

Shmanners 206: Airports

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Travis: We will now begin our boarding process, so please wait until your group is—oh, everyone’s standing up. Okay.

Teresa: It’s Shmanners!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners!

Teresa: It’s extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: ... for ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hi, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: Doing alright. How are you doing?

Travis: I'm doing fiiine! Oh, just fine!

Teresa: Just fine. Everything’s fine.

Travis: Every day is a party, and I don’t ever want to stop.

Teresa: ... Great.

Travis: I'm also tired all the time.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um... And listen, I think I'm the first parent to ever have this problem. But my kid keeps asking "why why why why why why why why why why why why why why why why why why why?" It's a lot.

Teresa: It's a lot. Yeah. A lot's going on. Hey! Let's have some escapism. Let's—let's get on a plane. Let's go somewhere. How about... Fiji?

Travis: Oka—okay. Sure. Um, I know nothing about Fiji except I believe that's where the water comes from.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, let me ask you this. Let me ask you this, Teresa.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: How do you feel about airports?

Teresa: Um...

Travis: And has your time with me changed how you feel about them?

Teresa: Yes and no.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, I didn't travel very much before I met you.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: I had maybe been on an airplane two or three times before we started our tour lifestyle together. Um, and... it—going—traveling. Traveling in like, the big sense, has always been stressful for me. But it definitely

helps to have someone like you who likes to make a plan, and be prepared, and y'know, like, have things scheduled out, to really put a lot of my anxieties at ease.

Travis: Yeah, that's the thing, is like, I'm not always the person who's like, "I'm gonna do all the research and be fully prepared!" But when it comes to like, planning events, be it travel or parties or whatever, I am that person. Y'know what I mean?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And so like, between live show tours, and conventions, and like, going places to do, y'know, different performances, or filming, or something like that... I travel a lot. I fly a lot. And I've gotten very good at it. And I've gotten very good at airport. At airporing. And the number one thing that I think we will probably keep touching back—at least for me. My kind of philosophy on it is that, I do not believe airport, uh, or in many ways, airplane... is included in the vacation or trip. That it is the last..

Teresa: Right. Yes. It's the last step here on earth, before the vacation begins.

Travis: Yeah. It's the last, like, kind of zone of like... like, dead drop almost of just like, waiting for the fun thing to—and I don't think that was always true. We've done a—we did an episode where we talked about like, car travel, airplane travel, boat travel, and train travel, right? So we talked about on the airplane itself, right?

And listen – anyone who's been on a plane in the last 20 years will not be surprised to learn... unless you're doing like, United Air Emirates and you're paying like, ten thousand dollars for a seat... airplanes aren't comfortable. They're not like, great.

Teresa: It's a mode of conveyance.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: That's not especially comfortable.

Travis: It's not the luxury they're—it's not like the like, bar in the sky! Enjoy your T-bone steak!

Teresa: Although... I'm gonna talk about that.

Travis: Okay, please.

Teresa: Um, so, it makes sense that these giant, metal birds we call airplanes...

Travis: Yes. These sky birds.

Teresa: ... need a place to nest. Right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And that place is the airport. Um, quickly going back into some aviation history... The first takeoff was in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, by those handsome devils.

Travis: Yes. This is one of the things I really love, being here in Ohio, is that even though the first flight happened in Kitty Hawk, so, North Carolina... Their, I believe, state slogan or whatever the slogan is on their license plate says 'first in flight.' The Ohio ones say 'birthplace of flight.' [laughs]

Teresa: Birthplace of aviation, I thought.

Travis: That's it. Birthplace of aviation. It's like, well...

Teresa: Because...

Travis: They had the idea here, though, so...

Teresa: Because the Wright Brothers were born in Ohio. Uh, but the flight took place in 1903. The first person to fly as a passenger, uh, was Leon Delagrange, who rode with a French pilot in a meadow outside of Paris in 1908.

So then, because the history of aviation is also the history of one-upmanship... um, Orville Wright asked his friend, Charles Furnace, to give him a ride on their plane at Kitty Hawk later that same year. So... [laughs] So it was just the pilots at first. Then, one or two passengers. And the first airport to be opened was opened by Wilbur Wright.

Travis: That tracks, yes.

Teresa: Yep. In Maryland, called College Park Airport in 1909. It is the world's oldest, continually operating air field.

Travis: Oh! Okay!

Teresa: So, um... before this... well, not before planes. Before airports, really... um, you chartered your own planes, if you wanted to be in a plane. But mostly, people who were in a plane were, um, like, on exhibition. Right? [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It wasn't really for travel. But the first scheduled air service began in Florida on New Year's Day in 1914. It was started by an aviator called Glenn Curtiss, and they designed the first airplane that could take off and land on water. Right?

Travis: Ooh!

Teresa: And that allowed it, um... to be larger than any other plane at the time, because it didn't need the heavy undercarriage for landing on ground. Right? It could use those kind of like, pontoon floaty things. So the plane could actually be bigger, so it was more comfortable to have passengers.

Auto parts maker, Thomas Benoist, decided to copy his design for service across the Tampa Bay, which he dubbed the St. Petersburg – Tampa Air Boat Line. Which does not trip off the tongue, really.

Travis: No, that is not... good branding, I'd say.

Teresa: Um, and he ferried the former mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida, across the bay in 23 minutes. So that's 18 miles in 23 minutes.

Travis: Um, do you want to know... just a weird fact that I know about Harry Houdini?

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Harry Houdini was very, uh, obsessed with, fascinated by, flight. And so, uh, now... the way I remember it is that he sat—he wanted to set—be the first in flight, somewhere. So, he had a plane sent to and assembled in Australia. And he flew it there. And he became the first person to fly over Australian soil.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Um... but yeah.

Teresa: But he kind of manufactured that.

Travis: Yeah, I mean, deffo. It was like—it was like if you said, like, "Okay, what's the easiest world record?" I mean, he's still the first person to fly over Australian soil. Cool cool. But... yeah. He did it on purpose. It wasn't like, on accident. Although, I would argue... the Wrights, y'know, it wasn't on ac—they didn't trip and fall into a plane and say like, "Oh, we're flying!"

Teresa: [laughing] Wouldn't that be great?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, it could only carry one passenger at a time, and they did two trips a day for five dollars a passenger.

Travis: What year was this?

Teresa: It was in... 1914.

Travis: So, five dollars was a lot.

Teresa: A lot. It was a lot. But the company folded after the tour season ended. [laughs]

Travis: Well, yeah.

Teresa: But, this counts. It counts as a first commercial air travel, right?

Travis: Okay. Yeah. Sure.

Teresa: Um, so, like... [sighs] Airplanes were still... well, people didn't trust them, basically.

Travis: No! No! Why would you?!

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Why would you at that point?!

Teresa: It doesn't make sense that the whole thing would work, right?

Travis: Right! Yes! Here's the thing. Here we are, 2020. I have, uh, let me be clear – I have no qualms getting onto a plane and flying anywhere. Right? We've flown over the ocean, we've flown cross country, we've flown so many times. I have no problem with it, because I have done the research, as we discussed earlier, and I know that, comparatively, it is far safer than like, car travel or whatever. And we get into those all the time.

But in 1914??? [laughs] There's no way I'd be like, "Yeah, put me on that thing! We just figured out how to do it? Send me up there!" Right? Like... it's like if we invented teleportation. It's gonna be a while before I get in it! You know that, right? Like...

Teresa: There's a scene in like, Star Trek: Discovery or something. What's the one that takes place at the beginning? Pre—

Travis: Uh, Enterpri—no—yes. Right?

Teresa: Pre... pre the first series.

Travis: I think it's just all Enterprise.

Teresa: Enterprise, where they're like, "I'm not getting in that tele—" That—what is—

Travis: The transporter?

Teresa: The transporter thing. Yeah.

Travis: The beam-me-up.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, okay. So, between the '20s and '50s, really, the like... every aviation stunt made news. Like, y'know, Amelia Earhart, and uh, Charles Lindbergh, and y'know, all that kind of stuff. But people weren't using it for travel. They were using it for war.

Travis: Well, yeah. I mean, we've talked about this... I think on this show, before. A lot of times, the things that we now use, like, day to day in our lives, were first invented for military—or perfected through military purposes. Y'know, stuff like GPS and, y'know, satellite radio and all that stuff.

Teresa: All that stuff. Um, so, the dog fights of World War I and World War II pushed airplane knowledge and design.

Travis: Yeah. You had Howard Hughes out there trying to make a buck on stu—is that right? I'm confused how much of it is true, what I know about Howard Hughes, and how much is based off of both his, uh, portrayal in *The Aviator*... buuut, if I'm being honest, more like *The Rocketeer*. In *The Rocketeer*, that's basically everything I know about Howard Hughes.

