

МИНЕСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
НИЖЕГОРОДСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМ.Н.А.ДОБРОЛЮБОВА

Таможня

Учебно-методические материалы для студентов
III курса отделения английского языка
переводческого факультета

Нижний Новгород 2002

Печатается по решению редакционно-издательского совета НГЛУ
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УДК 802.0/075.83/

Таможня: Учебно-методические материалы для студентов III курса
отделения английского языка переводческого факультета. – Нижний
Новгород: НГЛУ им.Н.А.Добролюбова, 2002 – с.

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языка и IV курсе /вторая специальность/ переводческого факультета.

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V O C A B U L A R Y

The Customs (House)

The Customs Office

The Customs Hall

The Customs clearance area

The Red Channel

The Green Channel

Health Check

Passport Control Immigration Currency Exchange Desk

Customs regulations

Customs restrictions

to come (fall) under Customs restrictions

Customs formalities

Customs barriers

Landing formalities

an arrival card

a certificate of vaccination

a visa

a receipt

to give (to make out) a receipt

a Customs declaration form (Customs form)

to fill in a declaration form

to enter smth. on the Customs declaration form

a Customs Officer (Inspector)

a Customs agent

to attend to sb.

To examine (inspect, search, go through) one's luggage

To be through with the Customs formalities

to get through the Customs

to pass through the Customs

to be cleared by the Customs

to be released by the Customs

to put a stamp on a suit-case

a "Customs Inspected" stamp

a chalk smth off

to declare

Have you anything to declare?

particulars of the amount, weight and value

to be duty-free

a duty-free quota list

to be liable to duty (dutiabale articles)

Have you any dutiable articles?

a prohibited articles list

to exceed the quota

licence

export (import) licence

to license the export (import) of certain items (goods)

to pay duties on smth.

to pay customs charges on smth.

to charge sb. some duty on smth.

there is a duty of ... per cent on ... over ...

to confiscate smth.

to pay a fine on smth.

personal belongings (effects)

to smuggle smth. in (out)

a smuggler

to prevent smuggling

UNIT I

THE CUSTOMS

Read the text.

Landing formalities and customs regulations are more or less the same in all countries.

While still on board the plane the passenger is given an arrival card to fill in.

After the passenger has disembarked. Officials will check his passport and visa. In some countries they will check the passenger's certificate of vaccination. The traveller is also requested to go through an AIDS check within ten or fourteen days of his arrival in the country. If the traveller fails to do so some strict measures could be taken by the authorities including imprisonment (in some countries) or payment of a considerable penalty.

* * * * *

When the formalities have been completed the passenger goes to the Customs for an examination of his luggage. Customs Officers are civil servants who have power to examine your luggage and even search you. The Customs regulations state what articles are liable to duty and what are duty free. Some articles which are liable to duty are allowed to be brought duty-free if the traveller does not exceed a certain fixed quota. Such items are mentioned in a duty-free quota list. Articles which may not be brought in the country or taken out of it are included in a prohibited articles list. If the traveller has any articles which come under Customs restrictions he is expected to declare them. That is, he is asked to name the item, stating its value and other particulars.

The declaration is made either orally or in writing on a declaration form. If the traveller is charged some duty on some of his articles, he is given a receipt. As a rule personal belongings may be brought in duty-free.

* * * * *

In some cases the Customs Officer may ask you to open your bags for inspection. It sometimes happens that a passenger's luggage is carefully gone through in order to prevent smuggling. It is the Customs Officer's job to carry this out efficiently and in as pleasant a manner as possible. You will wish this examination to be finished quickly, and if you cooperate by giving full and truthful replies, you should have no trouble at all. After you are through with all Customs formalities the Customs Officer will put a stamp on each piece of luggage or chalk them off.

Exercise 1. Comprehension questions on the text.

1. Why is the passenger requested to fill in an arrival card on board the plane shortly before landing?
2. What information must he fill in?
3. What formalities does the traveller have to go through before he goes to the Customs Hall?
4. What are the duties of the Customs Officer?
5. What is a duty-free quota list? a prohibited articles list?
6. In what case must the traveller declare some of the articles in his luggage?
7. In what case is the traveller charged some duty?
8. What duties are usually duty-free?
9. Why do Customs Officers sometimes go through the traveller's luggage?
10. What is done to show that the luggage has been cleared by the Customs?
11. How should the traveller behave to speed up the Customs examination?

READING FOR ANALYSIS

TEXT 1.

DUAL-CHANNEL SYSTEM

The dual-channel or red/green system is a simplified Customs control which enables Customs authorities to improve the flow of passengers traffic at international airports and to deal efficiently with the increasing number of passengers without reducing the effectiveness of the control and without a corresponding increase in the number of Customs staff. It is not necessarily incompatible with the application of other controls, for example, exchange controls, unless the circumstances require full control of all passengers and their baggage.

The dual-channel system should be operated as outlined below.

The system shall allow the passengers to choose between two types of channels:

- a) one (green channel) for passengers having with them no goods or only goods which can be admitted free of import duties and taxes and which are not subject to import prohibitions or restrictions; and
- b) the other (red channel) for other passengers.

Each channel shall be clearly and distinctively marked so that the choice between them can easily be understood by passengers. The basic distinctive marking shall be:

- a) for the channel referred to as “green” – the words “Nothing to declare”;
- b) for the channel referred to as “red” – the words “Goods to declare”.

In addition, the channels should be identified by an inscription including the word “Customs”.

Passengers must be sufficiently well informed to choose between the channels. For this purpose it is important:

- a) that passengers be informed about the functioning of the system and about the description and quantities of goods they may have with them when using the green channel. This may be done by means of posters or panels at the airport or by means of leaflets available to the public at the airport or distributed through tourist agencies, airlines and other interested bodies;
- b) that the route to the channels be clearly sign-posted.

The channels shall be located beyond the baggage delivery area so that passengers have all their baggage with them when choosing their channel. Moreover, the channels shall be so arranged that the passenger flow from that area to the airport exits is as direct as possible.

The distance between the baggage delivery area and the entrance to the channel shall be sufficient to allow passengers to decide which channel to choose and to move into that channel without causing congestion.

Passengers who have selected the green channel shall not be subject to any other Customs formalities unless they are the subject of a spot check; in the red channel, passengers shall accomplish the formalities required by Customs.

Essential words:

to enable	делать возможным, давать право
flow (of passenger traffic)	поток (пассажиров)
to reduce	сокращать
staff	персонал, штат (служащих)
incompatible	несовместимый
circumstances	обстоятельства

to require	требовать, нуждаться
quantity	количество
be available	наличный, доступный, имеющийся в распоряжении
dual-channel	двойной коридор
spot check, at random check	выборочная проверка
baggage delivery area	место выдачи багажа
congestion	“пробка”, затор
to accomplish	выполнять

INCREASE YOUR VOCABULARY

Exercise 3. Write out all the international words from the text.

Exercise 4. Find the verbs and phrases in the text which correspond to the following definitions.

1. make something not so complicated;
2. give authority to do something;
3. make or become better;
4. be opposed to something in character;
5. be liable, dependent;
6. give, send out;
7. achieve, complete.

Exercise 5. Match the verbs to the nouns and expressions with which they are used in the text.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. to improve | a. the effectiveness of the control |
| 2. to deal with | b. leaflets |
| 3. to reduce | c. congestion |
| 4. to require | d. the green/red channel |
| 5. to distribute | e. full control of passengers |
| 6. to cause | f. Customs authorities |
| 7. to select | g. the flow of passenger traffic |
| 8. to accomplish | h. the increasing number of passengers |
| 9. to enable | i. formalities |

Exercise 6. You know that many English words can be used as either a verb or a noun without any change in form. Here are such words from the text. Mark how they are used in the text. *V* – verb; *N* – noun.

A.

Note	to in'crease (v) but 'increase (n)
-------------	---------------------------------------

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. control | 5. exchange | 9. interest |
| 2. flow | 6. mark | 10. signpost |
| 3. deal | 7. function | 11. move |
| 4. increase | 8. use | |

B. Now complete the following sentences using the words from the list above.

Change the form of the words where necessary.

