Flight Friends

The bustling atmosphere of the airport was thick with anticipation, as countless passengers eagerly awaited their upcoming flights. Two women, strangers until fate decided to cross their paths, found themselves sharing a bench by the departure gate. Their flight had been delayed, and it seemed they had more to talk about than just the passing time. As they sat and chatted, they discovered both had arrived using different modes of transportation, making their prelude to meeting as varied as their destinations.

The first woman, Anna, had decided to take the train to reach the airport. She explained it was often more reliable than driving, and she wanted to avoid the stress of traffic. Anna found comfort in the rhythmic clatter of the train as it weaved through the city, a peaceful prelude to the chaos of travel. She shared how she had double-checked her passport and visa countless times before leaving, fearing the panic of forgetting something so vital.

On the other hand, Sarah, who had just met Anna, admitted that she had taken a taxi. She reasoned that it allowed her to make use of the time to check her emails one last time before embarking on her journey. Sarah had a fear of missing out on important messages just before a long flight. She laughed, recounting how she had almost left her boarding pass on the kitchen counter in her rush.

The conversation flowed effortlessly between the two, as if they were long-lost friends rather than brief acquaintances. They discussed their reasons for traveling, the places they dreamed of visiting, and the taste of adventure that seemed to linger in the air. Each story was punctuated by a glance at the departure board, a silent wish for their delayed flight to be called.

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The hours passed, and the once strangers found themselves sharing snacks and travel experiences. They compared notes on the best ways to pass time during a flight, debated the most comfortable airport attire, and even shared tips on how to breeze through security. It was a companionship forged by circumstance but enriched by shared laughter and mutual understanding.

As the announcement finally came that their flight was ready to board, Anna and Sarah gathered their carry-on bags and joined the queue. They exchanged contact information, promising to keep in touch and to share pictures of their travels. The delay had given them an unexpected gift – a new friendship born amidst the transient nature of an airport lounge. And as they walked towards the plane, passports and boarding passes in hand, they both felt that the delay was not so much an inconvenience as it was the start of something wonderful.

CEFR Level Card

General Level: B2.5

Vocabulary: B2.3

Verb Forms: A2.4

Sentences: B2.1

Vocabulary

amidst ADP +∞ x1
Definition (En):
prep. Alt. of Amid

anticipation NOUN C2 x1
Definition (En):
n. an expectation
n. something expected (as on the basis of a norm)
n. anticipating with confidence of fulfillment

attire NOUN C2 x1
Definition (En):
n. clothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion

boarding NOUN C2 x2
Definition (En):
n. the act of passengers and crew getting aboard a ship or aircraft
n. a structure of boards

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clatter NOUN +∞ x1
Definition (En):
n. a rattling noise (often produced by rapid movement)
v. make a rattling sound

companionship NOUN C1 x1
Definition (En):
n the state of being with someone

enrich VERB C1 x1
Definition (En):
v. make better or improve in quality
v. make wealthy or richer

forge VERB C1 x1
Definition (En):
n. furnace consisting of a special hearth where metal is heated before shaping
n. a workplace where metal is worked by heating and hammering
v. create by hammering
v. make a copy of with the intent to deceive

inconvenience NOUN C1 x1
Definition (En):
n. an inconvenient discomfort
n. the quality of not being useful or convenient

linger VERB C1 x1
Definition (En):
v. remain present although waning or gradually dying
v. take one's time; proceed slowly

prelude NOUN C2 x2
Definition (En):
n. music that precedes a fugue or introduces an act in an opera
v. serve as a prelude or opening to
v. play as a prelude

punctuate VERB C1 x1
Definition (En):
v. insert punctuation marks into
v. interrupt periodically

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weave VERB C1 x1
Definition (En):
n. pattern of weaving or structure of a fabric
v. interlace by or as if by weaving
v. create a piece of cloth by interlacing strands of fabric, such as wool or cotton
v. to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course

Phrases

PHRASE	COUNT	SENTENCES
boarding pass	2	• She laughed, recounting how she had almost left her boarding pass on the kitchen counter in her rush. • And as they walked towards the plane, passports and boarding passes in hand, they both felt that the delay was not so much an inconvenience as it was the start of something wonderful.
breeze through (something)	1	• They compared notes on the best ways to pass time during a flight, debated the most comfortable airport attire, and even shared tips on how to breeze through security.
by circumstance	1	• It was a companionship forged by circumstance but enriched by shared laughter and mutual understanding.
compare notes on (someone or something)	1	• They compared notes on the best ways to pass time during a flight, debated the most comfortable airport attire, and even shared tips on how to breeze through security.
cross somebody's path	1	• Two women, strangers until fate decided to cross their paths, found themselves sharing a bench by the departure gate.
dream of (someone or something)	1	• They discussed their reasons for traveling, the places they dreamed of visiting, and the taste of adventure that seemed to linger in the air.

