

Speaking skills practice: Problems at the train station – exercises

Makayla needs a bit of help from the station manager at the train station.

Do the preparation exercise first. Then watch the video and follow the instructions to practise your speaking.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct descriptions and write a–e next to the numbers 1–5.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1..... rush hour | a) a small piece of paper you need to buy before taking a train |
| 2..... a ticket | b) a long waiting area in a station. The train stops along here so people can get on and off |
| 3..... a platform | c) the times in the day which are busiest on public transport because people are going to or from work |
| 4..... miss the train | d) acceptable, or able to be used |
| 5..... valid | e) fail to catch a train because you were too late |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions

1. What problem has Makayla had?

- a. She's just lost her ticket.
- b. She's taken the wrong train.
- c. She's just missed her train.

2. Where does Makayla want to go?

- a. To London b. To Edinburgh c. To Manchester

3. Which train can Makayla take?

- a. The 16:20 train b. The 17:15 train c. The 18:30 train

4. What does Makayla need to do?

- a. Change her old ticket for a new ticket and pay an extra £3.50
- b. Change her old ticket for a new ticket and pay an extra £7.50
- c. Change her old ticket for a new ticket and pay an extra £11.00

5. Which platform is her train going from?

- a. Platform 1 b. Platform 2 c. Platform 3

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the dialogue with a question from the box.

What time's the next train to Manchester

What platform is it from

What time does it get to Manchester

Why not

Can I use the same ticket

Makayla: 1 _____?

Station manager: Let's see. The next train leaves at 17:15 from platform 2.

Makayla: 17:15 ... so that's quarter past five ... platform 2.

2 _____?

Station manager: At 18:30.

Makayla: Half past six ... erm ... 3 _____?

Station manager: Just a moment, please. Can I see your ticket?

Makayla: Yes, here you are.

Station manager: Ah, sorry, no ... You can't use this ticket on the 17:15 train.

Makayla: Really? 4 _____?

Station manager: This ticket is only valid on trains before 5 and after 7 o'clock.
During rush hour tickets are more expensive.

Makayla: Oh ... do I have to buy another ticket?

Station manager: Yes, well, I can change your old ticket for a new ticket. Your ticket cost £7.50 and the new ticket is £11.00. So you just pay the difference, which is £3.50.

Makayla: Ah, OK, erm ... 5 _____?

Station manager: Platform 2. Just over there, on the other side.

Makayla: OK, thanks. Bye.

3. Check your understanding: ordering

Write the words in the correct order to make questions.

1. next | to London | train | 's | the | What time | ?

.....

2. get | What time | ? | does | to London | it

.....

3. it | is | ? | What | from | platform

.....

4. this ticket | 17:15 train | Can | use | ? | on the | I

.....

5. do | How much | have | pay | to | ? | I

.....