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Episode #038

Booking a Hotel Room in
English with a Mini-Story

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Hi, everyone!

I'm Georgiana, founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help YOU to speak English fluently and confidently.

- Today I'll teach you how to **book a hotel room in English**.
- Later you'll **practice your speaking** with a funny **mini-story** with questions and answers.

As you can see, you can learn English in a fun and effective way, only by listening! Please help me to spread the word by sharing it with your friends and family or by writing a review on iTunes. That means a lot to me. Thanks.

I know that finding an excellent **hotel** and making a reservation can be stressful, especially if you're **booking a room** at the last minute. In this lesson, I'll give you some tips.

I usually search for a hotel online, and after finding the perfect room, I call to get a better rate. When I call, I make sure to ask if breakfast is included and how far is the beach from the hotel. Yes... I love going to the beach when I'm on holiday. Like I just said, before I make a reservation, I check out the hotel online, where I can see the rooms, the location, and the service lists. Sometimes I call and ask for information about the noise level, the walking distance to the restaurants, the beach, etc.

When I'm on a business trip, I make sure I book a very quiet room. I often check into a **single room**, which is for one person and has a **full-size bed (double bed)**. I make sure the hotel is equipped with work areas, a gym, a fast Internet connection, and a laundry service.

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As I just said, whenever I go on holiday, my main option is the beach, and I certainly choose a room with a view. The last time I booked a room at the beach, it was my birthday. I've booked a **suite**. A suite is bigger than a standard hotel room, and in some hotels, you'll also find an **executive suite** or a **family suite**.

I already mentioned two types of hotel rooms: a **single room** and a suite, but there are other types of hotel rooms:

You may have already booked a **double room** or a **twin room**. Both rooms are for two people. The double room comes with a **full-size bed**, but in the twin room, the two guests sleep in two separate beds.

Nearly all hotels have a specific **check-in** time. If you arrive earlier, you can sometimes store your luggage in the luggage area of the hotel until your room's ready. If you wish to **check-in** early, there's usually an additional charge. When you're ready to check-in, you simply go to the **reception** (front desk).

And if you need to **check out** later, you'll have to request a **late check-out** the first time you **check-in**. If you're lucky, you won't need to pay anything extra, but in some cases, I had to pay an extra fee to say a little more.

Before I continue, I'd like to clarify that the words **check-in** and **check out** have two different meanings:

When we write down the words **check-in/check out** separately, then it's a phrasal verb.

Example: "We had to check in early last night."

And when they're written down with a hyphen,

check-in and **check-out** are adjectives or nouns.

Example: "Jason signed the check-in sheet in the lobby."

Now let's get back to our reservation.

It's always a great idea to confirm your reservation a few days in advance.

I like calling them to confirm that my room has a view and an **en-suite bathroom**. An en-suite bathroom is a bathroom attached to the bedroom. I also need a Wi-Fi connection and a full **English breakfast**; the English breakfast is usually a big breakfast with toast, eggs, bacon, cereals, etc. There's also the **continental breakfast**, which is a small breakfast with croissant, coffee, and juice.

And one last tip: After you check-in, make sure you **inspect** your room. Before **unpacking** and getting comfortable, make sure everything in your room is just the way you expected. Check for **cleanliness**, sufficient **linens**, and **supplies**.

If you aren't happy with your room's location, or noise-level, you can always politely request to be relocated. If they can't place you in a similar room, ask if they'll upgrade you to a nicer room or a room with a view.

Let's continue with a mini-story told with questions and answers. It'll help you to practice some of the new vocabularies that I've covered in the first part of the lesson.

Mini-Story

(Practice your Grammar)

Let's see how the mini-story works:

- I'll give you some information. (A phrase or two).
- Don't worry, I'll ask simple questions.
- After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question!
Just try to give an easy and short answer, not a complex one.
- After you answer, I'll give you a correct answer.

This process will continue, and little by little, I'll be telling a story using questions and answers.

Let's get started!

Ann booked a suite with a spectacular view to celebrate her boyfriend's birthday.

Did Ann book a suite for her boyfriend?

Yes. She booked a suite for her boyfriend.

Why did Ann book the suite?

To celebrate her boyfriend's birthday.

Did she book a suite with a spectacular view or a terrible view?

Not a terrible view. A spectacular view. She booked a suite with a spectacular view.

After checking in at the front desk Ann and her boyfriend Tom rushed to their suite.

Did they check-in or check out?

They didn't check out. They checked in.

Who checked in?

Ann and her boyfriend, Tom. They checked in at the front desk.

Where did they go after checking in at the reception?

They went to their suite.

Did they walk slowly to their room?

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No. No. They didn't walk slowly. They rushed to their room.

Who rushed to their room? Their cat?

No. No. They didn't bring their cat. It was Ann and Tom who rushed to their suite.

When they got to their suite, Ann opened the door and saw a luxurious room covered in gold.

Who got to their suite?

Ann and Tom. They got to their suite.

Who opened the door? Ann or Tom?

Ann. It was Ann who opened the door. Not Tom.

When did Ann open the door? Before or after getting to their suite?

Not before getting to their suite. She opened the door after they got to their suite.

What did Ann see when she opened the door? A dirty old room?

No. No. Not a dirty old room. She saw a luxurious room covered in gold.

Was the suite covered in dust?

No. It wasn't covered in dust. It was covered in gold!

Tom looked surprised but worried and asked Ann if she had robbed a bank.

Did Tom look surprised?

Yes. He looked surprised.

Did he look worried or relaxed?

He didn't look relaxed. He looked worried.

Did Tom ask Ann if she had robbed a bank or a monastery?

Not a Monastery. Tom asked her if she had robbed a bank.

Who asked Ann if she had robbed a bank?

Tom. He asked Ann if she had robbed a bank.

Did he ask Ann if she had robbed a monastery?

No. No. Tom didn't ask Ann if she had robbed a monastery. He asked her if she had robbed a bank.

The problem here was that they entered the luxurious presidential suite by mistake.

What was the problem?

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The problem was that they entered the wrong suite.
Where did they enter? Their suite or the luxurious presidential suite?

They didn't enter their suite. They entered the luxurious presidential suite.

Did they enter the right suite or the wrong suite?

The wrong suite. They entered the luxurious presidential suite. That wasn't their suite!

Poor Ann and Tom. It turned out that there had been a little bit of a mix-up (a misunderstanding). The room they entered wasn't just any suite. It was the super luxurious presidential suite. They were a little disappointed when the hotel manager knocked on their door to give them the bad news. However, after this mix-up, the manager offered them free champagne and a generous coupon for the next time they booked a room.

Great! It's the end of this short story. I hope that you've enjoyed it!

Can you see how many questions you can answer? It's like talking to another person in English. Now imagine a whole story told this way. It's incredible how much you can learn using this method.

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I'll be back with a new episode next week! Bye! Bye!

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