



Unit 26 On the go

Before you read

Think about these questions. How many bags do you take when you travel? How do you decide what to pack?

Read the article

Traveling Light

If you want to travel happily, travel light. [Adapted]

—Antoine de Saint Exupéry, 1900–1944, French writer and pilot

Bringing too much luggage is a common mistake many travelers make. That's why travel experts recommend packing everything you need for a trip in just *one* bag. Here are some tips from the experts on traveling light.

1. Choose the right bag.

When you choose a bag for your trip, look for three things. First, look at quality. The bag should be well made so it does not break or fall apart during your trip. Second, check the size and weight of the bag. Choose a bag that's small and light. Remember, you—not airline or hotel employees—will be carrying your bag most of the time, so it should be easy to carry. Finally, choose a bag with soft sides. Soft-sided bags can fit into small spaces where a hard-sided bag will not go.

2. Pack carefully.

People often overpack because they are afraid of what *might* happen on their trip. They pack everything that they may possibly need. Don't pack items that you *might* want. Instead, choose items that you *cannot live without!* If you are going to a place with hot weather, don't bring a jacket! If your cell phone won't work in that place, leave it at home! The fewer things you bring, the easier your trip will be.

Clothing takes up the most room in a suitcase, so don't bring too much of it. Pack clothes that you can mix and match, for example, pants and shirts in similar colors or that go well together. Choose a few simple and easy-to-care-for outfits, including the one you will wear on the airplane. If you are going someplace cool, think about buying a sweater or jacket from the place you are visiting. Often locally bought clothing is more appropriate, and you will also have a souvenir to take home!

3. Carry your bag on the airplane.

It is always best to carry your bag onto the airplane. If you have a small bag, you can carry it with you. If not, you have to check your bags with the airline. However, checked luggage can be lost. In 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation reported that for every 1,000 airline passengers, four people lost a bag. That's why experienced travelers have a saying: "There are two kinds of bags: carry-on and lost."



Build your reading skills: Locating reasons

Read the advice on packing light. Write the reason for each piece of advice. Choose your answers from the reasons in the box.

So it does not get lost	So it can fit in a small space
So you don't take too many clothes	So you can easily carry it
So you don't over-pack	So it does not break or fall apart

Advice

- Buy a quality bag.
- Choose a small, light bag.
- Choose a soft-sided bag.
- Only pack items that you really need.
- Choose clothing that you can mix and match.
- Carry your bag on the airplane.

Why? (Reason)

- So that it doesn't break or fall apart
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Check your comprehension

Read the article again. Complete the sentences with the correct information. Circle *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- The article recommends taking _____ per person on a trip.
 - one bag
 - two bags
 - three or more bags
- You should choose a bag that _____.
 - has hard sides
 - isn't very expensive
 - is easy to carry
- Most people _____ when they travel.
 - don't pack enough
 - pack too much
 - pack the wrong things
- When you pack your clothing, choose a few outfits that _____.
 - have similar colors
 - are washable
 - are fashionable
- Luggage is sometimes lost when it is _____.
 - shipped in advance
 - checked on an airplane
 - carried onto an airplane
- According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, for every 1,000 airline passengers, _____ people lost a bag.
 - three
 - four
 - five