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## Icarus's flight poem

5/15/20 2:45PMtravelbooking flightsflightsPhoto: ShutterstockBack to BasicsBack to BasicsWe all have this seemingly easy task that we never quite understood. This week, no problem is too trivial, no doubt too stupid. Just because it's simple doesn't mean it's not a hack. Have you ever booked a flight before? We've been there. Maybe someone else has always done it for you. Maybe you're out of college and your parents have always made travel arrangements. Or you just ... never flown before. Anyway, it's quite ok if you haven't booked your own flight yet. Everyone is a novice at first. So let's break it. Know which airline you need to know which airline you need, start with where you're going and where you're going. Do you fly at home or abroad? Not all national airlines fly to the same cities. For example, if you're trying to get to Miami, you won't want to fly Southwest or JetBlue; they only fly to Fort Lauderdale, which will give you an extra 45-minute drive or taxi ride. So make sure the airline you choose is heading to the right city. In a column for the Washington Post, Christopher Elliott of Elliott Advocacy describes every crap Read moreG/O Media can get a 68% discount commission of 2 years free 3 monthsIf you're going to take an international flight, most countries have their own carriers, and these are often better than American airlines. For example, if you are going to Portugal, you can book your flight via TAP Portugal; If you are heading to Mexico, you can book via AeroMexico. These airlines often offer better fares than U.S. carriers. Plus, it's just fun to feel like you're getting an introductory experience to a new country and culture before you even land. BookingThere are a bunch of different ways you can book your flight. You can book online on the airline's website, online via a third-party website, by phone or in person at the airport. Online (airline website)Image: Delta.comWhen you book on an airline's website, the booking page is usually the first to appear. It will offer you a round-trip option, which means you book a flight to and from home. Or you can change it to one-way, i.e. you will fly but do not fly back. You enter the name of the city from which you leave, but it is best to enter the 3-letter code for the airport of that city. By if your hometown is San Francisco, then your 3-letter code is SFO. In many large cities, you will find that there are several airports so you need to reduce exactly which one is closest to you or that your airline flies out of. You can see a full list of airline codes here. In a recent history for the Atlantic, the writer Amanda Mull described two types of travelers:... Read moreNext, you'll put in your your and once again check this 3-letter code to make sure you're going to the right airport. Select the date you want to leave and the date you want to return. Once you have selected the dates, you will add how many people are traveling and the site, it will provide you with all the flight information for the dates you have selected. At this point, you will decide what your travel needs are. Do you want a non-stop non-stop/stop flight? Check twice and see if your flight allows this option; otherwise, you can always choose the option with the shorter stopover time. Is the price the most important? Each airline offers the opportunity to see your results listed from the lowest prices at the highest prices. Selecting the advanced search when booking your flight will allow you to get as much detail as possible about your flight needs. Third Party SitesImage: Trip.comFys often use these sites as a way to check the prices of several airlines at the same time. Some of these sites include Expedia, Travelocity and Kayak. The booking process is the same, but once you enter the information for departure, return, passengers and seat class, the site will present you with multiple airline options and prices. You can filter your options by preferring non-stop rather than having a stopover. It also allows you to view the cost of flights from the lowest to the highest or even choose the time of day you prefer to fly. Note: We generally do not recommend the use of third-party sites; change and cancel can be complicated, you cannot be informed of changes to your flight, and your personal information may be compromised. On the phone Some people feel comfortable booking by phone because they think it is safer and protects against identity theft. Booking in this way only requires that you call the airline's customer service number and give all your information to the customer service agent. You will also pay by phone using a credit or debit card and they will send you a confirmation via your email and phone number provided. Make sure you don't hang up and log out of the customer service agent until you've received confirmation. Once you receive your confirmation, make sure all the information is correct, including the spelling of your name, date of birth, passport or identification number. Done? Okay, now you can hang up. At the airportNo, you can't show up the day you want to fly buy a ticket unless you have a lot of money or if you feel lucky. But if you live near an airport, you can reduce some of the costs associated with booking by other avenues. You must head to the departures side of the airport (not arrivals). Go to the airline window as you want to buy a ticket and an agent will help you through the process. Choose your seatsIn terms of choosing where you sit on the plane, first, know know Levels. You have economy class, business class and first class. ClassOrsSury most airlines, there is more than one level of economy class; in general, you'll see basic and premium savings options. The difference is usually the width of the seat and the legroom, although it depends on the airline. This could also mean that your takeaway baggage is not included in the fare price and you have to pay for it too. With low-budget airlines such as Allegiant, Spirit and Frontier, seat selection may not be automatically included in the basic ticket price option. When