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 *fare / (train)*
1 booking *machine / office*
2 *traffic / travel* jam
3 *express / rail* train
4 main *station / travel*
5 ticket *machine / pass*
6 *in / at* time
7 go on a *trip / travel*
8 *stopping / journey* train
9 *travel / bus* card
10 bus *pass / machine*
11 rail *destination / travel*

2 Complete the sentences.

▶ A direct train only stops at your destination.
1 You can buy a ticket at a booking office or a _____.
2 A stopping train usually stops often between the _____.
3 The bus company provides a very good _____ for its customers.
4 It takes five hours from London to Strasbourg, so it's a long _____.
5 Flying is generally the fastest way to _____.
6 If you don't want to pay for your bus ticket each time, get a _____.
7 If you arrive in time for your train, you will _____ it, but if you are late, you will _____ it.
8 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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** *n* 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

1 The train was cancelled. .....
2 The train's due in a minute. .....
3 I commute two hours every day. .....
4 Dad picked me up at the airport. .....
5 Our car broke down. .....
6 They didn't get held up. .....
7 We had a delay on the way to the station. .....
8 We had no warning about the accident. .....
9 There weren't any hold-ups on the journey. .....
10 When I got there, the train had departed. .....

5 **Complete the sentences.**

▶ My husband was meant to meet me, but he missed the train.

1 They've just said the train is _____ in five minutes, so that's good.
2 The plane to Paris was late, so I missed my _____ to Bordeaux.
3 We had problems at the border: we were _____ for two hours.
4 Our teacher arrived late because the train company _____ two trains this morning.
5 I used to _____ from Cambridge to London every day for work.
6 What time does your train _____ in?
7 My father has gone to the airport to _____ his brother _____.
8 I waited an hour for the train, then it was cancelled without _____.
9 There was a long _____ at the airport and we didn't leave until midnight.
10 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.

1 Trains are often cancelled where I live because of the weather. _____
2 I often get held up when I'm travelling by train. _____
3 I've never missed a connection. _____
4 I've never been on a train that broke down. _____
5 You are meant to have a ticket to go on the station platform. _____
6 I was once delayed for over three hours on a train journey. _____

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS