



## Intermediate Lesson S1

No Joking in English at Immigration!

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## English

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- Drew Oh jeez, here we go again. Another happy-looking immigration officer interrogation!
- Officer Passport, please.
- Drew Hi, here's my passport.
- Officer Where are you flying from today sir?
- Drew I flew in from Singapore.
- Officer What's the purpose of your stay?
- Drew Well, I'm here to work.
- Officer Who's your employer?
- Drew Innovative International.
- Officer And how long do you plan to stay here?
- Drew Six months; that's half a year.
- Officer I know that. Where are you staying?
- Drew I'm going to camp out in a tent under a bridge. Don't worry, I'll have my lighter and my iPhone. I'll be fine.
- Officer Sir, if I were you, I would drop the humor. Where are you staying (forcefully)?
- Drew My employer has rented out an apartment for me in the city. Small but comfortable.
- Officer Fine. Okay, here you are.
- Drew Thanks! (walking away) That wasn't as bad as I thought it would be!

## Vocabulary

English	Definition	Class
interrogation	act of asking detailed questions usually in a forceful way	noun
to fly	to travel by plane	verb
purpose	reason	noun
employer	person or company that has people working for money	noun
plan	something someone intends to do	noun
to plan	to arrange something before it happens	verb
to camp	to sleep in a tent outdoors	verb
tent	cloth shelter that is portable and used outdoors	noun

lighter	small device that produces a flame	noun
humor	act of being funny or amused by things that are funny	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*The interrogation was very intense, and people listened carefully.*

*The interrogation of the prisoner lasted for a long time.*

*He wanted to be a pilot because he loves to fly.*

*She flew from Shanghai to Los Angeles.*

*She had one purpose only: to look for her missing dog.*

*Overproduction of reusable bags defeats the purpose of them being eco-friendly.*

*His employer isn't very happy with him these days.*

*The employer treated the workers well.*

*Even the best plans fail sometimes.*

*I'm still thinking about my plans.*

*They are planning the next meeting.*

*She planned to go home early today.*

*She's going camping this weekend with some of her friends.*

*They camped out by the lake.*

*He bought a new tent to go camping this weekend.*

*The tent was too small for the two of them.*

*I used a lighter to start the fire.*

*She lit her cigarette with a lighter.*

*He has a great sense of humor and is fun to talk to.*

*She has an offbeat sense of humor.*

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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In the dialogue, you hear the immigration officer say, "What's the purpose of your stay?" This question asks the reason for your trip. Be prepared for this question since it is a common question immigration



officers ask. The two usual answers to this are "business" and "sightseeing."

The second phrase we'll look at is "Drop the humor." In other words, this means "stop joking around." The immigration officer says this to Drew because he's not happy with Drew joking around. Some people may find immigration officers to be strict and dry; therefore, joking around with many of them is not a good idea.

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## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Second Conditional.**

#### **"Sir, if I were you, I would drop the humor."**

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When talking about things that are not real now or not probable, we use "if" with the past tense and we use "would" in the second part of the sentence. Even though this type of sentence contains the past tense, it is not talking about past events.

#### **For Example:**

1. "Sir, if I **were** you, I **would** drop the humor."

You can see in this sample sentence from the dialogue that we use the past tense form with the "if," and we use "would" in the second part. Note that the past of the verb "to be" for the subject "I" is "I was," but in this sentence construction we use "were." You may, however, hear "I was" in casual speech from time to time.

Here are some more examples.

#### **For Example:**

1. "If she were a bird, she would fly."
2. "If the elephant balanced on the ball, I would be very entertained."
3. "I would be super rich, if I had a million dollars."



## Cultural Insight

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### **How to Breeze through Immigration in the United States**

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Immigration at airports in the United States is strict with the people who go through. They may ask many questions about your trip and it is essential that you have a visa unless you are a citizen of the visa waiver program. When going through, be polite and answer any questions they have and the process will be smooth.