1. The red/green system enables Customs authorities _____ passengers.
2. The number of passengers at international airports _____ recently.
3. _____ of the dual-channel system shall improve the flow of passenger traffic.
4. There must be clear _____ on the route to the channels.
5. It is in _____ of Customs authorities that passengers must be well informed about the new system.
6. Customs authorities have to spend a good _____ of money to introduce the new system.
7. Customs services of different countries met _____ their experiences.
8. The dual-channel system can _____ without any increase in the number of Customs staff.
9. It's difficult to value goods if they have no trade _____.
10. A simplified Customs control is another _____ towards improving the flow of passenger traffic.

Exercise 7. Insert the right words. Choose from the list below.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. passengers | 10. "Nothing to declare" |
| 2. duties | 11. the baggage delivery area |
| 3. airlines | 12. the increasing number of passengers |
| 4. their baggage | 13. interested bodies |
| 5. the entrance | 14. quantity |
| 6. the passenger flow | 15. "Goods to declare" |
| 7. taxes | 16. the description |

8. restrictions

17. prohibitions

9. tourist agencies

1. The dual-channel system enables Customs authorities to improve (a) and to deal with (b).
2. Sometimes the circumstances require full control of all (a) and (b).
3. The green channel is for passengers with goods that are not subject to import (a) or (b).
4. Passengers must be informed about (a) and (b) of goods they may have with them when using the green channel.
5. Leaflets may be distributed through (a), (b) and other (c).
6. The distance between (a) and (b) to the channel shall be sufficient to allow passengers to decide which channel to choose.
7. The basic distinctive marking of each channel shall be (a) or (b).
8. There must be a list of goods which can be admitted free of import (a) and (b).

Exercise 8. Match left and right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Passengers can use the green channel | a) so that passengers are informed about the functioning of the system. |
| 2. Each channel shall be clearly marked | b) so that passengers have all their baggage with them. |
| 3. Special leaflets shall be available to the public | c) unless the circumstances require full control of all passengers and their baggage. |

4. Passengers going through the green channel shall not be subject to any Customs formalities d) unless they have something to declare.

Customs formalities

5. The channels shall be located beyond the baggage delivery area e) so that passengers have time to decide which channel to choose.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Where the Red and Green System is in operation the following symbols are displayed

GOODS
to declare

NOTHING
to declare

If you have more than the duty-free allowances listed or if you have prohibited or restricted goods go into the RED CHANNEL and declare them to an officer.

If you have nothing more than the duty-free allowances and no prohibited or restricted goods go straight through the GREEN CHANNEL unless asked to stop by an officer.

If you are in doubt, go into the Red Channel. Where the Red and Green System is not in operation all passengers should report to the Customs Officer on duty in the Baggage Hall.

Exercise 2. Suggest the English for the following. Use these English words and phrases in sentences of your own.

Поставить галочку мелом; личные вещи; красный коридор; карточка прибытия; заявлять о вещах, запрещенных к ввозу или вывозу; свидетельство о вакцинации; таможенный служащий; подлежать обложению пошлиной; список предметов, разрешенных к беспошлинному ввозу; квитанция; таможенные правила; досмотр багажа; превышать установленную норму; таможенная декларация; список предметов, ввоз и вывоз которых запрещен; осматривать багаж; контрабанда; формальности, выполняемые пассажиром после приземления; не подлежать обложению пошлиной; платить пошлину; наклеивать таможенный ярлык; зеленый коридор.

Exercise 3. Complete each of the following sentences using suitable words and phrases from Exercise 2.

1. Before leaving the airport a traveller has to pass through certain ____ ____.
2. If you do not exceed a ____ ____ you won't have to pay any ____.
3. After paying ____ you are given a ____ which you are advised to retain.
4. ____ ____ means you have something to ____, and your baggage will be ____.
- ____ ____ means nothing to ____, and the ____ ____ makes only random checks.
5. The standard question a ____ ____ would use before going through your ____ is "____ ____"?
6. My passport and visa were in order, but my ____ ____ was overdue.
7. This ____ on your suit-case shows that it has been ____ by the Customs.
8. If a traveller has something to ____ he must fill in a ____ ____.
9. As a rule personal belongings are ____ ____.
10. This article is on the ____ ____ list. You may not take it out of the country.
11. This item is ____ ____ ____ according to our Customs regulations.

Exercise 4. Explain what is meant by the following.

1. I have nothing to declare.
2. This item is duty-free.
3. The Customs Inspector chalked off his suit-case.
4. Here's a list of items liable to duty.
5. You must go into the Red Channel.
6. This article comes under Customs Restrictions.
7. The traveller had to pay some Customs duties.
8. This is a Prohibited articles list.
9. On arrival, my fellow-passenger went straight into the Green Channel.
10. You must declare everything in excess of the duty-free allowances.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DO'S & DON'TS

DO pack the articles so that they are easily available.

DON'T be tempted to hide anything or to mislead the Customs the penalties are severe. In addition, failure to declare articles properly renders them liable to forfeiture: and if they are hidden in a vehicle that too becomes liable to forfeiture.

DO co-operate with the Customs officer if he asks to examine your luggage. He is legally entitled to do so. The responsibility for opening, unpacking and re-packing rests with you.

DON'T try to import prohibited goods such as dangerous drugs, counterfeit coins, flick knives, meat and poultry (not fully cooked).

DO declare restricted goods such as plants and bulbs, firearms and ammunition, radio transmitters (including walkie-talkie sets) and dogs and cats and certain other live animals.

Exercise 5. Imagine that you are the head of tourist group. You are in the airport. Hand out the Customs declaration forms to the members of your group. Answer their questions and explain to them the way the forms should be filled in. Collect the forms and check them.

Keep for the duration of your stay in Russia or abroad. Not renewable in case of loss.

Persons giving false information in the Customs Declaration, or to Customs officers shall render themselves liable under laws of Russia.

CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Full name _____

Citizenship _____

Arriving from _____

Country of destination _____

Purpose of visit _____

(business, tourism, private, etc.)

My luggage (including hand luggage) submitted for Customs inspection consists of _____ pieces.

With me and in my luggage I have:

I. Weapons of all descriptions and ammunition _____

II. Narcotics and appliances for the use thereof _____

III. Antiques and objects of art (paintings, drawings, icons, sculptures, etc.)

IV. Russian rubles, Russian State bonds, Russian lottery tickets _____

V. Currency other than Russian rubles (bank notes, exchequer, bills, coins), payment voucher (cheques, bills, letters of credit, etc.) securities (shares, bonds, etc.) in foreign currencies, precious metals (gold, silver, platinum, metals of platinum group) in any form or condition, crude and processed natural precious stones (diamonds, brilliants, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and pearls), jewelry and other articles made of precious metals and precious stones, and scrap thereof, as well as property papers:

Description	Amount/ quantity		For official use
	in figures	in words	
US Dollars			
Pound Sterling			
French Francs			
Deutschemarks			

VI. Russian rubles, other currency, payment vouchers, valuables and any objects belonging to other persons _____

I am aware that, in addition to the objects listed in the Customs Declaration, I must submit for inspection: printed matter, manuscripts, films, sound recordings, postage stamps, graphics, etc., plants, fruits, seeds, live animals and birds, as well as raw foodstuffs of animal origin and slaughtered fowl. I also declare that my luggage sent separately consists of _____ place.

(Date) _____ 20____ Owner of luggage _____
(signed)

Exercise 6. Act as Interpreter.

Petrov: Здравствуйте, господин Норман! Рад вас снова видеть. Добро пожаловать в Москву. Как долетели?

Norman: How do you do, Mr. Petrov? It was a wonderful journey. Still it's good to be on land again. How are you? It's been a long time!

Petrov: Хорошо, спасибо. Мы действительно давно не виделись. У нас еще будет время обо всем поговорить. А сейчас давайте получим ваш багаж.

Norman: I've got just this attaché case and a small suit-case with some personal belongings. I always travel light, you know, I have absolutely nothing to declare, so we may safely go through into the Green Channel.

Petrov: К сожалению, в нашем аэропорту пока нет системы красного и зеленого коридора. Поэтому вам придется пройти таможенный досмотр.

- Norman: Oh, that's a pity. This system is very convenient. It saves a lot of time. Now, I'll have to fill in a declaration form, I guess.
- Petrov: Да, придется. Бланки таможенных деклараций должны быть вон у той стойки.
- Norman: I see. It won't take me long to fill it in. I've got neither weapons nor precious stones or live animals. And the number of cigarettes I have does not exceed the fixed quota. So I don't have to pay any customs duties.
- Petrov: Отлично. Теперь вам нужно пройти таможенный досмотр. Идите к стойке 5, там меньше народа. Я вас подожду у выхода.
- Norman: О.К.
- Petrov: Ну как? Все нормально?
- Norman: Yes, the Customs officer didn't even trouble to inspect my suitcase. He just signed the form and chalked off the suitcase.
- Petrov: Вам повезло. Ну вот, теперь осталось пройти паспортный контроль, и мы отправимся в гостиницу.
- Norman: Right! I'm looking forward to a hot bath and a good dinner.