you look at the board of seats on the plane, you will notice a price on the selection of seats, this will be added to your total. Other airlines may also charge more for more legroom, and you'll see these prices in their seat cards. Image: Spirit AirlinesBusiness class costs more, but offers more legroom. This class also offers better choices of food and beverages that are included in your flight price and, depending on the duration of the flight, more in-flight entertainment choices. The benefits for first class passengers also depend on the airline. Typically, you'll get first-class lounge access, power outlets, full menus for food and beverages, a separate flight attendant crew for service, and much more seat space. You can also get anything from a amenity kit and a fully reclining seat to a private suite and a private bathroom with shower. You will usually find extravagant amenities on international flights. Where to sit on the plane A plane will always start with the first class at the front of the plane, the business directly after and the economy behind these two. Let's talk about the economy, since most of us will be there. First consideration: Do you choose a window, a seat in the middle or in the aisle? Window seats are best if you like to look at the landscape or get sick movement and need a glimpse of the horizon. It is also best if you want to sleep because you have a place to rest your head and will not be bothered by your fellow rank mates walking on you to get to the bathroom. It's also a great option for kids, they won't be able to walk the aisles as easily. The aisle seat is best if you are someone who likes to get up and stretch. It's also more convenient when you need to go to the bathroom because you don't have to squeeze other people in the process or wake someone up. And then there's this energized middle seat. Personally, I don't know anyone who likes a middle seat. However, if you travel with others, this is a good way to keep you all together. I sometimes put my son in the middle seat when I travel with my family. Are you currently jabbed in the midriff by the elbows of duel aliens? You have to be... Read moreNext consideration: do you sit forward or the back of the plane, or head for the central area? Remember what you need is when you leave the plane. The plane. are you at your final destination? Will you need to double-check your luggage during a stopover? Do you have any baggage that will go through baggage retrieval? If where you are going is your final destination, you may want to consider sitting closer to the back of the plane. I always choose to sit at the back of the plane when I know I'm at my final destination because I know other people will have to get off the plane much faster than I do. Similarly, when I have checked baggage, I will generally choose to sit further away on the plane because I know that no matter how fast I get off the plane, my luggage will never be there waiting. However, if the first destination is not my final destination and my checked baggage needs to be double-checked during my stopover, I sit closer to the front. The middle of the plane, where the wings are located, is your best bet if you tend to have sick movement or if you are afraid of turbulence. You will have less movement in this area. They also include exit rows that give you more legroom, but you need to agree that you will help in an emergency in order to sit there. Pregnant women and children under the age of 16 are not allowed to sit there. Baggage Most airlines will allow you to bring a personal item and carry-on baggage on board. A personal item is simply a handbag or a small bag, such as a laptop bag, that you will carry on the plane with you. One day we will talk to our grandchildren about a halcyon era when you didn't have to pay money for... Read moreA level baggage must meet a certain size criterion, depending on the airline's policy, so that it fits into the top compartment or under the seat in front of you. Usually, an adult item the size of a backpack would meet the needs of what you would have to put in a takeaway bag. There is no standard from one airline to another and international flights may have different rules than domestic flights. But a good start for sizing is 22 x 14 x 9 inches. Again, you should always check the specific airline criteria because the sizing is not the same for all airlines. Checked baggage is baggage that you will allow the door agent to put in the hold of the aircraft. They would put a white sticker with your passenger information and when you arrive at your destination, you will pick up the bag of baggage claim. This option is usually included free of charge on international flights that do not not on low-budget airlines. Checked baggage can also be included for members first, business or priority airline rewards. In most situations, your checked baggage must weigh no more than 50 pounds and if you are flying in business or first class, or if you are a reward member, 60 pounds. Just like the dimensions for carry-on baggage, checked baggage doesn't have a standard size, but a sure bet is to stick to a bag that is no more than 62 inches when you total its length, width and height. Depending on the amount you check, each checked bag checked be a different price, starting with the first as the lowest. For a domestic flight on Delta, the first bag is \$25 and the second is \$35. However, for international flights, Delta's baggage list varies depending on the seat class, destination and location of your trip. Be sure to write down all the luggage before you finish your booking. You also want to make sure that if you have to pay for the bags, you do it in advance, otherwise you might end up paying a lot more. Spirit Airlines, for example, will charge you between \$65 and \$75 for a carry-on bag you didn't pay before you went to your flight. Imani is a writer who has contributed to publications around the world, including Business Insider, Cosmo, Glamour Magazine, and various in-flight air magazines. She has lived in Egypt, Poland and China. China.

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