

Kansai Airport's Unexpected Luggage Challenge

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. abandoned (adjective) /əˈbændənd/ - Left behind, deserted, or not cared for. Example: The abandoned suitcases caused many problems at Kansai Airport.
2. skyrocketed (verb) /ˈskaɪˌrɒkɪtɪd/ - Increased rapidly and suddenly. Example: Tourist arrivals have skyrocketed from 25 million last year to over 30 million this year.
3. process (noun) /ˈprɑːses/ - A series of actions or steps taken to achieve a particular result. Example: Each bag must be checked for explosives, a process that takes about 20 minutes per bag.
4. surprisingly (adverb) /sərˈpraɪzɪŋli/ - In an unexpected manner. Example: Surprisingly, very few travelers actually claim their bags.
5. secondhand (adjective) /ˈsekəndˌhænd/ - Previously owned or used. Example: Bags in good condition are sent to secondhand shops to be sold again.
6. efficient (adjective) /ɪˈfɪənt/ - Achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense. Example: The airport aims to design a fun and efficient service to handle unwanted luggage.



Kansai Airport Faces a Problem

Tourism in Japan is booming, but Kansai International Airport in Osaka is struggling with abandoned luggage. In 2023, 477 bags were left behind, but this year, 273 bags were

abandoned in just six months. Tourist numbers have skyrocketed, with over 30 million visitors by October.

Comprehension Question:

Why Travelers Leave Bags

Some suitcases are found near trash bins or in other areas. Travelers might leave them behind if they're broken or replaced by new ones.

This creates challenges for airport staff. Each bag must be checked for safety, a process that takes 20 minutes. Afterward, they are kept for three months, but surprisingly, most bags are never claimed.

Comprehension Question:

A Service for Unwanted Bags

The "Suitcase Reuse Service" lets travelers leave their luggage at Terminal 1. Bags in good condition are sent to secondhand shops.

The service handled 507 bags in 2023, up from just 22 in 2020. However, 90% of the bags are too damaged to be reused and are discarded.

Comprehension Question:

DISCUSSION

1. What would you leave behind at an airport if you had to, and why?
2. Can you think of fun or creative uses for old suitcases?
3. If suitcases could talk, what secrets or adventures might they share?
4. How would you design a better service to handle unwanted luggage?
5. Imagine opening an abandoned suitcase. What would you like to find inside?
6. What kind of suitcase would you bring on a trip to Japan, and why?
7. Should airports fine travelers for leaving behind luggage? Why or why not?