Exercise 7. Render the following text into English.

Сотрудники канадской таможни никому поблажек не дают. За это их не очень любят сограждане и высоко ценит государство, в казну которого ежегодно поступает более трех миллиардов долларов.

При пересечении границы Канады ее граждане должны иметь либо декларацию на все товары, приобретенные или полученные ими в подарок за рубежом. Таможенников в этом списке будут интересовать в первую

очередь товары, способные, попав на канадский рынок, нанести ущерб интересам отечественных производителей. Например, французские духи. За их провоз придется платить пошлину. В любом крупном книжном магазине продается сборник под названием “Акт о таможенных тарифах”, в котором на тысяче страниц перечислены все без исключения товары, облагаемые дополнительной платой, а также бесплатные для ввоза. Выезжая из Канады, путешественнику необходимо зарегистрировать на таможне принадлежащий ему фотоаппарат, видеокамеру, магнитофон или портативный телевизор. Причем желательно указать их серийный номер. В противном случае при возвращении за ввозимые обратно в страну свои же вещи придется платить как за купленные за границей.

Что касается количества ввозимых товаров, то, как и везде в мире, ограничен ввоз спиртных напитков, сигарет, табака, сигар и пива. В год без пошлины можно провезти товаров на сумму 700 канадских долларов.

А теперь – о наказании. Оно неминуемо, если обнаруженный товар, облагаемый пошлиной, не занесен в декларацию. Таможенник имеет право вскрыть багаж, устроить личный досмотр потенциального нарушителя – причем отказ от этой малоприятной процедуры расценивается как нарушение закона. Если найдены незаявленные товары стоимостью менее 200 долларов, виновного ожидает штраф от 50 до 200 долларов, а также тюремное заключение сроком от месяца до года. Контрабанда на сумму свыше 200 долларов карается штрафом до 1000 долларов или тюремным заключением от года до 4 лет. Канадец, отказывающийся помогать таможеннику производить досмотр (то есть не желающий сам открыть чемодан, вынимать из багажа вещи), может быть оштрафован на сумму от 50 до 1000 долларов.

UNIT 2
CONVERSATION

Read the following dialogues.

I. At a Customs Desk

Customs Officer: O.K. Bags on the table, please. Your Customs form, please.

How long are you planning to stay in the country?

Traveller: Four weeks.

O: Have you anything to declare? Any dutiable articles?

T: Sorry? I don't know what is dutiable.

O: Alcohol, cigarettes?

T: No.

O: Any meat, fresh fruit, plants?

T: Oh, no.

O: Open your suitcase, please. Any gifts into the country?

T: Excuse me?

O: Are you bringing any gifts into the country?

T: No.

O: Have you any foreign currency?

T: I have 100 dollars

O: O.K. You haven't exceeded the quota. Aha, what's in this bottle?

T: Hair lotion.

O: O.K. That'll be O.K. Here's your form.

T: What should I do with it?

O: See that officer over there by the Gates? He'll take it.

T: Thank you very much.

II. At the Customs

Customs Officer: Good afternoon, sir. Are these two suit-cases all you have?

Mr.Watson: Yes, they are all I have.

O: Very good, sir. Would you read this notice carefully, please.

Mr.W: Thank you.

O: Do you understand the notice?

Mr.W: Not very well, I'm afraid.

O: Well, what it means is this: you must declare you got only recently. You must also declare things in your luggage which are not for your own use – any present for people in this country, for example.

Mr.W: Oh, I see. But there are only personal belongings in my suit-cases.

O: Have you got any spirits or tobacco? Bear it in mind, sir, if you don't declare something liable to duty, it is confiscated, or you'll have to pay a heavy fine on it.

Mr.W: Well, I have a bottle of brandy. Shall I pay on that?

O: Oh, no you're allowed that. It's a duty-free. Anything else?

Mr.W: Yes, I've got some cigarettes here.

O: Let me see them, please. Oh, that's more than I can allow you free. I'm afraid we'll have to charge you some duty on that. I'll make you out a receipt.

Mr.W: How much does it come to?

O: Two pounds seventy-five. Now let me see inside your other suit-case... It's all right. You may go through Passport Control now Straight on, please.

Mr.W: Thank you, officer. Good afternoon.

Exercise 1. Comprehension questions on the dialogues.

I

1. What did the Customs Officer request the traveller to do?
2. How long was the traveller going to stay in the country?
3. What did the traveller have to declare?
4. What gifts was he bringing into the country?
5. How much foreign currency did he have?
6. What item in the traveller's luggage attracted the officer's attention?
7. What was the traveller to do with his Customs declaration form next?

II

1. How much luggage did Mr. Watson have?
2. What notice couldn't he quite understand?
3. What did Mr. Watson have to declare?
4. What did the Customs officer warn him about?
5. Why didn't Mr. Watson pay duty on a bottle of brandy?
6. Why did the Customs officer give Mr. Watson a receipt?
7. Where did the officer direct Mr. Watson?

Exercise 2. Dramatize the dialogues.

Exercise 3. Render the dialogues in direct speech.

Exercise 4. Complete the dialogue and act it out.

Customs Officer: Which of these bags are yours?

Traveller: ...

O: Have you anything to declare?

T: ...

O: Would you, please, read this notice carefully?

T: ...

O: Would you show them to me, please?

T: ...

O: You're allowed that, and souvenirs are duty-free. Now, let me see inside your bags.

T: ...

O: Thank you, sir. Everything's right. Nothing dutiable. Welcome to our country!

T: ...

Exercise 5. Change the story below into a dialogue. Begin:

Customs officer: Excuse me. But could I have a word with you?

Man: Certainly.

The Customs officer called the man over and asked if he could have a word with him. He agreed. He asked him where he had travelled from and he said he'd been in Paris for the weekend and asked him why he wanted to know. The customs officer explained that he was just curious and asked if he had anything to declare. He stated that he hadn't. He requested him, very politely, to open his bag. He said he had only clothes and personal effects in his bag. The Customs officer repeated his request, but a little less politely, and he asked him why he didn't believe him. Then the Customs officer ordered him to open his case and threatened to do it himself if he wouldn't. He agreed to open the case but complained that he was in a hurry. He expressed surprise at three bottles of

brandy and the man explained that only one of them was for him and the other two were for friends. He said that it didn't really matter who they were for and that he would have to pay the duty. He said that he hadn't got any English money and the Customs officer directed him to the bank where he would be able to change it. He thanked him sarcastically. He acknowledged his thanks and explained that he was only doing his job.

Exercise 6. Keep these conversations going.

I

Customs Officer: Have you anything to declare, sir?

Mr. Grigga: Anything to declare? No! Uh... nothing.

O: I see, sir. Will you, please, open your suit-case?

Mr.G: But I didn't buy anything in Spain!

O: Uh... Hmmm. And what's this under your jacket here?

Mr.G: But... but... that's impossible!

O: ...

II

Customs Officer: Well, sir, is there anything else you wish to declare?

Mr. Rock: There certainly isn't.

O: Are you sure?

Mr.R: Yes.

O: In that case, sir, will you kindly show me your wallet?

Mr.R: But surely, wallets are never inspected. I've been through the Customs many times...

O: Normally, they are not. But we do have the right... Sir, I have to leave

you for a short while, but I'll be back. In any case, this is going to take some time.

Mr.R: ...

III

Customs Officer: Good afternoon, sir. Is this your suit-case?

Mr. Smith: No, it isn't. Mine is the brown one.

O: Oh, I see. Have you anything to declare?

Mr.S: No, I haven't. There are only personal belongings in my suit-case. Shall I open it?

O: ...

Exercise 7. Translate into English.

I

- Это ваши вещи?
- Да это мой чемодан.
- Разрешите посмотреть ваши вещи? У вас есть что-либо, подлежащее обложению пошлиной?
- Мне кажется, что нет.
- Подарки, спиртные напитки, сигареты, драгоценности?
- Только для личного пользования.
- Да, это разрешается. У вас все в порядке. Спасибо.

