

# ESL Conversation About Travel Problems



## 1. Warm Up Questions

- What's the worst part about traveling someplace?
- Do you get stressed or feel frustrated sometimes when you travel? Explain.
- Talk about your last trip.

## 2. Matching Vocabulary

*Match the words and expressions on the left with the meanings on the right.*

1. exhausted
2. snore
3. frustrating
4. smooth
5. disgusting
6. barely
7. stuck
8. layover
9. to say the least
10. receipt

- a. extremely unpleasant
- b. unable to move from a particular place or location
- c. used to suggest that a situation is much worse or more extreme than you say it is
- d. almost not
- e. a piece of paper that you are given which shows that you have paid for something
- f. extremely tired
- g. no problems; as planned
- h. something that annoys you or makes you angry because you cannot do anything about it
- i. to breathe in a noisy way through your mouth and nose while you are asleep
- j. a short stay between parts of a journey, especially a long plane journey

3. Watch the following YouTube video and answer the questions below:

### Listening Questions

- Where did Johnny go?
- How was his trip?
- How many modes of transportation did he have to take to get there?
- What did he do as soon as he arrived at his hotel in Brazil?
- What was the first bad thing that happened to him?
- Why couldn't Johnny just show them the receipt?
- How long were they stuck on the runway?
- How were the movies and food on the plane?
- Why couldn't he sleep on the airplane?
- What was so bad about the train?
- Why couldn't he sleep on the second plane?
- What happened with the bus that he had to take once he arrived in Brazil?

4. Listen to the conversation again and fill in the gaps with the missing words:

Shelly: Hey, Johnny! How was your trip to Brazil? Did you have fun?

Johnny: Oh, hi Shelly. Yeah, Brazil was great. I \_\_\_\_\_ so much fun. But the travel was anything but.

Shelly: Oh? What do you mean?

Johnny: Well, it was a long journey to say the least. The way there was everything but smooth. I had to take two buses, a train, and two airplanes. I was so tired that when I finally got to my hotel in Brazil, I \_\_\_\_\_ straight to sleep.

Shelly: Oh, no! What happened?

Johnny: Well, first I had to get on a bus to get to the airport. I had bought a ticket for the bus the day before, but then I \_\_\_\_\_ it! I looked everywhere for it, but I \_\_\_\_\_ find it. It must have fell out of my pocket somewhere.  
So, finally I had to buy a new one.

Shelly: Oh, that sounds frustrating. You mean they wouldn't just give you a new one when you showed them the receipt?

Johnny: I \_\_\_\_\_ have the receipt, I lost that too! It was a complete waste of money.  
Anyways, I got on the plane. Then we were stuck on the runway for about an hour.  
The movies were terrible and the food on the plane was disgusting. I couldn't sleep because the guy that \_\_\_\_\_ next to me was snoring the entire flight. I \_\_\_\_\_ to use earplugs, but they didn't work. It was really stressful.  
Then, when we \_\_\_\_\_, I had to get on a train to another terminal for my next flight. Well, the layover was really short ... since the plane arrived later than scheduled, so I had to run as fast as I could.

Shelly: Oh no! Did you have your ticket for the train?

Johnny: Yes, but the train was jam-packed! I couldn't find anywhere to sit down!

Shelly: How terrible!

Johnny: Yes. I \_\_\_\_\_ and walking so much. My feet were killing me. I couldn't sleep on the plane at all. The food was terrible, and I could barely keep my eyes open at that point.

Shelly: Did you get to sleep on your next plane?

Johnny: No. NOT AT ALL! I was sitting next to a mother with her baby, and the baby cried the whole time.

Shelly: It sounds like a nightmare Johnny! Did anything else happen?

Johnny: Well, when I finally arrived in Brazil, I had to take another bus to my hotel.

Shelly: Well, that should have been easy.

Johnny: Right, it should have been. Unfortunately, the bus \_\_\_\_\_ an hour late! I was completely exhausted.

Shelly: At least it's all over now.

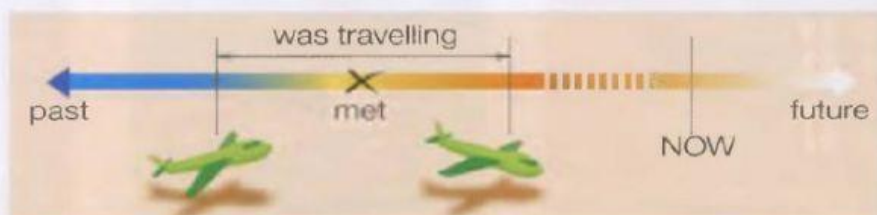
Johnny: Yes, except I have to travel there again next month!

Shelly: Oh, no!

## Grammar

### Study the rules:

- We use the Past Continuous to talk about an action that was in progress when another (shorter) action happened. The action in the Past Continuous might continue after this point.



*I **was travelling** back from China and we **met** on the plane.*  
was travelling = longer action (Past Continuous)  
met = short action (Past Simple)

#### POSITIVE

I/he/she/it + **was** + **verb+ing**

you/we/they + **were** + **verb+ing**

We first met when she **was renting** a room in my sister's flat.

We **were standing** at a bus stop and he said hello.

#### NEGATIVE

I/he/she/it + **wasn't** + **verb+ing**

you/we/they + **weren't** + **verb+ing**

My father **wasn't waiting** for me when I got there.

They **weren't watching** TV, they were in bed.

We can also use Past Continuous to talk about the activity we were doing at a specific time in the past. It means we were in the process of doing something at the specific time or when something else happened:

*I **was watching** TV show at 6 pm yes*

*I **was watching** TV when you came.*

We use Past Continuous to talk about 2 long continuous actions happening at the same time in the past.

*I **was cooking** when my mother **was washing** dishes.*

verb+ing: spelling rules	examples
most verbs: add <b>-ing</b>	go → going wait → waiting
verbs ending in <b>-e</b> : take off <b>-e</b> and add <b>-ing</b>	live → living write → writing
verbs ending in consonant + vowel + consonant: double the last consonant and add <b>-ing</b>	get → getting stop → stopping travel → travelling

**4 a** Helen is talking about how she met Simon. Choose the correct verb forms.

- 1 I first met / *was meeting* Simon when we *waited* / *were waiting* for a bus.
- 2 It *rained* / *was raining* and he *offered* / *was offering* me his umbrella.
- 3 While we *sat* / *were sitting* on the bus, he *gave* / *was giving* me his business card.
- 4 But when I *got* / *was getting* home I couldn't find the card anywhere.

**b** Complete Helen's story. Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Simple or Past Continuous.

- 5 A week later I was walking (walk) to the bus stop after work and I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) him in the street.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to a woman so I \_\_\_\_\_ (not say) hello.
- 7 But while I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for my bus, a car \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) next to me. It was Simon.
- 8 He \_\_\_\_\_ (offer) to drive me home and I \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) him in for a coffee. That \_\_\_\_\_ (be) 22 years ago!

## Discussion Questions to talk about Travel Problems

Have you ever been stuck on the runway? For how long?

How do you feel about crowded trains?

Have you ever lost a ticket for travel or anything else?

*Use the following flashcards to talk about travel problems.*

