

BASIC ECONOMY COMPARISON

	AMERICAN AIRLINES	DELTA AIRLINES	UNITED AIRLINES
Advance Choice of Seat	No (assigned at check-in) but paid seat assignments can be had †	No (assigned at check-in)	No (assigned automatically before boarding)
Award Miles	Yes you earn them, but EQMs and EQSs are earned at reduced rate of 0.5 per mile/ flight segment flown	Yes you earn them, including MQMs, MQSs, and MQDs for U.S. members only	Yes you earn them, but no lifetime miles, PQMs, PQDs, or PQSs for MileagePlus and Premier Members
Boarding Group	Last	Last	Last
Full-Size Carry-On Bag	No	Yes (one only)	No
Group/Family Seating	No	No	No
Overhead Bin Access	No	Yes	No
1 Personal Item	Yes (under seat) must not exceed 8 x 14 x 18 inches	Yes (overhead bin /under seat) bin item must not exceed 9 x 14 x 22 inches	Yes (under seat) must not exceed 9 x 10 x 17 inches
Refund	24-hour policy ‡	24-hour policy ‡	24-hour policy ‡
Standby Option	None	None	None
Ticket Change	None	None	None
Upgrades	None	None	None



All of feature is still available



Some of feature is still available

† American says in its [press release](#) on basic economy that seat assignments are "made automatically and only when customers check in. Paid seat assignments can be purchased 48-hours before the flight." An American Airlines customer service representative explained this as follows, "If you buy the basic economy seat, you can still change your seat to a 'main cabin' type of seat, which does not have all of the restrictions, as long as you choose your seat within 48 hours of departure and pay for doing so."

‡ If your flight is canceled by the airline, some form of refund may also be available even after the standard 24-hour DOT mandated refund rule has expired.

Abbreviations by airline:

American: EQM = Elite Qualifying Miles; EQS = Elite Qualifying Segments

Delta: MQM = Medallion Qualification Miles (MQMs); MQS = Medallion Qualification Segments; MQD = Medallion Qualifying

United: PQM = Premier Qualifying Miles; PQD = Premier Qualifying Dollars; PQS = Premier Qualifying Segments

While most of the significant restrictions are shown here, additional ones may apply and may be subject to changes by the airlines. Check the airline websites to view all restrictions.

[American Airlines](#)

[Delta Airlines](#)

[United Airlines](#)