Teresa: [laughs] At this point, planes are not just like, one person fighters anymore. We get into big cargo jets. Y'know, the whole like, parachuting deal out of big planes and stuff like that. Um, so, after World War II, into the '50s here, this is when we enter the goolden age of airplane travel!

Travis: This is where we see it as more like, a lounge in the sky, right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Like, everybody's wearing suits and dresses and smoking up a storm, and...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Having cocktail after cocktail after cocktail after cocktail.

Teresa: But it wasn't very accessible. It was still really, really expensive. For example, you would pay 40% more for a ticket than you would today. So, a flight from Chicago to Phoenix on TWA would cost you \$138 round trip in 1951.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So we adjust that for inflation, and that's \$1,168 for a four hour flight.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Huh. Okay.

Teresa: Um, so...

Travis: To be fair, though, I mean... okay, here's what I will say. Not only adjusted for inflation. Because I was about to say like, there are some, like, first class—if you waited too long, and blah blah... but even then, if you compare the amount of luxury that they offered at that time, and comfort, right? That was still, like... you were getting more for your buck than you did.

I don't know. I feel two ways about it, right? Because like, yeah, that's definitely not accessible, especially when we're talking about like, the post-war '50s, there wasn't a lot of like, cash floating around, or whatever.

Teresa: So let's take this kind of luxury, and put it up against the advancements in technology.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: So, you could waltz right up to your plane about a half an hour beforehand. Nowadays, to go through things like security and ticketing, it takes about two to three hours, sometimes.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Flying coach would've been more like business class today. Lots of leg room, um, lots of amenities... in fact, there were far more staff on the airplane than there are today, um, so that you could count on fast service.

Also, in-flight meals and things like that were a lot more, like—they were served in courses, first of all.

Travis: We've talked about it before, but there's a show called Supersizers Go, which, uh, they do an episode that include—I want to say it's like, the '70s or something?

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Yeah. It's the '70s episode.

Travis: There's an episode that includes like, if you were on an airplane, then this is what the meal would've been, and it is like... incredible. Y'know, it's like, lamb shanks and champagne and like...

Teresa: Foie gras, and...

Travis: Yeah, it's incredible.

Teresa: Um, and y'know, cigars, of course, 'cause you could still smoke.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And... not only that, but like... [sighs] It was—they used top designers. They had... it was a luxury experience, and it was billed as such.

Travis: Yeah. I mean, like I said. I mean, I wasn't joking. If you look at the photos and designs and stuff, it's like a lounge, y'know? It's like, couches and tables and everything. It was—it was not... it was not what we think of now. Like, here is, y'know, a hundred rows of three seats, and it's... y'know, we talked at the beginning of the episode of it was like... the plane is now, like, get you there. Right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: To compare it, right? Now it's like, the plane is like a car. Right? Where it used to be like a tour bus. And it was like, y'know, here's the couch, and here's the lounge, and we got TVs, and you could sleep here in the bed. Right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And now it's just like, nope. Point A to point B. Your vacation starts when you get there.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And I think it's because – my guess? If I can posit, maybe we'll get to this. But as we began to rely on airplanes more and more for travel, it became less and less of a luxury, right? And airlines realized, like, we don't have to provide the same luxury. People *have* to use these planes. And so, we can cut back on this luxury, and people will still pay to use it.

Teresa: Ahh, consumerism.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Ahh, the... what is that? Not socialism.

Travis: Uh, buhh, it's, uhh... uhh...

Teresa: Capitalism!

Travis: Capitalism! Ohh! We got there.

Teresa: [laughs] My brain is melting.

Travis: Because if you think about it, right? We're talking about the '70s. It wasn't like... there was no like, I work remotely. You didn't work from home. Right? You didn't travel the same way, right? Where now it's like, well, y'know, I work online, but sometimes I have to fly in for the thing, and I can remotely tra—like...

Teresa: Right.

Travis: It's a much different landscape now than it was, y'know, in 19—I'm not telling anything nobody already knew, but...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: The world's just—what I'm saying is, in 50 years, the world's changed!

Teresa: The world has changed. Uh, so, the airport specifically, um, was part of this experience. And like I said, was uh, intricately designed, and beautiful, but... boring.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Pretty boring. Probably there was one... maybe not even like, sit down restaurant. There's kind of like a cafeteria style deal. And like, a news stand. But, that didn't stop people from dressing in their Sunday best to, uh, board their plane, or to, um, pick up other passengers or whatever. Um, so... I mean... if you think about all of the images in like, *Catch Me if You Can*, another airport aviation movie... there wasn't really—there's not really to talk about anything like etiquette at an airport, because... you didn't really—you didn't really do anything?

