

Secrets of Air Travel Etiquette

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. insight (noun) /'ɪn.saɪt/: A deep or clear understanding of a situation, issue, or concept; an enlightening perspective.
Example: Her insight into human behavior made her an excellent therapist.
2. assert (verb) /ə'sɜrt/: To state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully; to declare or maintain.
Example: He had to assert his authority to maintain order in the classroom.
3. dominance (noun) /'dom.ɪ.nəns/: The state of being in control, having authority, or being more powerful or influential than others.
Example: The company's dominance in the market allowed it to set high prices.
4. aisle (noun) /aɪl/: A narrow passage between rows of seats, shelves, or other objects, typically allowing access between them.
Example: She walked down the aisle of the airplane to find her seat.
5. dictate (verb) /'dɪk.teɪt/: To give orders, command, or prescribe something with authority.
Example: The manager will dictate the new company policies.
6. recline (verb) /rɪ'klaɪn/: To lean or lie back in a relaxed or resting position, often in a chair or seat.
Example: After a long day, he liked to recline in his favorite armchair.
7. consideration (noun) /kən.sɪd.ə'reɪ.ʃən/: Careful thought, attention, or regard for something when making a decision or judgment.
Example: The committee took careful consideration of all the proposals before making a choice.



When we travel by plane, we encounter a great number of rules, both written and unwritten, that shape our journey. These unspoken rules, often a source of mystery, exercise control over various aspects of the flying experience. Samantha Brown, a travel expert and TV host from the United States, recently shared some of these unspoken rules to improve the airplane journey.

Among her **insights**, Brown offers a tip for those unfortunate souls seated in the middle of the row. According to her, passengers occupying the middle seats should **assert** their **dominance** over both armrests. Given that middle seats are less favored, Brown jokingly suggests that these passengers deserve "anything they want," even if those on the outer seats initially take the armrests. The person in the middle can, in her words, "slowly push them off" to ensure their comfort.

Brown expresses her preference for **aisle** seats, primarily due to the perceived advantage of having more space. Additionally, she emphasizes that passengers in window seats should exercise control over the window blind, **dictating** whether it remains up or down, without interference from fellow travelers.

One common source of frustration during flights is passengers in front suddenly **reclining** their seats. To navigate this delicate situation, Brown follows a simple rule: she prevents herself from reclining her seat on journeys lasting less than three hours but chooses to recline during longer flights. This thoughtful approach aims to maintain a balance between personal comfort and **consideration** for others sharing the cabin.

DISCUSSION

1. If you could create an entirely new category of unspoken rules for airplane journeys, what would some of these rules be, and why?
2. In a hypothetical world without any rules on airplanes, how do you think passengers would self-regulate their behavior during flights?
3. Imagine you could redesign the interior of an airplane cabin to make it more comfortable. What changes or innovations would you introduce?
4. Share your most memorable travel experience and discuss any unique customs or traditions you encountered during your journey.
5. If you had the opportunity to design your dream airplane with no limitations, what features or amenities would you include to enhance the passenger experience?