

33 Trains and buses

A Train and bus journeys

If there is a **direct train**, it is usually the fastest way to travel from A to B in Britain. A **stopping train** stops at a lot of smaller stations between **main stations**. An **express (train)** provides a faster **service** to your **destination**, and avoids the problem of **traffic jams** on the bus services.

For **rail travel**, you might need a single or a return ticket. Many people buy a **travel card**, which allows them to travel on any bus or train in a specific area for a period of time for less money. A **bus pass** lets you do the same for bus routes. You can buy rail tickets online, from a **ticket machine** or at the **ticket office / booking office** in the station.

If you get a train or bus **in time**, you **catch** it. If you are late, you may **miss** it. You may need to **change trains or buses**.

GLOSSARY

service	a system or organization that provides the public with sth that it needs: a bus/train service
destination	the place where sb/sth is going
traffic jam	a long line of cars, buses, etc. that cannot move or that moves very slowly
in time	not late, early enough
change trains/buses	get off one train/bus and get on another one

SPOTLIGHT *journey, trip, travel*

A **journey** is used to talk about going from one place to another.

- *my **journey** to school*
- *a **journey** through Asia*

A **trip** is used to describe the whole visit, including your stay in a place.

- *I've been on a **trip** to Spain for three weeks.*

Travel [U] is used to talk about the activity of moving from one place to another. **travel** v

- *Rail **travel** is slower than flying, but I prefer it.*
- *Do you enjoy **travelling** by train?*

You **go on a journey/trip** (NOT *go on a travel*).

1 Circle the correct word.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| ▶ direct <i>fare</i> / <u>train</u> | 4 main <i>station</i> / <i>travel</i> | 8 <i>stopping</i> / <i>journey</i> train |
| 1 booking <i>machine</i> / <i>office</i> | 5 ticket <i>machine</i> / <i>pass</i> | 9 <i>travel</i> / <i>bus</i> card |
| 2 <i>traffic</i> / <i>travel</i> jam | 6 <i>in</i> / <i>at</i> time | 10 bus <i>pass</i> / <i>machine</i> |
| 3 <i>express</i> / <i>rail</i> train | 7 go on a <i>trip</i> / <i>travel</i> | 11 rail <i>destination</i> / <i>travel</i> |

2 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ A direct train only stops at your destination.
- You can buy a ticket at a booking office or a _____.
 - A stopping train usually stops often between the _____.
 - The bus company provides a very good _____ for its customers.
 - It takes five hours from London to Strasbourg, so it's a long _____.
 - Flying is generally the fastest way to _____.
 - If you don't want to pay for your bus ticket each time, get a _____.
 - If you arrive in time for your train, you will _____ it, but if you are late, you will _____ it.
 - Too many cars and buses on the road might mean there will be a _____.

3 Complete the text with words from the box in the correct form.

miss rail travel time destination booking change journey trip ✓

Last year my sister Cally and I went on a ▶ trip to Madrid. My sister loves (1) _____ travel, so we decided to take the train from London to Atocha Station in Madrid. It's a very long (2) _____ – it takes all day, really. You have to (3) _____ trains twice, once in Paris and again in Barcelona. We were surprised to find that train tickets are incredibly expensive, and Cally spent hours at the (4) _____ office trying to find the cheapest tickets. On the day we left, it snowed and we didn't get to the station in (5) _____ to catch the train, and then we (6) _____ another train in Paris, so we had problems for the rest of the day. We finally got to our (7) _____ after midnight. I've told Cally I don't enjoy (8) _____ by train any more.



TEST YOURSELF

B Train problems

The train **broke down**, and we didn't arrive at our destination until after midnight.

Sorry, I **was held up**. My train was **due** at 9.42, but it didn't **get in** until 10.25.

I **commute** to the city every day, but the train I catch is often **cancelled** without **warning**.

My train to London got in late, so I **missed** my **connection** to Brussels.

My sister **was meant to** pick me up at the station, but she forgot.

GLOSSARY

break down	If a train/car, etc. breaks down , it stops working.
hold sb up	(often passive) make sb slow or late hold-up <i>n</i> SYN delay
due	expected to arrive or happen
get in	(usually of a train or plane) SYN arrive OPP leave, depart
commute	travel a long way from home to work every day
cancel	decide that sth that has been planned will not happen
warning	a piece of information that sth bad may happen
connection	a train, plane, etc. that leaves soon after another arrives, so that people can change from one to the other miss a connection
be meant to (do sth)	If sb is meant to do sth , they have been asked to do it and have a responsibility to do it.
pick sb/sth up	go to a place and collect sb/sth, usually in a car

4 Good or bad? Write G or B.

- I caught my connection to Rome. G
- The train was cancelled.
 - The train's due in a minute.
 - I commute two hours every day.
 - Dad picked me up at the airport.
 - Our car broke down.

- They didn't get held up.
- We had a delay on the way to the station.
- We had no warning about the accident.
- There weren't any hold-ups on the journey.
- When I got there, the train had departed.

5 Complete the sentences.

- My husband was meant to meet me, but he missed the train.
- They've just said the train is in five minutes, so that's good.
 - The plane to Paris was late, so I missed my to Bordeaux.
 - We had problems at the border: we were for two hours.
 - Our teacher arrived late because the train company two trains this morning.
 - I used to from Cambridge to London every day for work.
 - What time does your train in?
 - My father has gone to the airport to his brother
 - I waited an hour for the train, then it was cancelled without
 - There was a long at the airport and we didn't leave until midnight.
 - Our train just outside Milan. We sat there for two hours until it was fixed.

6 ABOUT YOU True or false? Write T or F. Write your answers, or tell another student.

- Some of my family have to commute to work. T - My father and brother both commute to Warsaw.
- Trains are often cancelled where I live because of the weather.
 - I often get held up when I'm travelling by train.
 - I've never missed a connection.
 - I've never been on a train that broke down.
 - You are meant to have a ticket to go on the station platform.
 - I was once delayed for over three hours on a train journey.



TEST YOURSELF