

LECTURA GRADUADA • NIVEL A1

La maleta azul

A short airport story about staying calm, asking for help, and finding what matters.

READ	LEARN	TRAVEL
An airport adventure	Travel vocabulary	Useful questions

FREE LEARNING MATERIAL

Created for Spanish speakers using English while traveling.

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Rosa is traveling alone for the first time. Read for the main idea, then study the bold airport words with the glossary.

Before you begin

What three things do you always put in a suitcase?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Meet Rosa

ROSA

Rosa is 29 and lives in Salem, Oregon. She is flying to Denver to visit her sister and new nephew. It is her first trip alone since she began studying English.

Reading goal

Notice the questions Rosa uses when she cannot find her bag.

THE STORY · PART 1

One blue suitcase

Rosa arrives at the **airport** two hours early. She has one small backpack and one large blue **suitcase**.

At the airline desk, an employee asks, 'Are you checking a bag?'

'Yes, this one,' Rosa says. She places the suitcase on the **scale**.

The employee puts a white **bag tag** on the handle. 'Your bag will go directly to Denver.'

Rosa keeps the small **claim ticket** in her wallet. It has the same number as the bag tag.

Next, Rosa walks through **security**. She takes off her shoes, puts her backpack in a tray, and waits.

Her flight leaves from **gate** C12. She follows the signs and finds a seat near the window.

A message appears on the screen: Flight 248 - On Time. Rosa smiles. Everything is going well.

When it is time to **board**, she shows her ticket and finds seat 18A.

The plane rises above the clouds. Rosa looks down at the small roads and houses. She feels proud. She asked questions, read the signs, and found everything by herself.

Two hours later, the plane lands in Denver.

'Welcome to Denver,' the flight attendant says.

Rosa turns on her phone. Her sister has sent a message: I am waiting outside!

Rosa only needs to collect her blue suitcase.

THE STORY · PART 2

The wrong blue bag

Rosa follows the signs to **baggage claim**. Many people stand around a moving **carousel**. Suitcases appear through a black opening.

She sees black bags, red bags, and two silver bags. Then she sees a large blue suitcase.

‘There it is,’ she says.

Rosa lifts the suitcase from the carousel. It looks like hers, but it feels very heavy. She checks the side pocket. Her yellow ribbon is not there.

Then she reads the **name tag**: Daniel Kim.

‘This is not my bag,’ she says. She quickly puts it back.

The carousel stops. Everyone leaves with a suitcase, but Rosa’s blue bag does not arrive.

Her stomach feels tight. Her clothes, gifts, and her nephew’s little blanket are inside that bag.

Rosa sees a sign: Lost Baggage Office. She walks to the desk.

‘Excuse me. My suitcase is **missing**,’ she tells the employee.

‘I can help you. May I see your claim ticket?’

Rosa gives her the ticket.

‘Please **describe** your suitcase,’ the employee says.

‘It is large and dark blue. It has a yellow ribbon on the handle and two front pockets.’

The employee types the information into a computer. ‘Do you have an address in Denver?’

Rosa gives her sister’s address and phone number.

THE STORY · PART 3

A yellow ribbon

The employee checks the computer. 'Your suitcase was placed on a later flight. It will **arrive** tonight.'

Rosa takes a deep breath. 'Can you **deliver** it to my sister's house?'

'Yes. There is no **charge**. We are sorry for the delay.'

The employee gives Rosa a **reference number**. 'You can use this number to check the bag's status online.'

'Thank you for your help,' Rosa says.

Outside, her sister Elena is waiting with baby Mateo. Rosa hugs them both.

'Where is your suitcase?' Elena asks.

'It is taking another flight,' Rosa says. 'It wants a longer vacation.'

They laugh and drive home.

At 8:30 that evening, a van stops outside. The driver brings a large blue suitcase to the door. Rosa sees the yellow ribbon and checks the name tag.

'Rosa Martínez,' she reads. 'This one is mine.'

Inside the suitcase, everything is safe. Rosa takes out a soft green blanket and gives it to Mateo.

The lost suitcase was a problem, but Rosa solved it. She kept her ticket, asked for help, described the bag, and checked the information.

She learned an important travel lesson:

Stay calm. Ask clearly. Check the name tag.

Words for the airport

Read each word aloud. Then find it in the story and remember what Rosa does.

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL
airport	aeropuerto
suitcase	maleta
scale	báscula
bag tag	etiqueta de equipaje
claim ticket	comprobante de equipaje
security	seguridad
gate	puerta de embarque
board	abordar
baggage claim	recogida de equipaje
carousel	cinta transportadora
name tag	etiqueta con nombre
missing	perdido/a; que falta
describe	describir
arrive	llegar
deliver	entregar
charge	cargo / costo
reference number	número de referencia

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. Where is Rosa flying?

- a) Denver b) Salem c) New York

2. What color is Rosa's suitcase?

- a) Black b) Blue c) Silver

3. How does Rosa know the first bag is wrong?

- a) It is small b) It is open c) It has another name

4. Where is Rosa's suitcase?

- a) On a later flight b) At home c) At security

5. How does the suitcase reach the house?

- a) Elena collects it b) A driver delivers it c) Rosa returns to the airport

B. True or false

1. Rosa travels with her sister. **TRUE / FALSE**

2. Rosa keeps her claim ticket. **TRUE / FALSE**

3. Daniel Kim's suitcase is blue. **TRUE / FALSE**

4. Rosa must pay for delivery. **TRUE / FALSE**

5. The green blanket is safe. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Ask for help

Complete with: **see · describe · deliver · missing**

1. May I _____ your claim ticket?

2. My suitcase is _____.

3. Please _____ your suitcase.

4. Can you _____ it to the house?

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. Why does Rosa arrive at the airport early?

2. What makes Rosa's suitcase easy to identify?

3. What information does Rosa give the employee?

4. How does the claim ticket help Rosa?

5. What three actions help Rosa solve the problem?

E. Describe your bag

Describe a suitcase or backpack in 3-4 sentences. Include its size, color, and two special details.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b

B. True or false

1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. True

C. Ask for help

1. see 2. missing 3. describe 4. deliver

D. Suggested answers

1. She wants enough time to find her way.
2. It is dark blue with a yellow ribbon and two front pockets.
3. She gives a description, an address, and a phone number.
4. It connects her to the correct bag number.
5. She stays calm, asks for help, and checks the information.

**KEEP
GOING**

Practice describing your bag aloud. Then practice asking: 'Can you help me find my suitcase?'

INGLÉS REAL. PARA UNA VIDA SIN BARRERAS.