Travis: Well, not then. Yeah. Once again—well, 'cause that was the thing, is... airports had to change. The more as like, well, we're gonna go, and we gotta wait two hours for our flight now. As opposed to like, literally, the airport being point A, point B, of like—that's the second time I used that phrase in ten minutes. I'm lazy.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But like, I'm going to enter and walk through it to get on the plane.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Right? Where now it's like, well, we have to get there early in case there's any issues. And now we have an hour and 45 minutes to kill. Which, creates opportunity for business, right? Creates opportunity for shop—there's shopping. There's massage therapists. There's—I love all—you get your nails painted. I love all that. The shopping—the one that still throws me is the... you'll see like, a Brooks Brother—the two ones, right? It's Brooks Brothers shops, like, that are selling suits in the airport, and Spanx shops.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: They're selling at the same place, like... who's walking through the airport like, "Oh, y'know?"

Teresa: "I would like to be less comfortable, please!"

Travis: "I need one or both of those things right now!" Uh, we're gonna talk more about airports. But first... how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

Travis: We want to send a thank you note to our sponsor, DoorDash. DoorDash is the app that brings you food you're craving, right now, right to your door. And I would argue, it's more important than ever right now. They continue supporting restaurants in your community safely. There are thousands of restaurants open for delivery on DoorDash that need your patronage now more than ever. Support your favorite restaurants on DoorDash.

Ordering is easy. Open the DoorDash app, choose what you want to eat, and your food will be left safely outside your door with the new contactless delivery drop off setting. Many of your favorite local restaurants are still open for delivery. Just open the DoorDash app, select your favorite local restaurant, and your food will be left at your door.

Right now, our listeners can get five dollars off their first order of \$15 or more, and zero delivery fees for their first month when you download the DoorDash app and enter code 'Shmanners.' That's five dollars off your first order and zero delivery fees for a month when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code 'Shmanners.' Don't forget – that's 'Shmanners' for five dollars off your first order with DoorDash.

We're also sponsored in part this week by Quip! Quip, makers of the Quip electric toothbrush, wants you to know that no matter what brand you use, if you have good habits, you are good. We love Quip here in this house. Brushing our teeth is so important. Good oral health is so important.

Listen, not just brushing – flossing, too. And frankly, I think that good oral hygiene becomes easier when the toothpaste tastes amazing. And frankly, Quip makes my favorite toothpaste! So, make sure you check it out. Because, Quip... okay. Let me tell you all the amazing things about Quip.

They, uh, have a built-in timer in their toothbrushes that lets you know when you have finished brushing for the appropriate two minutes at a time. And, it has little pulses to let you know when to switch to the different sections of your mouth, so you get a good, all-over, full, and even clean. And the floss comes like, pre-portioned, so you know you're using enough. Not too much, not too little. Just the perfect amount. And the vibrations in the toothbrush are gentle, so it doesn't feel like it's rattling the teeth out of your head.

And plus, Quip delivers fresh brush heads, floss, and toothpaste every three months with free shipping. So, go to [GetQuip.com/Shmanners](https://www.getquip.com/shmanners) right now for your first refill free. That's [GetQuip.com/Shmanners](https://www.getquip.com/shmanners). Quip: The good habits company.

[music plays]

Manolo: Hey, you've reached Dr. Gameshow. Leave your message after the beep.

[beep]

Steve: Hello, this is Steve from Albany, talking about my favorite podcast, Dr. Gameshow. Dr. Gameshow is a show where listeners submit their craazy idea for game shows, and the two hosts have to play them, and they often bring in celebrities and small children to share in the pain and hilarity.

At first, it might seem like Jo Firestone has a contentious relationship with the listeners, but that is only mostly true. She actually really respects us. It's a lot like Lethal Weapon, where Jo is like, "Oh, listeners! You're all loose cannons! You're out of control!" And we're like, "No, Firestone. You're too by

the book. You've forgotten what it's like out there." And that's why I love the show.

[beep]

Jo: Listen to Dr. Gameshow on Maximum Fun. New episodes every other Wednesday.

[music plays]

Ben: Alright Adam, uh, Maximum Fun wants us to record like, a promo to tell people that they should listen to The Greatest Generation. You want to do that?

Adam: No! I am tired of all the extra work. I just want to talk about Star Trek with my friend!

Ben: I think it would be good to like, try and get some new listeners by appealing to the audiences of other shows? Like, this will only take a minute or two. It could be good for us.

