

Vocabulary: Buying Tickets

When you are buying plane tickets for your vacation, you have many options. You can buy the tickets directly from the **airline**, or you can go to a **travel agency** and speak to a **travel agent** who will help you find the best **deals**. Many people **prefer** **online travel agencies** such as Travelocity, Expedia, or Orbitz, where they can compare prices, **book flights and hotels**, and even **reserve** a **rental car**.

You can sometimes find cheaper tickets if you travel as part of a **tour group**. A travel agent can help you buy a **package deal**, which includes your flight, hotel, meals, activities and entertainment. The tour group **arranges** all of the activities, and the members of the tour group **go sightseeing** to famous **tourist sites** together. Many people like travelling this way, but others prefer to be more **independent** and **strike out on their own**.

VOCABULARY

airline – an 'airplane company'

travel agent – a person who helps other people buy plane tickets and arranges travel plans for people

travel agency – a company that helps people arrange their travel plans. (travel agents work in travel agencies)

online travel agency – a travel agency that is on the Internet

deal(s) – special prices; cheap prices; sales

book - to arrange a time or buy a ticket for something (flight, hotel, train, bus, etc.)

flight – a trip on an airplane ('fly' is a verb; 'flight' is a noun)

reserve – to book; to keep something aside so you can use it later

rental car – a car that you pay for to use for a short time

tour group – a group of people that go on vacation together

package deal – a kind of 'deal' that includes many different things purchased together (such as flight, hotel, and meals).

arrange – to prepare, set up, organize

go sightseeing – when on vacation, to go to the most interesting places and take pictures

tourist sites – places that many tourists like to go (tourists are people who are on vacation in a place)

independent – doesn't need other people's help, can take care of yourself

IDIOM

strike out on your own - to leave a group of people and go do something that you want to do, by yourself

Fill in the blanks with a vocabulary word in the box below.

airline	travel agent	travel agency
deal	book	flight
tour group	package deal	arrange
go sightseeing	tourist sites	independent

1. I always fly with the same _____ because they give me frequent flyer miles*.
2. The _____ from China to the US is almost 12 hours long.
3. This is one of the most famous _____ in Italy.
4. Melissa went to Europe in a _____ because she likes to travel with many people.
5. Your travel agent can help you _____ a flight and a hotel.
6. *A flight around the world for only \$100!! What a great _____!!*
7. Rita is very _____, so I don't think she will join a tour group.
8. My uncle James helps people arrange their vacations. He works for a _____.
9. When I go on vacation, I like to stay in the hotel, but my parents prefer to _____.
10. The travel agency has a _____: if you book the flight and hotel together, you can save 25%!
11. I know a good _____ who can help you book a cheap flight.
12. Your travel agent can help you _____ a suitable vacation.

*"Frequent flyer miles" are like "points" that airlines give to their customers. You can use the "miles" to get free tickets.