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Types of Transport

1 Read the four texts about different types of transport and match them with the pictures.



1 Air travel is a fast way of travelling both for domestic and international journeys. Some airline companies operate scheduled flights, when take-off and landing are at major airports in major cities. Because departure and arrival times are regular and guaranteed tickets can be expensive. Alternatively, there are cheap charter flights when a travel company buys all the seats on a plane and sells at a discounted price. Charter airlines and low-cost scheduled airlines often operate from more accessible local airports and fly direct to holiday resorts, particularly in peak season. You usually need to buy tickets in advance. It is also possible to buy round the world tickets where you stop off at different global destinations. There is a limit to how much luggage passengers can carry and it takes time to check-in for flights due to security checks. Nowadays many people try to avoid taking too many flights because they aren't good for the environment.

2 Sea travel can be a clean alternative to air travel. Ferries operate from one mainland destination to another, or between islands, departing and arriving at major ports. You can often take your car on ferries and there are no limits on the luggage you can carry. Journeys are long compared to flights and they can be quite expensive, especially if you sleep in a cabin overnight. You can buy tickets directly from the ferry companies or through tour operators, usually in advance. You can also take a luxury cruise, but they are generally quite expensive, all-inclusive packages.

3 Rail travel also has a low environmental impact and is a very flexible and convenient mode of transport because you can buy tickets in advance or just turn up at the station. Price varies a lot according to distance and destination. Luggage allowance is limited on trains, but on long distance trips you can book a bed to sleep in, called a berth. There are also young person's rail passes for travelling around Europe and many countries have cheap or subsidised rail travel.

4 Road travel can be by car or by coach, but neither is very environmentally friendly. Car travel is very convenient because you can choose your own departure and arrival points and times, and take as much luggage as your vehicle can carry. The cost is generally low apart from fuel and any tolls, but travel time can be long. Alternatively you can arrive at your destination and hire a car on arrival, but this can be expensive. Coaches, like trains, follow timetables and you need to buy tickets in advance to be sure of a seat. Journeys can be slow and arrival times are unpredictable because of traffic. They are however cheap and convenient, with stops at both major and minor destinations.

2 Match these words and expressions from the text with their definitions.

1 charter flight	a <input type="checkbox"/> a plane leaving at the same time each day or each week
2 environmentally friendly	b <input type="checkbox"/> a plane journey organised by a company that buys all the seats
3 fuel	c <input type="checkbox"/> a special train ticket you can buy to travel around a specific area for a specific period of time
4 landing	d <input type="checkbox"/> bags and suitcases that you take on a journey
5 luggage	e <input type="checkbox"/> something that doesn't damage the natural world
6 peak season	f <input type="checkbox"/> the activities to protect a country, building or person against attack or danger
7 rail pass	g <input type="checkbox"/> the time of year when a lot of people go on holiday
8 scheduled flight	h <input type="checkbox"/> what we put in a car to make it go, e.g. petrol or diesel
9 security checks	i <input type="checkbox"/> when an airplane leaves the ground and starts flying
10 take-off	j <input type="checkbox"/> when the plane returns to the ground at the end of a journey

3 Read the four texts again and answer the questions. Be careful, some have more than one answer.

Which type of transport:

- 1 can be quite expensive if you travel overnight?
sea
- 2 has a low environmental impact?
- 3 has a luxury version with all-inclusive packages?
- 4 has limits on passenger luggage?
- 5 has long security checks?
- 6 has unpredictable arrival times?
- 7 is convenient because you can choose your own route?
- 8 is not environmentally friendly?
- 9 operates between mainlands or islands?
- 10 has guaranteed departure and arrival times?

4  Listen to the conversation and decide where it takes place (in a ticket office, travel agency, tour operator's, on the phone) and what kind of tickets the customer wants to buy.

5  Listen to the conversation again and complete it with the missing information.

Woman: Hello, I'd like to buy a ticket to (1) London please.

Ticket officer: Is that a (2) _____ or a (3) _____ ticket?

Woman: A (4) _____ please.

Ticket officer: When do you want to (5) _____?

Woman: Now.

Ticket officer: And when do you want to (6) _____?

Woman: Today, please.

(7) _____ is that?

Ticket officer: A (8) _____ day return ticket is (9) _____.

Woman: What time is the next (10) _____?

Ticket officer: It's at (11) _____ from platform (12) _____.

Woman: Thank you.

6 Pairwork Role play conversations at the ticket office. Use the dialogue from exercise 5 to help you. Then swap roles.

7 Read these airport procedures and put them in the order you should do them. The first and the last are done for you.

- a Arrive at the airport and go to the correct check-in desk.
- b Check in your luggage and take your boarding pass.
- c Give the airline staff your passport and booking information.
- d Present your boarding card and identification for inspection at passport control.
- e Proceed to the departure gate when it opens.
- f Put your hand luggage and coat through the security check.
- g Show your passport and boarding card to staff before boarding.
- h Walk through the metal detector.

8  Now listen and check.

9 Read the conversation below between an airline steward and a customer and complete it with the expressions from the box.

A window seat, please. Here they are.
Just one. Yes, I did.
Good, it doesn't weigh very much.

Airline steward: Good morning, can I have your passport and booking information, please?

Customer: (1) Here they are.

Airline steward: Would you like a window or an aisle seat?

Customer: (2) _____

Airline steward: Did you pack your bag yourself?

Customer: (3) _____

Airline steward: Put your bag on the scales, please.

Customer: (4) _____

Airline steward: How many pieces of hand luggage have you got?

Customer: (5) _____

Airline steward: Here are your passport and boarding pass. You need to go to gate 3 at 14.20.