Adam: We sit down for an hour every week and talk about a Star Trek episode, and make a bunch of idiotic fart jokes about it. It's embarrassing. If it got out that we made this show, I think it would make us unemployable.

Ben: Adam... I have bad news for you. We have tens of thousands of listeners at MaximumFun.org.

Adam: Oh my god... I think I'm gonna throw up.

Ben: The Greatest Generation: A Star Trek podcast by a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed to have a Star Trek podcast. Every Monday on MaximumFun.org.

Adam: I'm really gonna be sick.

Travis: Okay. We're back. Let's talk more about airports.

Teresa: Yes. Well, we've covered a lot of the glitz and glamor.

Travis: Now let's talk about the gritty underbelly!

Teresa: Well... I mean, we talked about smoking, so... if you had asthma...

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah.

Teresa: It was basically a um, a tube of smoke going through the sky.

Travis: Wait, yeah. That sounds bad. That's unpleasant.

Teresa: [laughs] The airports, also, you were allowed to smoke. So those— those, uh, empty buildings with hardly anything to do to get away from it were full of smoke as well.

Travis: I bet, after... 'cause you gotta think about it, right? The air is contained in an airplane, right? Pressurized, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And so, then, people smoking for like a four, five... or, like transatlantic flight, right? I bet that upholstery stank to no end. Just like, sucked in—

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: I bet people got off of it smelling like they had just been like, I don't know, rolling around in embers. Like, they had to smell terrible! Right?

Teresa: [laughing] Exactly. Um...

Travis: And they didn't have like, air conditioners! Ugh. Okay.

Teresa: People would walk around willy nilly and get on and off the plane without telling people, leave their bags places, um... There weren't really security measures, and so, bomb threats happened, and things like that. Um, planes themselves were *very* hazardous at the time.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Um, mid-air collisions and crashes were more common. Engines actually dropped out of planes, and these accidents wouldn't be recorded if they were still able to land with their second engine.

Travis: Oh boy. Ohh boy.

Teresa: That's very, very scary. And the biggest part is, the design of the plane was not—didn't factor in the kind of like, G force that would happen during turbulence. So, you could actually die from the rough air that we experience these days, hitting your head on things. There weren't like, safety belts.

Travis: Well, yes.

Teresa: Sometimes, the chairs weren't even secured to the ground.

Travis: That's the downside of the lounge in the sky, right? Is like, no seatbelts! [laughs]

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah. And y'know, if you have a lounge, you have, like, chairs and tables and cushions and all kinds of stuff that could like, bump around and hurt people, and all that kind of stuff. Right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, so, if I had to choose, I would still use... plane travel as a means of conveyance, more than part of the trip itself.

Travis: Yes. I agree. 100%. I will take the safety, uh, and convenience... I will say, so, um... I flew, when we did the Max Fun event thing at the Grand

Canyon, right? So, it's one of the few times in my life I've ever had like, three connections for a flight. [laughs]

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But we flew out of the Flagstaff Airport, which was very, very small. Very clean, very nice. Don't get me wrong. But very, very small. And like... the bathrooms—the only bathrooms were on the outside of security.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: So like, if you went through TSA, which was like, just one, y'know, X-ray and one person, and you needed to go to the restroom, you would have to go back out, use the restroom, and then come back through TSA again.

Teresa: Oh, wow! What a hassle.

Travis: Yeah. And so, that's the kind of thing of like... that airport is clearly a leftover from beforetime. Before the increased TSA measures.

Teresa: So now, let's go over some, uh, some ways to be kind at the modern airport.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: First of all, if you're in any sort of line like security or ticketing, have what you need in your hand, ready to go. And y'know, ready to find in your bag.

Travis: This is—let me tell you, folks. Security lines... this is where I shine. Right? This is one of my, uh... this is one of my airport strong suits. Here's what you need. You need a jacket, right? Or your backpack, or whatever your carryon bag is.

And know, like, when I get up there, as I'm walking through the line, I'm taking my phone out of my pocket, I'm putting it in the bag. Taking my

wallet out of my pocket, I'm getting my ID and my boarding pass and I'm putting it in the bag. Taking my belt off, and I'm putting—you're doing it as you're moving up there, instead of waiting until you get there, and now you're doing it, and everyone's waiting behind you. And more than that, it also gives you time to think so you don't forget something.

And let me just say this as a PSA. And I shouldn't have to, because it's been 19 years since 9/11, but I'll go ahead and say it now. You can't bring liquids through the TSA security check point.