II

- Это ваши вещи?
- Да. Открыть чемодан,
- Нет, не нужно. Вы заполнили декларацию?
- Да, вот она.

- У вас есть что-нибудь для предъявления,
- Нет. Я заплатил пошлину за эти сигареты.
- Хорошо. Пройдите к стойке 3 для паспортного контроля.

Exercise 8. Finish the story.

Among the passengers who had just landed there was a stout pleasant-looking gentleman with a big brown suit-case. Following the notice TO THE CUSTOMS he briskly entered the Customs shed where the officer gave him a printed notice warning the passengers that they should declare to the Customs officer the quantities of tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and alcoholic drinks they had with them. The gentleman smiled reading the warning, and produced his brown suit-case. The latter did not arouse any suspicion. The officer chalked it off by hand and told the stout gentleman where his passport would be examined. The gentleman passed on searching his papers. But alas, he could not find them. Probably they were in the suit-case. He placed the suit-case on a bench and tried to open it. But it would not open. In despair the gentleman broke the lock but when he did open the suit-case and looked into it his face turned pale because what he saw...

Read the flashes of conversation and act them out.

I. Health Check

Official: Health check here. Where are you travelling from?

Traveller: China.

O: Your vaccination certificate, please.

T: Here you are.

O: How long is it since you had your yellow fever inoculation?

T: Let me see... Two months.

O: Thank you. Passport control is that way.

II. Passport Control

Passport Control Official: Your passport, please.

Traveller: Here you are.

O: Where are you going?

T: To London.

O: How long are you going to stay in the country?

T: About two months.

O: What's the purpose of your visit?

T: Business.

O: Your passport and visa are in order. Have a pleasant stay, sir.

T: Thank you.

III. Security Check

Officer: Put all your carry-on luggage on the belt, sir.

Traveller: My personal camera too?

O: Yes, sir, everything.

T: But it's very expensive!

O: Take your camera out then, and I'll check it through by hand.

T: O.K.

O: Thank you. Now, step through here. (the sound of a signal) Are you wearing any metal, sir?

T: Oh, yes, this bracelet.

O: I'm afraid you'll have to take it off, sir and step through again. (No signal this time) Fine, thank you. Here's your bracelet. Have a good flight, now.

T: Thanks.

Exercise 1. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the duties of the Health Check officials?
2. Why is it necessary to have a medical certificate to enter a country?
3. What is checked at the Passport Control?
4. Why is it necessary to have Security service at airports?

Exercise 2. Think of situations in which you would say the following.

Dramatize them.

1. How long are you going to stay in the country?
2. I think I've got nothing liable to duty.
3. You may go through Passport Control now.
4. Have you anything to declare?
5. I can't help feeling nervous. I've brought so much stuff.
6. Have a pleasant stay in the country.
7. Would you mind opening the trunk?
8. Can I see your vaccination certificate?
9. There are only personal belongings here.
10. I'm afraid we'll have to charge you some duty on that. I'll make you out a receipt.
11. Put all your carry-on luggage on the belt, please.
12. You haven't exceeded the quota, so that is duty-free.

Exercise 3. Supply the missing remarks. Act out the dialogues.

I

– ...

– That's right. Shall I open it?

– ...?

– I don't think I have, though I have a box of cigarettes for my own use. I believe they're duty-free?

– ...

– Thank you.

II

– Could I have your passport, please?

– ...

– Where are you going?

– ...

– How long are you going to stay?

– ...

– What is the purpose of your trip?

– ...

– And could I see your vaccination certificate?

– ...

– Thank you.

III

– ...

– Here you are.

– ...

– London.

- ...
- A fortnight.
- ...
- It's a business trip. I'm taking part in the conference.
- ...
- Here you are. I hope it's all right.
- ...
- Thank you.

Exercise 1. Make up dialogues on the basis of these situations.

1. You have been given a new watch for your birthday. You arrive in England to study English for three months. The Customs Officer accuses you to smuggling. Try to convince the officer that he is mistaken.

2. On your way to the airport you got into a traffic jam. When you finally arrived at the airport you had only an hour before your flight was scheduled to depart. Ask the customs officer to speed up his inspection of your luggage. The Officer is rather reluctant to do that.

3. You are on a plane going to Paris. It's your first trip to France. You have no practical knowledge of Paris, its airport, the landing formalities, the customs regulations and so on. A man beside you happens to be a Parisian. He is kind and ready to give you any information you need. You start a talk with him.

Air Passenger Duty (APD)

Air Passenger Duty was introduced on 1 November 1994 and is an excise duty collected from airlines. Each airline is liable to pay an amount of either £5 or £10 for each passenger they carry from a UK airport. The rate of duty depends on the passenger's final destination.

The general rule is that the £5 rate applies to destinations in the European economic area and the £10 rate applies to other destinations.

There are exceptions to this rule. For example, airlines will only pay £5 duty for passengers carried to Basle or Geneva (in Switzerland) because it is possible for the passenger to enter either France (£5 destination) or Switzerland (£10 destination) from these airports. There are also certain rules governing connected flights which affect the liability.

In certain circumstances duty is not charged. For example, aircraft are exempt if they are not authorized to carry more than 19 passengers or if they weight less than 10 tones.

There are also specified categories of passengers who are not charged (the aircraft crew, for example) and, in most cases, children under 2 and transfer passengers will not attract a duty charge. The duty will not be charged on the return leg of a journey within the UK provided certain conditions are met.

Control of Passengers

Travellers may enter or leave the UK only at ports or airports, including the Channel Tunnel, specifically approved by Customs and Excise. Travellers entering the UK from outside the EC must declare all articles obtained abroad or during the journey if the goods exceed the statutory allowances. At most ports and airports travellers make a declaration by entering a Red Channel or reporting

to a 'Red Point', if they have goods to declare or by entering a Green Channel, if they do not. Travellers arriving from other EC countries do not need to use the red or green channels. At ports and airports handling only EC arrivals/departures they have been abolished. Elsewhere, these passengers can leave via a special "blue exit" without any declaration to Customs. Travellers leaving the UK for non-EC destinations also pass through Customs control, the aim of which is to prevent evasion of export licensing regulations.

In keeping with Citizen's Charter principles, Customs and Excise has issued the "Traveller's Charter" which commits Customs to standards of efficiency and helpfulness in their dealings with travellers, and they also arrange for surveys of the travelling public which help to ensure that these standards are being observed.

Exercise 5. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions where necessary.

1. As soon as I'd got ... the Customs I felt at home.
2. In a number of countries furs do not come ... customs restrictions, that is, they are allowed ... the border duty-free.
3. Do you know whether there are any restrictions ... imported cameras in this country?
4. ... The Customs-House a passenger's luggage is carefully gone customs inspectors.
5. This is duty-free according ... our customs regulations.
6. Personal belongings are usually duty-free if one does not exceed ... a certain quota.
7. Will I have to pay customs duty ... this jewelry?

8. Sometimes customs inspectors carefully search ... the passenger's belongings to prevent smuggling of goods liable ... duty ... and ... of a country/

9. Before going ... the Customs a traveller must fill ... a customs declaration form.

10. Articles which may not be brought ... the country or taken ... it are mentioned ... a prohibited articles list.

11. There is a 150 per cent duty ... this article.

12. Customs forms are available ... counter Number Three.

13. As soon as one's luggage is cleared ... the customs special stamps are pasted ... it.

14. It took me about two hours to go ... all the formalities ... the customs-house.

15. Here I have things only ... personal use.

16. You may go ... Passport Control now. Straight ..., please.

17. Has it taken you long to have your things cleared ... the customs?

Exercise 6. Translate into English.

1. Пассажир может покинуть аэропорт, следуя по зеленому коридору, если в его багаже нет предметов, подлежащих декларации.

2. Я не знаю, какие предметы разрешается провозить беспошлинно.

3. У меня нет ничего для предъявления на таможне.

4. Таможенные ограничения распространяются на все эти вещи. Вам придется сообщить нам подробно данные об их количестве, весе и стоимости.

5. Есть ли у вас предметы, подлежащие обложению пошлиной,

6. Прошу вас как можно скорее осмотреть мой багаж. Мой самолет вылетает через час.

7. Таможенники имеют право проводить таможенный досмотр и в зеленом коридоре.

8. Я уже заплатил пошлину за этот фотоаппарат.

9. Я не знал, что на эти предметы распространяются таможенные ограничения. У меня с собой нет денег для уплаты пошлины.

