

Speaking Card 37

Taking a Train or Bus

Language: Phrases for Taking Public Transport

Grammar Point: Would you like? / Would you mind?

DISCUSSING THE JOURNEY

Anna: Would you like to go on a trip outside London?

Ben: What a great idea. We can go Stratford, the town where Shakespeare was born.

Anna: Would you mind going to Stonehenge instead? Those weird stones – nobody really knows what they mean.

Ben: OK. How can we get to Stonehenge?

Anna: Let me check. First we need to get to Waterloo station by the underground. Then you take a train to Salisbury, and then change to a little bus which will take you directly to the site.

Ben: OK. How long does the journey take?

Anna: Not too long. About 90 minutes.

Ben: Is there a bus that goes there directly?

Anna: I think there is a bus to Salisbury, but it takes much longer.

BUYING TICKETS AT THE TRAIN STATION

Ticket office: Good morning. How can I help you?

Ben: I would like two tickets to Stonehenge.

Ticket office: We only sell tickets to Salisbury. Would you like a single or return?

Ben: Two returns, please.

Ticket office: That will be 15 pounds each.

Ben: Here you are. Can you tell me which platform the train leaves from?

Clerk: It leaves from platform number 5. There is a train at 9 o'clock. If you want to catch it, you'll have to hurry.

ON THE TRAIN

Anna: Excuse me. Is this seat free?

Passenger: Yes, of course. Please sit down.

Ticket Inspector: Tickets, please.

Anna: When do we arrive in Salisbury?

Ticket inspector: Well, the train is delayed because of construction work, but we should arrive at 11.

Anna: Do you know when the next bus to Stonehenge is, please?

Ticket inspector: I don't know the bus schedule, but the buses usually go every half an hour.

Anna: Thanks. Is it possible to buy the ticket on the bus or only at the ticket office?

Ticket inspector: I think both. Enjoy your trip.

HANDY PHRASES & WORDS

Buying Tickets

ticket office, ticket agent

single or return

bus / train schedule

How much is a single ticket to London?

I would like a first class return to London.

Which platform / stop does the train / bus leave from?

Which platform / stop do I need for...?

to change trains / buses

to get somewhere

to get on / off the train / bus

On the Train

Is this seat free? / Do you mind if I sit here?

This train is delayed / is running late.

Tickets, please.

to buy tickets on the bus / on the train

When do we arrive in...?

On the Tube / Metro / Underground

Which line do I need to get to the centre?

How many stops to Můstek?

Mind the gap.

This train terminates here.

Polite Phrases

I would like to + verb / I would like + noun

Would you mind + verb / ing /

Would you mind taking the train / going by train?

Can you tell me where the bus stop is, please?



Task 1 At the train station. Work in pairs and follow the instructions to create dialogues.

Ticket Agent

Greet the traveller.

Explain the train only goes to Inverness; they have to take a bus from Inverness to Loch Ness.

Ask if the traveller wants single or return tickets.

Tell them the number of the platform.

Ticket Inspector

Ask to see the passengers' tickets.

Explain the train is delayed because of an accident.

Explain that the bus to Loch Ness goes every 30 minutes.

Traveller

Ask for two tickets to Loch Ness.

Ask for two tickets to Inverness.

Ask for two return tickets.

Thank the agent.

Traveller

Ask what time the train arrives in Inverness.

Ask what time the bus to Loch Ness goes.

Thank the ticket inspector.

Task 2 Discuss the

journey to Prague / nearest town?
What's the best means of transport?
How do you travel?
Where do you buy the tickets?

Task 3 What can you see in the pictures?