

TEACHER'S GUIDE · EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Can I take it on the plane?

LEVEL
A1 · Beginner

TIME
60 min

SKILLS
Reading · Speaking · Grammar · Vocabulary

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Learning objectives

In this lesson, you can:

- understand a real table of airport rules
- say what you can and can't take on a plane
- use *can / can't* for rules and ability
- talk about travelling for work

Key vocabulary

hand luggage · hold luggage · security · allowed · scissors · umbrella · passport · wallet · charger · trip

Materials

- this worksheet
- web page: *Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports: Personal items* (GOV.UK)

1 Warm up

SPEAKING

Look at the pictures. What can you see? How are they connected to the topic? Then answer the questions with your teacher.



PICTURE A · hand luggage



PICTURE B · airport security



PICTURE C · scissors



PICTURE D · an umbrella

1. Do you travel for work? Where do you go?
2. What is in your bag today? Tell me three things.
3. What can you see at airport security?

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2 Vocabulary preparation

VOCABULARY

Part A: Match the words with the definitions.

allowed (adj) · umbrella (n) · hand luggage (n) · security (n) · scissors (n) · hold luggage (n)

1. _____ the bag you take on the plane with you
2. _____ the bag you check in; it travels under the plane
3. _____ the place at the airport where staff check your bags
4. _____ OK; the rules say yes
5. _____ a tool with two blades for cutting paper
6. _____ you open it when it rains

Part B: Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

toothbrush · passport · wallet · laptop · keys · charger

1. I need my _____ to travel to another country.
2. I check my emails on my _____ .
3. My phone has no battery. Where is my _____ ?
4. I clean my teeth with a _____ .
5. I open my front door with my _____ .
6. My money and cards are in my _____ .

3 Main input: read and learn

READING · GRAMMAR

The UK government has an official page with the rules for bags on planes. Look at the table "Other personal items".

READING

Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports: Personal items
GOV.UK (UK government) · official guide · read the table (about 2 minutes) · free
https://www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions/personal-items

Look at the table. Answer: Can you take a spoon in your hand luggage? Can you take a corkscrew in your hand luggage?

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Language focus: *can / can't*

We use *can* and *can't* for rules (what is allowed) and for ability.

	Rules at the airport	Ability
+	You can take a spoon in your hand luggage.	I can speak Spanish.
–	You can't take fireworks on a plane.	I can't drive.
?	Can I take an umbrella? – Yes, you can.	Can you swim? – No, I can't.

Remember: *can* + verb (no *to*): "You can take...", not "You can to take...". *Can* is the same for all people: I can, she can, they can.

Practice: Complete the sentences with *can't* or *can*.

1. You _____ take an umbrella in your hand luggage.
2. You _____ take fireworks on a plane.
3. _____ I take tweezers in my hand luggage? – Yes, you _____ .
4. You _____ take a corkscrew in your hand luggage, but you _____ put it in your hold luggage.
5. I _____ speak English a little, and I _____ write emails in English.

4 Reading comprehension

READING

Part A: Read the table again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Circle.

1. You can take a spoon in your hand luggage. T / F
2. You can take large scissors in your hand luggage. T / F
3. You can take small scissors (blades no longer than 6cm) in your hand luggage. T / F
4. You can take safety matches in your hold luggage. T / F
5. You can take fireworks in your hold luggage. T / F
6. You can take contact lens solution (up to 100ml) in your hand luggage. T / F

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Part B: Complete the table. Write *Yes* or *No*.

Item	Hand luggage	Hold luggage
a corkscrew		
an umbrella		
a knife with a sharp blade		
a nail file		

Part C: Think and answer.

1. Look at "Cigarette lighter". Where can you put it?

2. You have a business trip tomorrow. Write three things for your hand luggage: *I can take...*

3. Why do airports have these rules? Write one reason.

5 Speaking practice and discussion

SPEAKING

Part A: Choose TWO cue cards. Talk about each card with your teacher for 1–2 minutes.

Cue card 1: My last trip

- Where did I go?
- Bag: big or small?
- Plane, bus or car?

Cue card 2: My work bag

- What is in it?
- What can't I forget?
- Heavy or light?

Cue card 3: At the airport

- Early or late?
- Security: easy or difficult?
- Things I do before my flight

Cue card 4: Business travel

- How often do I travel?
- Good things
- Bad things

Cue card 5: Rules at work

- Things I can do
- Things I can't do
- A good rule

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Part B: Answer the questions with your teacher. Give reasons and examples.

1. What do you usually take in your hand luggage, and why?
2. What can you do at the airport before your flight?
3. What can't you do on a plane? Give two examples.
4. What things can't people take into your office or workplace? Why?
5. Which is better for a business trip: only hand luggage or a big suitcase? Why?

6 Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

REVIEW

Complete the sentences. Then tell your teacher.

1. Three new words from today: _____
2. One thing you can't take in your hand luggage: _____
3. For my next trip, I can take _____ in my hand luggage.
4. At work, I can't _____

Takeaway: Before you fly, check the official rules for your bags. It saves time at security, and you don't lose your things.

+ Optional extension / homework

WRITING

Write 40–60 words with the title "My hand luggage". Use: *I can take... / I can't take... / I always take...*

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Alternative activity:

Make a checklist for a colleague's business trip: five things he or she can take in hand luggage and three things he or she can't take. Present it to your teacher in the next class.

References

GOV.UK. (n.d.). *Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports: Personal items*. https://www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions/personal-items

Original materials: vocabulary, language examples and exercises were written for NATeacher for A1 learners.

Photos: Erik Odiin, American Green Travel, Jörgen Berglund, Matt Artz, Osman Rana on Unsplash (unsplash.com), used under the Unsplash License.