10. Вы не могли бы помочь мне правильно заполнить таможенную декларацию.

11. Извините, но вы забыли наклеить таможенный ярлык на этот чемодан.

12. Прежде чем заполнить декларацию, внимательно изучите список предметов, запрещенных к ввозу и вывозу.

13. После прохождения паспортного контроля и получения багажа необходимо пройти таможенный досмотр.

14. Если вы возвращаетесь в Англию из стран Европейского сообщества, то можете беспошлинно провезти полтора литра крепких напитков, 300 сигарет или 75 сигар и подарков на сумму 265 фунтов.

15. Строгое соблюдение всех таможенных правил значительно ускоряет прохождение таможенного контроля.

16. Таможенные службы делают все возможное, чтобы предотвратить контрабанду наркотиков в страну.

UNIT 3
A CUSTOM HOUSE INCIDENT
(by Nigel Balchin)

Among the passengers travelling home by train from Florence there was a certain Miss Bradley.

I only noticed her when passing down the corridor, because of her really remarkable plainness. She was rather a large, awkward woman of about thirty-five with a big, red nose, and large spectacles.

Later on, when I went to the dining-car, Miss Bradley was already seated, and the attendant placed me opposite her.

I think we may have exchanged half a dozen words at dinner, when passing one another the sugar or the bread. But they were certainly all we exchanged, and after we left the dining-car, I did not see Miss Bradley again until we reached Calais Maritime.

And then our acquaintance really began, and it began entirely on my initiative. There were plenty of porters, and I called one without difficulty from the window of the train. But as I got off, I saw Miss Bradley standing on the platform with two large very old suit-cases. The porters were passing her by. I am quite sure that had she been an even slightly attractive woman, I should not have gone up to her, but she was ugly, and looked so helpless that I approached her, and said:

“My porter has a barrow. Would you like him to put your cases on it too?”
Miss Bradley turned and looked at me.

“Oh – thank you. It is very kind of you.”

My porter, without great enthusiasm, added her luggage to mine; and in a few minutes we found ourselves on board the Channel ferry.

Before the boat had been under way for ten minutes, I realized that Miss Bradley was a remarkable bore. Shyly and hesitantly she kept on talking about nothing and made no remark worth taking notice of.

I learned that she had been in Italy a fortnight, visiting her sister who was married to an Italian. She had never been out of England before.

I did not look forward to travelling to London with her for another four hours, so excusing myself I went along to the booking-office on board the boat and booked myself a seat on the Golden Arrow.

Miss Bradley was travelling by the ordinary boat train, so this would mean that we should part at Dover.

At Dover I hired one of the crew to carry our luggage.

Normally, passengers for the Golden Arrow are dealt with by the customs first, as the train leaves twenty minutes before the ordinary boat train. When the boy asked if we were going on the Golden Arrow, I hesitated and then said "Yes".

It was too difficult to explain that one of us was and one of us wasn't, and then it would get Miss Bradley through the customs quickly.

As we went towards the Customs Hall, I explained carefully to her that my train left before hers, but that I would see her through the customs; the boy would then take the luggage to our trains, and she could sit comfortably in hers till it left. Miss Bradley said, "Oh, thank you very much."

The boy, of course, had put our suit-cases together on the counter, and Miss Bradley and I went and stood before them. In due course the customs examiner

reached us, looked at the four suit-cases in that X-ray manner which customs examiners must practise night and morning, and said, "This is all yours?"

I was not quite sure whether he was speaking to me, or me and Miss Bradley. So I replied, "Well – mine and this lady's."

The examiner said, "But you're together?"

"For the moment," I said rather foolishly, smiling at Miss Bradley.

"Yes", said the customs man patiently. "But are you travelling together? Is this your joint luggage?"

"Well, no. Not exactly. We're just sharing a porter."

I pointed my cases out. I had nothing to declare, and declared it. Without asking me to open them, the examiner chalked the cases, and then, instead of moving to my left and dealing with Miss Bradley, moved to the right, and began x-raying somebody else's luggage.

The boy took my cases off the counter. I hesitated for a moment, but then decided it was no use waiting for Miss Bradley since we were about to part, so I said:

"Well, I'll say good-bye now, and go and find my train. I expect the examiner'll come back and do you next. The porter will stay and bring our luggage up to the trains when you're through. Good-bye."

Miss Bradley said, "Oh... good-bye and thank you so much." We shook hands and I left.

I found my seat in the Golden Arrow and began to read.

It must have been about twenty minutes later that I suddenly realized the train was due to leave in five minutes and that the porter had not yet brought my luggage. I was just going to look for him when he appeared breathing heavily, with my suit-cases. I asked him rather angrily what he had been doing.

“The lady is still there,” said the boy, “and will be for some time, I think. They are going through her things properly.”

“But why?”

“Well, they’d found forty watches when I came away, and that was only the start, so I thought maybe you wouldn’t want me to wait.”

I have often wondered whether, when Miss Bradley stood so helplessly on the platform at Calais, she had already chosen me as the person to come to her rescue, or whether she was just sure that somebody would.

Looking back, I think she must have chosen me. I am fairly sure of that though exactly how, I have never been clear. I am quite sure she never made the slightest effort to make my acquaintance.

Exercise 1. Comprehension questions on the text.

1. Where was the author travelling to?
2. What made him take notice of Miss Bradley?
3. What did Miss Bradley look like?
4. How did it happen that the author found himself sitting opposite Miss Bradley in the dining-car?
5. When did the author see the woman again?
6. Why did he really speak to her this time?
7. Why did author believe it to be his fault that they reached Calais Port?
8. How did the author and Miss Bradley happen to find themselves side by side on the boat?
9. What did Miss Bradley tell the author about herself during the trip?
10. Why did the author decide to take the Golden Arrow to London?

11. Why were the passengers for the Golden Arrow dealt with by the Customs first?

12. Why did the author say good-bye to Miss Bradley at the Customs Hall?

13. What had delayed the porter with the author's luggage?

14. What had Miss Bradley been trying to smuggle into the country?

15. What made the author fairly sure that he had been specially chosen by Miss Bradley at Calais Maritime to get her through the customs?

Exercise 2. Paraphrase or explain the following sentences or parts of sentences from the text.

1. ... because of her remarkable plainness. 2. It (the acquaintance) began entirely on my initiative. 3. Miss Bradley was a remarkable bore... 4. She kept on talking and made no remark worth taking notice of. 5. ... I would see her through the customs. 6. ... normally passengers for the Golden Arrow are dealt with by the Customs first. 7. We're just sharing a porter. 8. The customs officer... will do you next. 9. ... when you're through. 10. I have never been clear... 11. She never made the slightest effort to make my acquaintance.

Exercise 3. Find in the text the English for.

Вагон-ресторан; носильщик; скучный; таможенник; по моей инициативе; пройти таможенный досмотр; очутиться на борту; билетная касса; купить билет; осмотреть багаж; поставить галочку мелом; стойка для осмотра багажа; пользоваться услугами одного носильщика; провести кого-либо через таможню; прийти на помощь; взять носильщика; общий багаж; поезд отправляется через пять минут; заявить о том, что в багаже нет предметов, запрещенных к ввозу.

Exercise 4. Correct the following statements. Use the Subjunctive Mood wherever possible.

1. Miss Bradley, a young girl of twenty, attached the author's attention by her beauty and remarkable intelligent face. She was tall and slim, with regular features, and wore fashionable clothes.

2. The acquaintance began the moment the author noticed Miss Bradley, so later on in the dining-car they had an interesting talk, though after that they didn't see much of each other.

3. In addition to being very attractive in appearance, Miss Bradley turned out to be an excellent companion. She must have travelled a lot and could speak on many interesting things.

4. When they got off together, the author had difficulty in getting a porter, as there were very few of them on the platform.

5. The man looked forward to spending another four hours in Miss Bradley's company, so he went along to the booking-office, intending to book two tickets on the Golden Arrow.

6. The customs man dealt with the author's luggage without asking him any questions, for he realized at once that these two were not travelling together. He went through the author's suit-cases carefully, and then chucked Miss Bradley's without a word.

7. The author left the Customs House without waiting for Miss Bradley; he had been sitting in his compartment five minutes when the porter brought in his luggage, saying that Miss Bradley had got through the customs, too, without any special difficulty.

Exercise 5. Explain why the following happened (or did not happen), was (or was not) done.