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fear of missing out	1	• Sarah had a fear of missing out on important messages just before a long flight.
in the air	1	• They discussed their reasons for traveling, the places they dreamed of visiting, and the taste of adventure that seemed to linger in the air.
keep in touch	1	• They exchanged contact information, promising to keep in touch and to share pictures of their travels.
make use of (someone or something)	1	• She reasoned that it allowed her to make use of the time to check her emails one last time before embarking on her journey.
miss out on (something)	1	• Sarah had a fear of missing out on important messages just before a long flight.
on the other hand	1	• On the other hand, Sarah, who had just met Anna, admitted that she had taken a taxi.
pass time	2	• Their flight had been delayed, and it seemed they had more to talk about than just the passing time. • They compared notes on the best ways to pass time during a flight, debated the most comfortable airport attire, and even shared tips on how to breeze through security.
rather than	1	• The conversation flowed effortlessly between the two, as if they were long-lost friends rather than brief acquaintances.
thick with (someone or something)	1	• The bustling atmosphere of the airport was thick with anticipation, as countless passengers eagerly awaited their upcoming flights.

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Reading Comprehension Exercises

True / False / Not Given

1. Anna took a train to the airport because she finds it more relaxing than driving.

2. Sarah took a taxi to the airport to save time so she could check her emails until the last minute.

3. During their conversation, Anna and Sarah talked about their past travel misadventures.

4. While waiting for their flight, Anna and Sarah realized they have similar tastes in travel destinations.

5. Sarah's taxi ride to the airport was stressful due to her nearly forgetting her boarding pass.

6. The two women had prior knowledge of each other before meeting at the airport.

7. They found something to talk about due to the delayed flight.

8. The meeting between Anna and Sarah was set to happen by prior arrangement.

9. The travelers exchanged travel tips while waiting for their delayed flight.

10. Anna and Sarah felt that the time spent waiting for the flight was wasted.

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Multiple Choice

1. Why did Anna consider the train more reliable than driving to the airport?
   A) To avoid the stress of traffic
   B) Because she enjoys the scenic route
   C) To save money on transportation costs
   D) The train was faster than driving

2. What concern led Sarah to choose a taxi to reach the airport?
   A) She was running late and needed the quickest option
   B) She wanted to check her emails one last time
   C) Taxis were available at a discount
   D) She prefers taxi comfort over other modes of transport

3. What unintentional mistake did Sarah nearly make before leaving for the airport?
   A) She almost forgot to pack her luggage
   B) She nearly left her passport at home
   C) She almost left her boarding pass on the kitchen counter
   D) She forgot to check her email

4. What best describes the nature of the relationship between Anna and Sarah during their wait?
   A) They were mostly silent and kept to themselves
   B) They talked about impersonal topics like the weather
   C) They seemed to be already familiar with each other
   D) They discussed their travels as if they were long-lost friends

5. How did Anna and Sarah pass the time during the flight delay?
   A) By finding quiet corners to rest in the airport
   B) By sharing snacks and travel experiences
   C) By watching movies on their personal devices
   D) By browsing the duty-free shops in the airport

6. What did the delay in their flight allow Anna and Sarah to do?
   A) Visit the airport lounge
   B) Form a new friendship
   C) Take a nap
   D) Complain to the airport staff

7. What action did Anna and Sarah take as their flight was ready to board?
   A) They left the airport to find a hotel
   B) They asked for compensation for the delay
   C) They went to buy souvenirs
   D) They joined the queue with carry-on bags

8. What was the shared sentiment between Anna and Sarah about the flight delay as they boarded the plane?
   A) It was an unwelcome inconvenience
   B) It was an opportunity to explore the airport
   C) It was the beginning of a pleasant journey
   D) It was the start of something wonderful

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9. Why did Anna ensure she had her passport and visa before leaving for the airport?
   A) She needed them to book her train ticket
   B) She was afraid of losing them at the airport
   C) She feared forgetting these vital documents
   D) They were required for her to enter the airport

10. What did Anna and Sarah promise each other as they boarded their plane?
   A) To never travel together again
   B) To keep in touch and share travel pictures
   C) To complain about the delay to the airline
   D) To meet again at the airport in the future

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