



There are lots of other people here in the same boat.

Lesson 16

HANDLING A DELAY AT THE AIRPORT

Tom's flight to Chicago on Flyaway Airlines has been delayed, and now he worries he'll miss his meeting. He talks to Mike, a representative of the airline.

VOICE: Attention passengers on Flight 394 to Chicago. This flight has been delayed. Please **stand by** for more information.

Tom: Excuse me, I'm on the flight to Chicago. When will it depart now?

Mike: It looks like it'll be delayed at least two hours. I'll **keep you posted**.

Tom: I have a 4 o'clock meeting in Chicago. If the flight gets in at 3:30, there's **no way** I'll make it.

Mike: Sorry, but there's nothing I can do. There are lots of other people here **in the same boat**.

Tom: Are there any other flights to Chicago?

Mike: Yes, there's a 1 p.m. departure, but it's **fully booked**.

Tom: Can you **put me on the waiting list**?

Mike: I'll add you to the list, but **don't hold your breath**. There are **quite a few** people already on the list.

Tom: Can I fly another airline?

Mike: Other airlines won't **honor your Flyaway Airlines ticket**.

Tom: Oh, **for crying out loud!** This is so annoying.

Mike: I'm sorry you're annoyed, but there's nothing more I can do.

Tom: Let me **give you a piece of my mind**. I won't be using Flyaway Airlines again anytime soon!

IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

don't hold your breath – don't count on it; it's unlikely

- Becky said she'd invite us over for dinner this week, but **don't hold your breath**. She's unreliable.

for crying out loud – an expression one says when annoyed or angry

- **For crying out loud!** Somebody parked right behind us in the parking lot, and now we can't get our car out!

fully booked – having no availability; with all seats taken

- I wanted to take an 8 a.m. flight from New York to London, but the flight was **fully booked**.

(to) give someone a piece of one's mind – to tell someone what one really thinks

- Our waiter has been really slow all evening. I'm going to **give him a piece of my mind!**

(to) honor a ticket – to accept a ticket

- Since Delta Airlines canceled my flight to Orlando, they promised that another airline would **honor my ticket**.

in the same boat – in the same bad situation; sharing the same negative experience

- When the airport shut down due to a blizzard, I was stuck in the airport. Many other people were **in the same boat**.

(to) keep someone posted – to update someone; to give someone the latest information

- **Keep me posted** on your flight status.

no way – no chance

- The report is due on Friday? There's **no way** we're going to finish it on time.

put someone on a (or the) waiting list – to add somebody to a list of people waiting for a service

- You want to upgrade to business class? I'll **put you on the waiting list**.

quite a few – many; a fairly large number

- **Quite a few** passengers were stuck at Kennedy Airport overnight after their flights were canceled due to bad weather.

(to) stand by – to wait for further information

- Passengers for Flight 52 to Dallas, your flight has been delayed. Please **stand by**.

Practice the Expressions

Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:

- 1) We lost our power in the snowstorm. Our neighbors' houses were also dark, so we knew they were **in the same boat**.
 - a) traveling with us
 - b) in the same situation
 - c) on vacation
- 2) **For crying out loud!** We've been sitting here for 20 minutes waiting for the waiter to come take our order.
 - a) Let's speak up!
 - b) Good news!
 - c) How annoying!
- 3) Maria's Bistro is **fully booked** for tonight.
 - a) available
 - b) not available
 - c) closed

- 4) You're going out on a date with the guy you met on the Internet? Good luck and **keep me posted!**
- a) tell me what happens
 - b) call me while you're on the date
 - c) be careful
- 5) Sorry, we can't **honor your bus tickets**. They're for a different bus company.
- a) accept your bus tickets
 - b) refund your bus tickets
 - c) return your bus tickets
- 6) We got to Costco before the store opened. There were **quite a few** people waiting in line to get in.
- a) one or two
 - b) thousands of
 - c) many
- 7) Adam said he's going to invite us to his cottage this summer, but **don't hold your breath**.
- a) don't talk to him about it
 - b) don't accept his invitation
 - c) don't count on it
- 8) Look at this traffic! There's **no way** we'll be on time for the play.
- a) a possibility
 - b) no chance
 - c) some chance
- 9) Please **stand by** for more information.
- a) ask
 - b) stand over there
 - c) wait
- 10) Your doctor failed to diagnose your illness and now it's worse? You should call him and **give him a piece of your mind**.
- a) tell him you're angry because he made a mistake
 - b) offer to let him examine your head
 - c) ask him if you can come in for another examination



Language Lens: Annoyed/Annoying

“Annoying” describes the person, place, or thing that **causes** one’s feelings. “Annoyed” says **how** one feels. Something is annoying, so one feels annoyed. Remember: the cause of the feelings ends in -ing. The way one feels ends in -ed. Here’s a list of other word pairs that follow the same pattern:

Cause of the feelings	How one feels
<i>Something is...</i>	<i>...so one feels</i>
surprising	surprised
boring	bored
interesting	interested
disappointing	disappointed
amazing	amazed
confusing	confused
exciting	excited
exhausting	exhausted
terrifying	terrified
shocking	shocked
irritating	irritated
horrifying	horrified
energizing	energized

Examples:

- That was an exhausting trip. I feel exhausted!
- What shocking news! I’m shocked.
- The lecture was boring. I was so bored I almost fell asleep.
- These driving directions are confusing. I’m confused.
- The massage was energizing. I felt energized afterwards.
- This is exciting news! I’m so excited.

Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) After traveling around China for three weeks on business, Chad is ____.
a) exhausting b) exhausted
- 2) It's ____ when people talk during movies.
a) annoyed b) annoying
- 3) You're getting married in July? How ____!
a) exciting b) excited
- 4) That's ____ that your daughter can already say the alphabet at just 18 months!
a) amazed b) amazing
- 5) I was ____ when my friend called and said she couldn't come visit for the weekend.
a) disappointing b) disappointed
- 6) Nate is ____ in other cultures, so he'd make a good diplomat.
a) interested b) interesting
- 7) No wonder people fall asleep in Professor Martin's class. He's so ____.
a) boring b) bored
- 8) Pat found the documentary on Thomas Jefferson very ____.
a) interested b) interesting
- 9) Dana didn't call you to wish you a happy birthday? That's ____.
a) surprised b) surprising
- 10) The instructions are _____. I can't figure out how to install this new software.
a) confusing b) confused