1. In the dining-car the author shared the table with Miss Bradley.
2. The author took notice of Miss Bradley.
3. Miss Bradley failed to hire a porter.
4. The porter didn't feel enthusiastic about Miss Bradley's luggage.
5. The author didn't feel like travelling with Miss Bradley to London.
6. The author told the boy that Miss Bradley and he going on the Golden Arrow.
7. The author felt ill-at-ease during the Customs examination.
8. The Customs examiner chalked off the author's cases without opening them.
9. The author felt nervous while waiting for his train to start.
10. When the porter appeared he was breathing heavily.
11. The author was rather puzzled by the incident.

Exercise 6. Talking the points. Express your own opinion or explain the following.

1. Say if in your opinion Miss Bradley was an experienced smuggler or a novice.
2. Explain how it happened that the author started helping Miss Bradley almost against his will.
3. Explain why the Customs officer had guessed about Miss Bradley trying to smuggle dutiable articles into the country.
4. What might have happened should the author have answered in the affirmative to the Customs officer's questions whether Miss Bradley and he were travelling together?

5. How, in your opinion, Miss Bradley should have behaved in order not to arouse the Customs officer's suspicion?

Exercise 7. Retell the text: a) as it is; b) as Miss Bradley (the Customs officer, the porter, a police inspector).

Exercise 8. Divide the text into logical parts and give a brief summary of the text.

Exercise 9. Dramatize the following episodes.

1. On the platform (characters: Miss Bradley, the author, the porter).
2. On board the Channel ferry (characters: the author, Miss Bradley).
3. Getting through the Customs (characters: the Customs officer, Miss Bradley, the author).
4. The author talking to the boy from the crew before the departure of the Golden Arrow (characters: the author, the boy).

Exercise 10. Read the text and divide it into logical parts.

Anything to declare?

The amateurs give the Customs men their biggest challenge, for least reward. The professionals, smuggling cabins by the hundredweight and cameras by the £1000,000 worth, are often caught after tip-offs. The small-time returning holidaymaker has to be detained, and all the knowledge acquired at the Customs Training School is needed.

A good nose, or what the victim might consider sixth sense, is vital. The Customs people call "smuggler's eye". It is indefinable, of course, but it is the quantity that makes a really good Customs man as he screens hundreds of passengers pouring past him on a six-hour shift. One man who had it was Liam

Sumption, a legendary Irishman who pulled passengers out of the Green Channel at Heathrow for bets with his fellow officers and is rumoured never to have challenged an innocent traveller.

Every guilty passenger has tell-tale traits. The normally timid become over boisterous, the placid bite their lips, the domineering are ingratiating, bossy women turn sweet. The “eye” is mainly a question of feeling who is acting out of type.

“A lot of people look nervous when they walk through the Green,” says the Customs man. “The art is spotting types who do not seem to be naturally nervous.” The process starts much earlier than most passengers realize – at the moment when they pick their luggage off the conveyer belt. It is there that the Customs men weigh up attitudes. Most people who are stopped in the Green Channel have been earmarked for inspection from the moment they first picked up their case.

Smugglers like to go through Customs in the middle of the queue. If their bag comes up first, they will often let it go round on the conveyer belt and only pick up after other passengers from the flight have started off through the channels. Likewise, they get agitated if the bag is late and they have to go through at the end.

Some attempts are almost as old as smuggling itself. Passengers are caught with a two-gallon bottle of Scotch, and say innocently that they thought they were allowed a single bottle duty free, irrespective of size. They put old straps on new watches and new cameras in old cases. Fur coats are picked out because they have no labels, or because the shop label that “proves” the coat was not bought abroad has been sewn in by hand instead of machine and is clearly older than the coat.

“I had one lady who challenged me to look at the Harrods, label in her mink. It was Harrods all right – Harrods Man’s Shop,” says a Customs man.

Other smugglers show a touching belief that priests doctors and other respectable men are not searched. A house painter arrived at Heathrow with 300 watches hidden in a woman’s girdle round his waist. He was dressed a Roman Catholic priest with a passport to match. He was fine for the watches, and imprisoned for smuggling when disguised in Holy Orders. Few amateurs have heard of section 73 of the Customs and Excise Act. It provides that anyone either armed with an offensive weapon or in disguise whilst attempting to avoid Customs duty is liable to imprisonment.

Exercise 11. Comprehension questions on the text.

1. Why do the amateurs give the Customs officers their biggest challenge?
2. How are the professional smugglers often caught?
3. In what case do the Customs men have to use all their knowledge?
4. What quality makes a Customs officer a really good one?
5. What are the most characteristic traits of guilty travellers?
6. What is the most difficult moment in the work of the Customs man?
7. When do the Customs men begin to spot the possible candidates for inspection? Why?
8. How do smugglers usually go through the Customs?
9. What tricks do some of the travellers use while going through the Customs?
10. Why do some smugglers prefer to go through the Customs disguised as doctors or priests?
11. What travellers are liable to imprisonment?

Exercise 12. Say what you would suggest, recommend or advise a friend

- a) if he has lost the keys to his suit-case and the Customs Inspector asks him to open his suit-case;
- b) if he has to go through the Customs for the first time;
- c) if the Customs Inspector finds ten bottles of whisky in his suit-case;
- d) if he wants to smuggle a large diamond through the Customs;
- e) if his fellow-traveller asks him to take some pieces of his luggage through the Customs for him.

Exercise 13. Make up situations illustrating the following proverbs and sayings. First make sure that you know what they mean.

1. All is well that ends well.
2. A burnt child dreads the fire.
3. Honesty is the best policy.
4. The devil is not so black as he is painted.
5. Don't cackle till your egg is laid.
6. Necessity is the mother of invention.
7. Murder will out.

Exercise 14. Render the text in English.

Как пройти на таможду?

(Рассуждения старого "контрабандиста")

Для тех, кто решил рискнуть при "переходе" границы и обратно, нужно знать несколько правил. Одно из них запишите себе прописными буквами:
НИЧЕМУ НЕ ВЕРЬ, НИЧЕГО НЕ БОЙСЯ, НИКОГДА НИЧЕГО НЕ ПРОСИ.

Далее запомните, что все рассказы, фильмы и статьи о некоем мифическом шестом чувстве таможенника – это все бредни, распускаемые доверчивыми журналистами. Все, что таможня знает, это два – три десятка основных способов спрятать от нее вещи. И при желании таможенники, конечно, могут выпотрошить вас, как рождественскую индейку. Но желание это возникает у них не так часто, потому что нас, туристов, много, а таможенник – это субъект штучный. Его легендарный нюх срабатывает только в двух случаях: если на вас кто-то элементарно, вульгарно “настучал” или если вы при осмотре нервно себя ведете.

Для успокоения нервов знайте, что таможенник тоже человек и работает он не так хаотично, как вам кажется. Он хорошо знает расписание поездов, автобусов, на которых данная партия туристов будет пересекать границу. Он планирует свою работу и в зависимости от количества туристов. Поэтому обычно на каждого туриста у таможенников отведено совершенно определенное количество времени. скажем, он будет вас “шмонать” не более пяти минут, если вы, конечно, не вызовете у него подозрений.

Следует занять время таможенника разными пустяками, подкидывая ему их для осмотра. Если вы едете за границу впервые, стоит об этом намекнуть (“извините, я в первый раз...”). Чем больше неловкости и неопытности вы продемонстрируете, тем быстрее он вас отпустит из своих объятий. Помните, что заглядывать в багаж таможенник может только с вашего разрешения. Не стоит сопротивляться его вежливой просьбе – раскрыть чемодан! – этим вы только продлите свой осмотр.

Естественно, сейчас я даю советы для нормальных граждан, а не для барыг, перегоняющих через бугор наркоту, золото – туда, а серебро – обратно. У них своя свадьба. И свои взаимоотношения со жрецами таможенной стойки.

А теперь представьте ситуацию, что, заглянув в ваши честные глаза, таможенник увидел в них – много электротоваров, кофе, посуду, постельное белье, электродрель, ткани, автомобильные запчасти, сантехнику и прочее, прочее, запрещенное к вывозу из страны, но покоящееся в вашем багаже. Не переживайте. Это не конец света. Возможно, вокруг вас соберется вся таможенная братия и будет прилюдно топтаться на ваших заграничных надеждах, пугать кутузкой и письмом в трудовой коллектив. Знайте, все, что вы собирались провезти через границу, контрабандой не является! Контрабанда – это наркотики, валюта, не занесенная в таможенную декларацию, оружие, предметы старины, драгоценности... И поэтому у вас просто-напросто экспроприируют ваш “товар”.

QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC

1. What is the purpose of the Customs?
2. Do the Customs regulations and restrictions vary in different countries?
Can you give example?
3. Why must travellers fill in a declaration for?
4. What articles are usually brought in duty-free?
5. Do you happen to know any of the customs restrictions imposed by the Customs regulations in this country?
6. Why does the law declare smuggling a criminal offence?
7. What are the duties of a Customs Officer?
8. What professional and personal qualities should a Customs officer have?
9. Normally travellers are liable to Customs inspection when crossing the border. What about people who enjoy diplomatic immunity?

10. How would you account for the fact that people usually feel rather nervous when going through the Customs?
11. What are customs wars (tariff wars) and why are they waged between countries?
12. Have you ever gone through the Customs? Recall your experience.
13. What is known to you about an export or import licence?
14. What does the “Customs Inspected” stamp stand for?
15. Can you name some of the “personal effects” one usually takes along on a journey?
16. What does the phrase “I have nothing to declare” mean?
17. What is a duty-free item?
18. What do we mean by saying that something is an item liable to duty?
19. What does the expression “to exceed the quota” mean when applied to the customs restrictions?
20. Are customs duties taxed both on imported as well as exported goods?

UNIT 4

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

At the Frontier

- Jim: Well? Here we are at last. What does that notice say?
- Jane: “We welcome you to Poland”. “Car drivers and passengers are advised to proceed to customs clearance point, which is three hundred metres ahead”.
- Robert: Good thing there isn’t much traffic about yet. We’ll get through the customs pretty quickly, I expect.

Jim: We wouldn't have, if we'd stopped for a second breakfast, which all of you wanted to do.

Robert: Here we are, this seems to be the customs shed.

Maggie: I can't help feeling nervous. We've brought so much stuff.

Jim: Don't worry so, Maggie.

Maggie: Yes, but look here! between us we've got a portable radio, three cameras, a typewriter and a tape-recorder, and most of them brand new, which is bound to make them suspicious.

Jane: It says something about that here, Maggie. (reads) "Cameras, typewriters and portable radios, which are dutiable, must be entered on the customs declaration form".

Jim: Where do we hold of that?

Robert: There's another notice about that over there. "Customs declaration forms, which must be completed in triplicate, are available at counter Number three". Here you are. Let's start filling them in while we're waiting. The queue's quite short.

Jim: Look, it's our turn. Got the forms ready?

Customs Officer: Good morning. May I see your declaration forms? Thank you.
Are you just travelling through Poland or will you be staying for some time?

Robert: We are going on to Moscow, but we're going to stay in Warsaw for three or four days.

Customs Officer: Would you open these two large suitcases, please? Thank you.
Of course, you'll have to bring the typewriter, cameras and radio out again, don't lose this form. Thank you, that's all.

Maggie: Is that really all?

Customs Officer: Yes, that's all. I hope you enjoy your visit to Poland. Good-bye.

Catching a Smuggler

Customs Officer: Yes, madam. In that case, I wonder if you'd mind singing this form. If you like, I'll explain it to you.

Smuggler: Why should I sign anything?

Customs Officer: To make things easier for yourself, madam. We're merely asking you to confirm in writing what you've already told us. You say the dresses were purchased...

Smuggler: How many times must I tell you? They were bought in Chicago and New York before I left for Europe, so were the sweaters. The coat was a gift – purchased in the United States. I received it six months ago. What happens if I sign the form?

Customs Officer: Then you must go, madam.

Smuggler: And take my things with me? All my things?

Customs Officer: Yes.

Smuggler: Suppose I refuse to sign?

Customs Officer: Then we shall be obliged to detain you here while continue the investigation.

Smuggler: Very well, You fill out the form; I'll sign.

Customs Officer: No, madam, you fill it out. Now here, please, describe the items, and alongside where, you say, they were obtained. Please, give the names of the stores, also from whom you

received the fur coat as a gift. Madam, is there anything else you wish to declare?

Smuggler: There certainly isn't.

Customs Officer: Are you sure?

Smuggler: Yes.

Customs Officer: In that case, madam, will you kindly open your handbag?

Smuggler: But surely, purses are never inspected. I've been through Customs many times...

Customs Officer: Normally, they are not. But we do have the right... Madam, I have to leave for a short while, but I'll be back. In any case, this is going to take some time.

В ЕВРОПЕ ПОШЛИНА – ДЕЛО ПРОШЛОЕ

Нашему туристу, приезжающему в римский аэропорт имени Леонардо да Винчи, грозит нешуточный после Шереметьева шок: его никто не “досматривает”. После прохождения паспортного контроля и получения багажа он выходит из таможенной зоны, не вызвав, как правило, ни малейшего интереса со стороны людей в серой форме финансовой гвардии. Более того, нет длительного ряда стоек для регулярного осмотра багажа, аппаратов для просвечивания чемоданов и сумок, а главное – отсутствует настойчивые операторы этих всевидящих приборов, изымающих видеокассеты или сверхнормативные буханку хлеба или бутылку водки. Таможенный досмотр здесь производится редко, выборочно и, как правило, при наличии каких-то оснований. Основная масса пассажиров пересекает границы Италии, даже не вспоминая о наличии таможни.

Офицеры финансовой гвардии, как правило, весьма вежливы и свое возможное раздражение демонстрируют лишь в предельно пунктуальном соблюдении таможенных правил.

Поскольку последних великое множество, то при желании можно потребовать у миланца, возвращающегося после уик-енда из Швейцарии, справку о том, что его фотоаппарат приобретен в Италии. Если же он куплен за границей, то его обладателю придется выплатить 19 процентов налога на добавленную стоимость. А товары из стран – не членов Европейского сообщества облагаются еще и пошлиной. Впрочем, как правило, к личному багажу претензии предъявляются крайне редко.

Зато в коммерческом обороте таможня действует весьма эффективно. Если страны ЕС отказались от взаимного обложения пошлинами товаров, то импортеров японских компьютеров или американских видеосистем ждет неизбежная выплата довольно приличного налога. Внутренний рынок сообщества защищен от мирового высокими тарифными барьерами, а также так называемыми нетарифными ограничениями. К последним относятся не только претензии по техническим нормам, но также и бюрократические проволочки с оформлением таможенных документов. А бюрократия в Италии самое грозное оружие. Кроме того, например, ввоз легковых автомобилей из Японии ограничен количественно – всего лишь несколько тысяч в год.

ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ, НО БЕЗ МЯСА

Немецкая таможня работает, как хорошо отлаженный часовой механизм. Ее отделения находятся не как в нашей стране – главным образом на границе, а разбросаны по всей территории Германии. Подобная

практика объясняется тем, что по мере необходимости таможенные отделы создавались и создаются на фирмах и предприятиях, которые занимаются экспортными и импортными операциями. “Наша главная задача”, – рассказывает сотрудница боннской таможни Б.Хайнцельман, – “облегчить работу тем, кто закупает продукцию для ввоза ее в Германию или экспортирует товары за рубеж”. В соответствии с установленными правилами определены размеры таможенных сборов и пошлин на все виды товаров и изделий, пересекающих государственную границу Германии во всех направлениях.

Внутри всех стран ЕЭС действуют во многом одинаковые правила, регламентирующие количество не облагаемого налогом товара на ввоз и вывоз. Беспшлинно каждому гражданину из любой страны ЕЭС разрешается ввозить в Германию:

300 сигарет или 50 сигар, полтора литра крепких спиртных напитков или по 3 литра вина, 1 килограмм кофе, 200 граммов чая, золото и драгоценности на сумму, не превышающую 810 немецких марок.

Для граждан же третьих стран количество разрешаемых на беспошлинный ввоз товаров соответственно сокращается вдвое по всем наименованиям. Все остальные виды товаров и изделий облагаются таможенной пошлиной, а отдельные и дополнительным налогом: в размере 30 процентов от стоимости за каждый ввозимый телевизор и видеоманитофон заграничного производства, 9,5 процента за кассетный магнитофон, 14 процентов за каждое изделие из текстиля, 13 процентов за каждую мужскую сорочку.

Самый высокий налог – за провозимые сверх нормы табачные изделия (90 процентов) и спиртные напитки (25,5 немецких марок за каждый литр).