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: And I still, like, within the last six months, have seen people stopped with—I saw somebody, like a year ago!

Teresa: Now, there are always accidents.

Travis: This person had a cooler. Like a little, y'know, soft-sided cooler, like a lunch box, filled with like, eight mini bottles of water. And they couldn't understand why they weren't allowed to bring that on.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Sooo... sooo... here, let me just tell you, as the person who may someday be stuck behind you. You can't bring liquids. If you make a mistake, and you accidentally leave a bottle of water in your bag, I've done that. That's fine. Buuut, I also saw somebody try to bring through like, a gallon jug of water. He was like, "What? This is not okay?"

Teresa: Uh, no.

Travis: Nooo!

Teresa: No, it's not. Um, also, y'know... I know you're exhausted. Maybe you've been traveling all night. Try and, y'know, be nice. It's a lot easier to uh, we say, catch flies with honey than with vinegar. So if you want a pleasant experience, be pleasant to others.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Know how much your bag weighs, and if it's overweight, you need to be prepared to pay for it.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Uh, because that is something that pretty much every airline does now. I mean, it's not a surprise that, if you're over whatever the weight limit is, you're gonna have to pay extra.

Uh, don't talk on the phone while you're in line for things. It makes it so that it's confusing. Who's talking to who? But also, it's distracting. And like you said, if you're in line for security, perhaps, preparing yourself to go through is the way that everybody gets through faster.

Travis: Uh, here's another PSA, as someone who travels a lot. Uh, coming up in, I think, October, there is now going to be like, a federally standardized ID that you need to move through security that you can't just do—not just any driver's license will work. You have to like, update your driver's license.

Teresa: Or bring your passport.

Travis: Or bring your passport. So, uh, if you are unsure as to whether you have said updated ID, make sure that you check. Make sure that you go onto, y'know, a TSA website and make sure.

Teresa: Um, and then, uh... make sure that you don't have to unpack at your gate to find something. Like you said, Travis, it's such a great idea to have that little backpack or that jacket with all the pockets and everything. Like, bring everything that you want on your person, so that you don't have to like, show all of your luggage off. Maybe your undies.

Travis: I see.

Teresa: You don't want to show your undies in the... in the terminal.

Travis: Now, some of these are touching onto some of our questions. So, how about we—

Teresa: Oh, okay! Great!

Travis: —get into our questions, and we'll see if we can uh, answer them through there! Uh, it's loading now, which is why it's taking me a second, and I'm pretending to be ti—totally seamless. Here we go.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: This is from Danielle. "What is the most appropriate time, when it comes to taking my shoes off, while going through the TSA security? I don't want to hold up the line, but I also don't want to bring everyone on an uncalled trip to sock city." So...

Teresa: I'm gonna say, after they check your, um, boarding pass and your ID. That's when you can take your shoes off. But what you can do is, be prepared with slip on shoes, or uh, have your shoes already untied, if that's the thing. So that it's as seamless as possible. I think that is one of the things you can't prepare for in line.

Travis: And I will also say this. If you travel frequently like I do, and you are able to become TSA pre-check, you really should.

Teresa: Oh yeah, that's right!

Travis: You don't have to take your shoes off.

Teresa: You don't have to take your shoes or your jacket off.

Travis: Yeah, you don't have to take laptops out of your bag or whatever. And I know not everyone can get qualified, but if you are able to, I highly recommend it.

Um, Honey Bee asks, "Is it weird to bring sweets as a gift to the crew, in hopes of getting favorable treatment?"

Teresa: Absolutely not weird! We do it all the time.

Travis: We started doing it when we first started traveling with Bebe, and now I just do it whether I'm with Bebe or not, 'cause it's like... one, it makes them happy. Y'know? And two, y'know, maybe I get a complimentary drink, or they're just extra nice to me or whatever. Y'know.

Teresa: Yeah. A little treat can go a long way.

Travis: And y'know, the thing is with complimentary treatment, there's not a ton of options to get like, complimentary treats, but it's nice, y'know? Makes them feel nice.

Teresa: My favorite thing that happens when we travel with children, and we give chocolates is usually what we give, um... the best thing that they can do for me is come and stand by the row where the child is sitting, and say very loudly, "What a great kid! So well behaved!"

Travis: "So well behaved."

Teresa: "So quiet, look at her there."

Travis: It just makes us feel nice, and keeps people from scowling.