Teacher's guide

Learning objectives. By the end of the lesson, the student can: find information in a real table of rules; use *can / can't* for rules and ability in positive, negative and question forms; talk about travel and rules at work.
Total time: approx. 60 minutes — Warm up 6 · Vocabulary 7 · Main input 10 · Comprehension 14 · Speaking 18 · Wrap-up 5. The extension is optional homework.

▶. Main input: about the resource

Resource: *Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports: Personal items*, GOV.UK (official UK government guide). Free; no login. https://www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions/personal-items

What to read: only the table "Other personal items" (about 20 lines; 2 minutes). GOV.UK writes in plain English, so it is good real reading for A1. Rules can change: check the table before class.

Copyright: GOV.UK content is published under the Open Government Licence; we still show it from the official page so the student uses the real source.

Key information: Hand / hold luggage: corkscrew No / Yes; spoon Yes / Yes; knife with a sharp or pointed blade or longer than 6cm No / Yes (check with airline); small scissors (blades up to 6cm) Yes / Yes; large scissors No / Yes (check with airline); disposable razor, nail clippers / nail file, tweezers, knitting needles, umbrella, walking stick, pushchair, wheelchair Yes / Yes; safety matches Yes / No; non-safety matches and fireworks No / No; cigarette lighter: not in hand luggage, but you can put one lighter in a plastic liquids bag and keep it on you; hold No; contact lens solution Yes (up to 100ml) / Yes.

1. Warm up

6 mins.

Show the pictures and elicit simple words (*bag, airport, scissors, umbrella*). Ask the questions and help the student answer in full sentences: "I travel to Medellín for work."

Possible answers: "They are about travel. You take a bag on the plane. Staff check bags at security."
Support: give a model answer first. **Challenge:** ask "What is always in your bag?"

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2. Vocabulary preparation

7 mins.

The student completes Part A and Part B alone. Check together, say the words aloud and ask the student to repeat the difficult ones.

Part A

1. hand luggage
2. hold luggage
3. security
4. allowed
5. scissors
6. umbrella

Part B

1. passport 2. laptop 3. charger 4. toothbrush 5. keys 6. wallet

British and American English: British *hand luggage* = American *carry-on (bag)*; British *hold luggage* = American *checked baggage*. Both are correct.

3. Main input and language focus

10 mins.

Open the page on screen and show the table “Other personal items”. Explain the two columns: hand luggage / hold luggage. The student answers the two gist questions. **Answers:** Yes, you can take a spoon. No, you can’t take a corkscrew in hand luggage (you can put it in hold luggage).

Present the language focus in 1–2 minutes: elicit the rule from the examples, then move to the practice.

Practice

1. can
2. can’t
3. Can … can
4. can’t … can
5. can … can (personal answer)

Common mistakes: “You can to take” → “You **can take**”; “She cans” → “She **can**”; “You can take it?” → “**Can you** take it?”. Pronunciation: *can* is often weak /kən/ in positive sentences; *can’t* is strong: /kɑ:nt/ in British English and /kænt/ in American English — both are correct.

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4. Reading comprehension

14 mins.

The student reads the table again and works alone. Check together and ask the student to point to the line in the table.

Part A

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F (only in hand luggage) 5. F (not in hand or hold luggage) 6. T

Part B

corkscrew: No / Yes · umbrella: Yes / Yes · knife with a sharp blade: No / Yes (check with your airline) · nail file: Yes / Yes

Part C

1. In a plastic liquids bag, and you keep it on you (on your person). 2. Open answer, e.g. "I can take my laptop, my charger and an umbrella." 3. Open answer, e.g. "For safety. Some things are dangerous on a plane."

Accept: "Yes" or "No" for Part B; for the knife accept "Yes" for hold luggage (the page says to check with your airline). **Support:** read the first five lines of the table together. **Challenge:** the student explains three rules without looking: "You can't take..., but you can..."

5. Speaking practice and discussion

18 mins (cue cards 6 · questions 12).

The student chooses two cards and speaks for 1–2 minutes on each. Then ask the five questions one by one. Let the student finish, then ask follow-up questions: "Why?", "Can you give an example?", "And in your company?"

Model answer (Q1): "I usually take my laptop, my charger and a book. I can work on the plane."
Evaluate: correct *can / can't* + verb (no *to*); travel words; answers longer than one sentence; a reason with *because*.
Correction: note mistakes while the student speaks and correct 2–3 of them at the end, so you don't interrupt fluency.

6. Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

5 mins.

The student completes the sentences and says them aloud. Read the takeaway together and ask: "What do you check before a flight?"

Possible answers: "hand luggage, security, allowed"; "You can't take fireworks."; "I can take my laptop and my charger."

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+. Optional extension / homework

Check: 40–60 words; correct *can / can't* + verb; travel vocabulary. Model: "I travel for work every month. I can take my laptop, my charger and my passport in my hand luggage. I always take an umbrella. I can't take big scissors."

✓. Did the student reach the objectives?

- Can the student find the rules in the table quickly?
- Can the student say five things you can or can't take on a plane?
- Does the student use *can / can't* + verb correctly, including questions?
- Can the student talk about business travel in 3–4 sentences?

✓. Resource verification log

Resource	Institution / URL	Type · length	Checks (21 Oct 2026)	Result
Hand luggage restrictions at UK airports: Personal items	GOV.UK (UK government) https://www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions/personal-items	Official web guide · one table (about 2 min)	Page loads; table matches the exercises; free, no login; plain English suitable for A1; not a language school	**Approved**

Photos: credits listed in the references (Unsplash). No image links are included in the worksheet.

References

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