Строго запрещено ввозить наркотики, оружие, боеприпасы, мясо и мясные продукты, растения и диких животных.

TAXATION IN THE UK

The structure of taxation in the UK has changed over the years and the objectives of tax policies have varied. However, certain basic principles continue to influence our tax system.

First, government have sought to spread the burden of taxation as fairly as possible. For example, the income tax system is designed so that people with higher incomes pay a greater proportion of their incomes in tax than those with lower incomes. Second, our system aims to treat all individuals fairly; taxes are universal, imposed without distinction between people of similar economic resources. Third, taxes should be as simple to understand and as easy to administer as possible. Otherwise enterprise is inhibited and the burden of taxation becomes greater than it should be.

The main purpose of taxation is to finance government expenditure. However, the structure and level of taxation, together with monetary policy, may be altered to promote certain desired economic or social objectives (such as raising fuel duties for environmental reasons).

TELEPHONE ETIQUETTE

You may use your telephone frequently on Customs business. The following are suggestions for effective and professional telephone usage.

 Answer with your name and your organizational unit

 Have note-taking materials available

- ☎ Offer a return call if the answer is not immediately available
- ☎ Place the caller on “hold” rather than waiting on an open line
- ☎ When placing calls, identify yourself without being asked
- ☎ Show professional courtesy

Customs telephones are for business use. You should restrict your use of government telephones for personal use to those specific instances permitted by regulations or directives. Your supervisor can tell you the acceptable limits for personal use. **Never keep** a customer (internal or external) waiting while you conduct personal business on the telephone.

Using governmental long distance lines for personal use and thereby incurring a toll which will be paid by the government is forbidden. Such activity may result in disciplinary action.

U.S. CUSTOMS INFORMATION

To enter the United States, you must complete a Customs Declaration and sign it whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. Families returning together may prepare a joint declaration, with children claiming the same exemption as adults (except for liquor). Children born abroad, who have never lived in the United States, are considered nonresidents for Customs purposes.

YOU MAY DECLARE ORALLY every item acquired abroad and brought back with you (whether purchased or given to you), if the item’s total value does not exceed \$1400. State the price actually paid in U.S. currency or its equivalent in country of acquisition. Repairs or alterations to articles taken abroad and

returned must be declared, whether paid for or provided free of charge. State the fair retail value of acquisitions not purchased.

YOU MUST DECLARE IN WRITING your acquisitions when:

- * You have exceeded the liquor or tobacco exemptions, or the total value of your acquisitions exceeds \$1400 per person;
- * You bring in items for business purposes or for someone else;
- * You send home items acquired in the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or Guam; or
- * You are asked to do so by the Customs Inspector.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 48 HOURS OR MORE, AND HAVE NOT CLAIMED THE \$400 EXEMPTION WITHIN THE PAST 30 DAYS, you receive an exemption from duty and federal tax on the first \$400 worth – fair retail value where acquired – of all personal and household goods you obtain abroad and bring back with you. Limitations on alcohol, tobacco, and perfume are listed below. Articles which are to be shipped cannot be applied to your exemption: duty on these items will be assessed when received. The 48-hour stay is not required for travellers from Mexico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE 48-HOUR OR 30-DAY TIME REQUIREMENTS, you may bring in items totalling \$25 or less for your own personal or household use, free of duty and federal tax. However, you must have no more than \$ 25 worth, or you pay on all dutiable items with no exception.

If you are eligible for the \$400 exemption, you may include 100 CIGARS and 200 CIGARETTES, regardless of your age. Cigarettes may be subject to state or local tax. Cuban tobacco products brought directly from Cuba may be included.

If you are 21 or older, you may include ONE LETTER (33.8 fluid ounces) of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, if it is for your own use or a gift, and if it is allowed by the state in which you arrive. LIQUOR CANNOT BE MAILED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

If you are eligible for the \$25 exemption, you may include TEN CIGARS, 50 CIGARETTES, 150 MILLILITERS (four fluid ounces) of PERFUME containing alcohol.

If you exceed these limits, you must pay duty, internal revenue tax, and possibly sales tax. Duty rates for distilled spirits, wine, and beer are generally 10 percent of their value. Internal revenue tax is \$10.50 per proof gallon on distilled spirits, from \$17 to \$10.50 per proof gallon on wine, and \$29 per gallon on beer.

Customs enforces the laws of the state in which you arrive. State laws differ as to quantity you may bring in. Some state regulations differ regarding personal possession and shipment of liquor. Some states do not allow individuals to import more liquor than listed even by paying tax.

DUTY RATES

The Congress of the United States has set the resident exemption at \$400 (\$800 for travellers entering directly or indirectly from Guam, American Samoa, or U.S. Virgin Islands with certain exceptions – ask the Customs Inspector for

details) to simplify the international traveller's reentry in to the United States. The next \$1000 in items is generally dutiable at a flat 10 percent rate (5 percent for goods acquired in Guam, American Samoa, or U.S. Virgin Islands), bringing the total possible duty on purchases valued at \$1400 per person to \$100. Families living in one household are returning together may combine their purchases on a joint declaration and multiply their exemptions accordingly.

If you exceed the \$1400 or the combined family flat rate allowance, it has been found that the average tourist purchase is generally dutiable at about 12 percent, although an actual determination will be made by the Customs Inspector.

You may not apply the flat rate more than once every 30 day.

“DUTY-FREE SHOPS”

All items purchased at foreign “Duty-free” shops and brought into the United States are subject to Customs duty and restrictions but may be included in your exemption. Articles purchased in U.S. duty-free shops and brought back into the United States may not be included in you exemption and are dutiable.

NONRESIDENT INFORMATION

The nonresident's exemption allows the following articles to be brought in free of duty and internal revenue taxes:

- * Personal effects for one's own use while travelling, but not intended for another person or for sale.

- * 50 cigars or 200 cigarettes or two kilograms of smoking tobacco, or proportionate amounts of each.

- * Not more than one liter of alcoholic beverage for personal consumption (adults only).

* \$100 in gifts for other persons. You may include 100 cigars in this gift exemption but not alcoholic beverage. You must have the articles with you; you must not have used this gift exemption in the past six months; and you must plan to be in the United States for at least 72 hours.

You must take with you when you leave the United States all articles except gifts and articles consumed during your visit.

A Customs Inspector may ask you to list valuable items you are bringing and note how long you plan to stay. The Inspector will give you a copy of your list so that you may show it to Customs when you leave.

If you do not return abroad, you must immediately notify the District Director of Customs for the area where you entered.

IMPORTANT U.S. LAWS FOR ALL TRAVELLERS

* Any article not declared or otherwise misrepresented may result in civil and criminal penalties in addition to seizure of goods.

* If you or any member of your family travelling with you is carrying more than US \$10,000 (or the equivalent value in any currency in any monetary instruments), you must file a report on Form 4790, obtainable from a Customs inspector. It is not illegal to transport into or out of the United States more than \$10,000 in monetary instruments; however, it must be reported. Failure to make a report may result in civil and criminal penalties against you in addition to seizure of the undeclared negotiable instruments.

* Do not carry illicit drugs or narcotics into the United States. There are civil and criminal penalties, including imprisonment, facing anyone in possession of narcotics or dangerous and restricted drugs or who conspires to aid persons attempting to import them.

* Anyone who falsely claims U.S. citizenship is subject to criminal penalties and deportation proceedings.

* You must declare and have available for inspection all agricultural material, including fruits, meats, plants, food, birds, soil, snails or other living organisms. You must also indicate whether you or your family members have been on a ranch or farm prior to return.

PAYMENT OF DUTY:

Upon your arrival, you must pay required duty on items you bring with you.

YOU MAY PAY:

* In U.S. (not foreign currency);

* By personal check in the exact amount of duty, drawn on a national or state or trust company of the United States, made payable to the "U.S. Customs Service".

ТАМОЖНЯ

Учебно-методические материалы для студентов III курса отделения
английского языка переводческого факультета

Составители: ОЛЕГ МИХАЙЛОВИЧ ЛЫСЕНКО
НЕЛЛИ ПЕТРОВНА ГРИГОРЬЕВА

Лицензия ЛР № 020073 от 20.06.97

Подписано к печати

Печ.л. 0,8

Цена договорная

Заказ

Формат 60 x 84 1/8.

Тираж

Типография НГЛУ им. Н.А. Добролюбова
603155, Н.Новгород, ул. Минина, 31а