Teresa: Yeah. And the best part is, I've seen this on several flights. It's like they all talk to each other, and they know what to do to make me happy.
[laughs]

Travis: Uh, this question is from Amay. Is there—or Amy. One of those two. "Is there an appropriate way to nap slash sleep while waiting for your flight in the airport?"

Teresa: I think that it's about space, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, if there is an empty terminal, go for it. Especially, uh, if you have like, been traveling all night and all that stuff. But you do need to keep yourself contained. Don't spread your luggage out, don't like, lie on the middle of a walkway.

Travis: Don't stretch across two rows, that kind of thing. Yeah.

Teresa: Don't stretch across two rows, things like that. People need to get around you. But if there's a bench, and you want to lay down on the bench in an empty terminal... that's fine.

Make sure that all of your belongings are attached to you, so that your stuff doesn't get stolen. We would hate for that happening.

Travis: In general, that's a thing, too, of like... I still see people like, plug in a computer or whatever, and walk away.

Teresa: Walk away! Don't do that!

Travis: Do not do this thing! Like, you should always be able to see the thing. Or at the very least, see the thing, if not like, still have possession of it, right?

Teresa: Exactly. Uh, so I think that sleeping is fine, as long as you think about traffic patterns, people getting around you, keeping control of your stuff, and not taking up too much space, if space is limited.

Travis: And make sure you set an alarm for yourself or something like that.

Teresa: You would hate to miss your flight.

Travis: Yeah, hate to miss your flight. I have before, because I... I... [laughs] Can't remember why I was worried about it, but I wrote a note that I left next to myself that said like, "I have set an alarm. Do not worry about me." 'Cause I think somebody like—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, I remember what it was. I was at a gate way early, and another flight was taking off before mine.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: And I was like, "I don't want people to think I'm missing this flight. My flight's not for another hour after that." So I put a little note out.

Teresa: I actually slept in the corner of a, uh, a terminal in LaGuardia Airport overnight.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: When my flight was cancelled, because obviously, I was in New York, and I didn't have anywhere to stay. Didn't have money to get back on the train. So, I... slept on the floor of LaGuardia. It was very smelly.

Travis: Baby Dot has joined us. She's been here the whole time. You might've heard her a little bit ago.

Teresa: You might have heard her.

Travis: Um, Miriam asks, "If you see a celebrity at an airport, should you talk to them? Airports feel like a no go for interacting with anybody, but then again, if I saw someone I was a fan of, I feel like I'd have to say hi." Uh, I think context is very important. If you see them like, rushing through, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But if they're like, grabbing a coffee or something, and you're in line behind them, and you just want to say... this goes back to, I think, we talked about this on the show before. But y'know, quick interact—"Just wanted to say I'm a big fan. It's a pleasure to meet you. Have a great trip." Right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Don't like... I will say, people have talked to me in airports a lot, and I love it. I mean, I love getting talked to and recognized.

Teresa: But nobody has like, crossed the entire airport, running after you.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Or things like that. So I think that it's about proximity, as well.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So like, if you see them sitting somewhere, obviously relaxing, maybe as you are walking by, say, "Hey, I really enjoyed your last film."

Travis: Right.

Teresa: And then, that's it.

Travis: But if you see them running to catch a flight, don't try to stop them to get their—y'know, it's all context.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Um, let's see. Um... "How do you deal with your luggage when you need to go to the restroom?" Oh, yeah. So this is, uh, from At Hope Float. Yes, this is tough. But you gotta take it with you. I mean, like... maybe. *Maybe*, if you have like, had a conversation... I assume you're not with somebody, right?

Teresa: Right. 'Cause if you're not traveling alone, you can leave it with the other person and take the bathroom time in shifts.

Travis: Yes. But I'm going to assume you're not traveling with someone, and someone is just like—there is... I could see a pathway through like, I've had a conversation, I've had some kind of interaction with this other person at the gate, and I might say like, "Hey, could you keep an eye on this for me for a second while I run to the restroom?" Right? But that's a very specialized circumstance.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I mostly would just take it with me. At the very least, you could set it like, under the counter while you go and use the stall, if you want to. But this is why my carry on, I check just about everything.

Teresa: Yeah, I do too. I mean, since I met you.

Travis: Well, that's the thing. I travel a lot, so I do the—I only ever fly one airline, and I'm on their loyalty program, so that way, I can build up into, y'know, different levels, so that I get free checked bags. And so, if I'm traveling with a like, carry on, it is a, like, backpack. It's something that's easier.

