PEEKABOO ENGLISH CENTER

READING PART 2

On the rails

INSTRUCTIONS You are going to read about four people with their rail experiences. Choose the section that contains the information in each question. The sections may be chosen more than once.

On the rails

Five celebrities tell Andrew Morgan their favourite memories of railway journeys.

Andrea Thompson - Newsreader

I fell in love with the south of France a long time ago and try to get back there as often as I can. There's a local train from Cannes along the coast which crosses the border with Italy. It takes you past some of the most amazing seascapes. It never matters what the weather is like, or what time of the year it is, it is always enchanting. Out of the other window are some of the best back gardens and residences in the whole of France. You feel like someone peeping into the property of the rich and famous. The travellers themselves are always lively because there is an interesting mix of tourists and locals, all with different itineraries but all admirers of the breathtaking journey.

Rod Simpson - Explorer

I have enjoyed so many rail journeys through the years, but if I had to pick a favourite it would be the Nile Valley Express, which runs across the desert of northern Sudan. The one misfortune in my youth, growing up in South Africa, was missing out on a family train journey from Cape Town to the Kruger National Park. I was regarded as being too young and troublesome and was sent off to an aunt. When I came to live in England as a teenager, I still hadn't travelled by train. London Waterloo was the first real station I ever saw and its great glass dome filled me with wonder.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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On the rails – Reading passages

Betty Cooper - Novelist

I am indebted to one train in particular: the Blue Train, which took my husband and me on our honeymoon across France to catch a boat to Egypt. It was on the train that my husband gave me a pink dress, which I thought was absolutely wonderful. Someone happened to mention that pink was good for the brain, and I've never stopped wearing the colour since. What I remember about the journey itself, however, is how lovely it was to travel through France and then by boat up the Nile to Luxor. It was, without a doubt, the perfect way to wind down after all the wedding preparations.

Jennifer Dickens - Actress

I imagine most people's favourite impressions of trains and railways are formed when they are young children, but that's not my case. I was brought up in Singapore and Cyprus, where I saw very few trains, let alone travelled on them. It wasn't until I was a teenager that trains began to dominate my life. I made a film which featured a railway in Yorkshire. Most of the filming took place on an old, disused stretch of the line which had been lovingly maintained by volunteers. That's where my passion for steam trains began. When we weren't filming, we took every opportunity to have a ride on the train, and, when I went back last year, it was as if time had stood still. Everything was the same, even the gas lights on the station platform!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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READING PART 2

On the rails – Questions

Read the four profiles. Choose the person who matches each statement. The sections may be chosen more than once.

Question 1. Which person enjoyed the company of fellow passengers?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

Question 2. Which person welcomed a chance to relax on the trip?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

Question 3. Which person was never disappointed by the journey?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

Question 4. Which person has a reason for feeling grateful to one special train?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

Question 5. Which person travelled on a railway which is no longer in regular service for work?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

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Question 6. Which person regretted not going on a particular train trip?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

Question 7. Which person used to travel on the railway whenever possible?

A. Andrea Thompson
B. Rod Simpson
C. Betty Cooper
D. Jennifer Dickens

LIVEWORKSHEETS