

GOING THROUGH CUSTOMS

Useful words



Customs officer



Passport



ID card



Suitcase



Backpack



Hand luggage



Firearm



Metal detector



Body scanner



Packet of cigarettes



Carton of cigarettes



Bottle of spirits

Extra words

- **Luggage** – all the bags that you take with you when you travel abroad.
- **Exotic species** – a plant, animal or insect that is taken from its native habitat into another country.
- **Smuggle** – to take goods illegally into a country.
- **Tax / duty** – money you pay to the government for certain goods: cigarettes, alcohol, etc.
- **Duty-free shop** – a shop in an airport where you can buy goods at a cheaper price because you do not have to pay tax on them.
- **Duty-free allowance** – the amount of goods you're allowed to take into a country without having to pay tax.
- **VAT – Value Added Tax** – a tax that is added to the price of goods or services.
- **Declare** – if you have something to declare, you have goods that you must pay tax on.
- **Green channel** – you walk through this area in an airport if you have nothing to declare.
- **Red channel** – you walk through this area in an airport if you have something to declare.
- **Banned goods** – goods that you can't bring into a country: drugs, guns, explosives...
- **Restricted goods** – goods that have controls over the quantity you can bring in, etc: some food products, some animal products, some plants, some souvenirs made from endangered species...

Dialogue: The customs officer

In this dialogue, Peter, who has flown in from New York City, is going through customs. [Complete the dialogue with the correct words.]



Customs: Hi, could you put your bag on the table, please?
Peter: Yes, sure.
Customs: Would you mind (1) _____ it for me, please?
Peter: Yes, of course.
Customs: Did you (2) _____ it yourself?
Peter: Yes, I did.
Customs: Where have you (3) _____ in from?
Peter: New York City.
Customs: Is this your first time in the UK?
Peter: Yes.
Customs: Is there anyone else (4) _____ with you?
Peter: No.
Customs: Can I (5) _____ your passport, please?
Peter: Yes, erm, here you are.

Customs: OK, and what's the purpose of your visit?
Peter: I'm (6) _____ some friends and relatives.
Customs: And how long do you plan to (7) _____?
Peter: 15 days.
Customs: Where will you be staying?
Peter: At my uncle's house.
Customs: Have you got anything to (8) _____?
Peter: No, I don't think so. I mean, I've got this bottle of whisky, but I got it in the duty-free shop.
Customs: That's all right. That's within your duty free allowance. OK, you can go now. Enjoy your stay.
Peter: Thanks.