Teresa: Or it's a small roly bag that doesn't take a lot of room in a stall.

Travis: I mean, sure. But I don't—I don't—like I said, I only travel with a backpack if I can help it. But...

Teresa: With the kids, it's really great. We use backpack diaper bags, and um, if we have a roly bag, it's a small enough bag that, sometimes, it even fits in the stroller.

Travis: Yeah. Um, let's see... uhh... this is—this is from, uh, Morsh Moliver. "What should I do if I need to charge my phone at the gate, and no one is using the port, but there are people sitting in the seats next to the port?"

Teresa: Just use your best Shmanners and say, "Excuse me, I'd like to use the outlet?" Or something like that.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: I mean, I think that the worst idea is just walking over there and not saying anything and using it. The best idea is to be...

Travis: "Excuse me, would it be okay if I plugged in?"

Teresa: Right.

Travis: You just need to make sure, once again, you are sitting somewhere near enough that you're not just like, plugging your phone in and walking away and saying, "This is your problem now!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, this is from Ashley. "How early do I actually need to show up before a flight?" So.

Teresa: You need to show up early enough, if you're checking luggage, for whatever they recommend. And I think that most airlines it's, what, 45 minutes before?

Travis: Well, so, yeah. That's the thing, is... it's not just recommend. Some airlines will not let you check bags after a certain point, 'cause they've already like, calculated weight, and they've already started loading the plane, and so it's like... okay, well, I had that happen to me once, where I showed up, and I only had like, 30 minutes 'til my flight took off. And they're like, "We can't take your bag." And I had to like, throw it in the car.

But I also think that... so, the two factors, I would say, that you need to determine—well, three. If you're traveling internationally, you want to go even earlier, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: 'Cause you need time to go through, like, much more intricate process.

Teresa: And they close boarding doors earlier.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Because there's a lot more stuff to go through.

Travis: So... but, the other ones I would say would be, personal comfort, right? And how busy part of the day is at.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: If I'm flying out at like, six o'clock in the morning, I'm not as worried about it. If it's like, five PM, mmm, that might be a much more busy time. Right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But also for me, it's like, I—if I get there any less than two hours before the flight, I am a nervous wreck. Teresa can attest.

Teresa: I can attest. [laughs]

Travis: Yes. Even if it's like, we're gonna get there with an hour and a half, that is *not* enough. I don't know what I think I need to do, but I'm just so worried. So like, for me, it's like, two hours is the perfect time to arrive before the flight. But that's just me.

Okay, one last question, and it should be an easy one. This is from Earth-Shaped. "As a person in my mid-30s, can I wear pajama pants on the plane? I really want to, because they're comfortable, but I'm afraid it's not socially acceptable for a grown-up."

Teresa: Okay. We actually covered this in our airplane travel episode, way way waaaay way back. And so, what I'm going to say is... if you need to wear pajama pants, wear pajama pants. If you don't need to, wear something else.

Travis: Right. If you feel—if you're like, “Y'know what? I really, today, need to wear these, because this is what will make it possible for me to deal with today.” Go for it.

Teresa: Just do it. Um, I would recommend that you make sure that they are presentable in the way of, no holes, not threadbare.

Travis: Not see through.

Teresa: No fraying. Uh...

Travis: Stay up on their own.

Teresa: Yes, they stay up well. And I'm not gonna say that they need to be fitted, because they don't, but remember that, um... the seats are smaller, so, you want to make sure that you don't have like, fabric overflowing everywhere. And I would suggest that you still wear appropriate footwear, even though you've got pajama pants on.

Travis: And the thing is, really, what you're talking about is like, will people judge you? But the thing is, people will judge people for anything. Y'know what I mean? So...

Teresa: And you don't owe them.

Travis: Yeah. So, that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Let's see, the baby is getting feisty, so let's see how quickly we can do this.

Go check out all the other shows at MaximumFun.org. You're gonna love all of them, they're all great. We always say thank you to Brent “Brental Floss” Black for the use of our intro and outro, which is available as a ringtone wherever those are found. Uhh, what else, Teresa?

Teresa: Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, @ShmannersCast. That's where we get all of our questions that you heard in this episode and the other ones. And also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup

Photography for the cover photograph of our fan run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners. Please join that if you love to get and give excellent advice.

Thank you to Alex, our research assistant. She is going above and beyond in these trying times to help us out with these shows.

Travis: And if you have ideas for topics, be sure to email us. ShmannersCast@gmail.com. That's gonna do it for us. Join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it.

[theme music plays]

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