time / the?
 - 2 the / staff / to / proposal / did / his / airline / agree?
 - 3 things / three / Simon / get / did / what?
- 6.2 ◦ 3 Listen again to the earlier part of the conversation. Correct the sentences with the verb forms used for telling a story.
- 1 I was in London a few years ago on a business trip, and flew back home.
 - 2 I could see these two ground staff – they came down the line.
 - 3 Well, I can see that there were families on vacation ...

Speaking

- 1 Tell your teacher about a problem that you had while travelling.
 - Where were you travelling to / from?
 - Why were you travelling?
 - What was the problem?
 - How did you feel?
 - Who did you talk to?
 - How was it resolved?
 - How did you feel afterwards?
- 2 Role-play a situation at the airport, like Simon's. Ask for compensation. Try to use language from **Expressions** and the **Language box** for how to describe an event.

Language box

If an adjective has one syllable, add **-er than** to make the comparative:

This model is **newer than** the one you're using.

Your presentation should be **shorter than** ten minutes.

The flight will be **longer than** three hours.

Two important exceptions are **good** and **bad**:

I think your new office is much **better than** the old one.

The heating system is **worse than** it was before, I'm afraid.

If an adjective ends in **-y** and has two syllables, replace the **-y** with **-ier**.

Careful! This is **heavier than** you think.

You seem **happier than** you did last week.

Hint

Would you mind is common for polite requests. The verb for the request takes the gerund form.
Would you mind flying tomorrow instead of today?

Hint

Notice the answer to **would you mind**.
Would you mind waiting here, madam?
No, I wouldn't (mind). (= that is not a problem)
Actually, I would (mind). (= that is a problem, I do not agree)

- 4 ... and they probably have had a tighter schedule than me.
- 5 And I went home, so a day earlier, a day later, what the heck.
- 6 No, I was saying: 'It would be very inconvenient for me ...'

4 Put the words from the dialogue in the correct order. Then listen again to the final part of the conversation to check your answers.

- 1 guess / and / what? They couldn't find anyone else ...
- 2 knew / I / if / back / came / they, the situation would be worse.
- 3 so / told / them / I: 'As I said before, it's not convenient for me to miss this flight, but ...'
- 4 finished / not / on / I'm / yet / hang.
- 5 do / think / what / you? They agreed immediately.
- 6 Well / phoned / told / home / I / and / wife / my ...

Writing

- 1 You work for an airline that uses local hotels when it has overbooked flights. Write a report for your boss comparing the two hotels below. Recommend one of the hotels to use when flights are overbooked.

The Emperor, usually very quiet, beautiful hotel, good restaurant and business facilities, small gym, staff very helpful when there's a problem.

The Royal, some street noise, excellent restaurant, poor business facilities, no gym, staff not very helpful when there's a problem.

For most adjectives with two or more syllables, add **more ... than**:

Their idea is **more expensive** and **more complicated** than ours.

Or **less ... than** to make the negative:

This kind of problem is **less frequent** than before.

Look

Look again at listening scripts 6.1–6.3 on page 114. Find more examples of comparatives.

Lesson record

3 new words from this lesson

- 1
- 2
- 3

3 useful phrases from this lesson

- 1
- 2
- 3

Things to remember

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....