

Avoiding Lines 101: Cures for Queuing

Here are some suggestions if you find yourself perpetually waiting in lines:

- **To avoid movie-lock**, practice time-shifting: Get movie tickets first, take a walk, then return three minutes before the picture starts—after everyone has already filed into the theater. (There are always available seats because theater management knows exactly how many tickets they're selling for each performance.) Or, go to the theater early, buy your tickets, take a seat, and listen to your favorite music on your Walkman.

- **To avoid airlock**, fly in the day before and fly out after everyone else. Schedule vacation traveling (particularly Thanksgiving and Christmas) six months in advance. Or, this year, plan to stay home during those times and travel when everyone else doesn't—the week after the holidays.

- **To avoid camplock**, patronize some of the less-traveled national and state parks. Why? You don't need to go to the Great Smokies or Yellowstone to have a fabulous park experience. There are more than 200 national parks and hundreds of state parks, and most don't have herds of visitors.

- **To avoid cyberlock**, if you're on the West Coast, consider getting online late at night, after 10, since most East Coast users have already gone to bed. If you're on the East Coast, get online early in the morning, at 6 or 7 a.m. (West Coast users will still be asleep.)

- **To avoid shoplock**, make more purchases by catalog. Or shop by FAX. It's a great time-saver because your name, address, phone and FAX are submitted to vendors, along with the order, order number and price.

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PURPOSE: To provide authoritative, useful, easy-to-understand information that will help our readers reduce stress, be more energetic and balance the demands of home and work.

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