

How long does the journey take?

LEARNING OUTCOME

learn how to buy a train ticket

WARMER

Ask students if they ever travel to other cities. Ask how they usually travel. Compare answers around the class. Ask them if they have ever travelled by train and if so, whether they enjoyed the experience.

Ask students to look at the learning outcome. Explain that in this lesson they are going to learn how to buy a train ticket.

Everyday life

- 1 Ask students to work in pairs, look at the photograph and answer the questions.

Answers

The girl is at the ticket office in a train station. She is talking to the attendant. She is buying a train ticket. The attendant is selling her a ticket and answering her questions.

It is quick and you can relax while you are travelling. It can be expensive.

Everyday vocabulary

- 2 Ask students to work in pairs and explain their understanding of the expressions in italics to each other. Encourage students to look up any unknown words in a dictionary, or ask other students. Check answers as a class.

Answers

platform = an area next to a railway track where passengers get onto and off trains

return ticket = for a journey to a place and back again

discount = a reduction in the price of something

student railcard = a card that allows students to travel by train at a lower price than usual

departs = leaves

the journey = an occasion when you travel from one place to another, especially when there is a long distance between the places

direct line = when you don't have to stop to change trains

- 3 Ask students to work in pairs and brainstorm any other words they know related to train travel. Ask pairs to share their ideas with the class. Check answers and write the words on the board.

Possible answers

first-class; second-class; carriage; buffet; ticket; inspector; railway; track; arrival; departure

Dialogue

- 4 Read the context for the situation aloud. Tell students that they are going to listen to a dialogue between Julie and a train ticket office attendant. They should cover the dialogue on the page and listen. Tell them not to worry about understanding every word. They should listen and find out where Julie has to go to catch her train.

Ask students to check their answer in pairs, before checking as a class.

Answer

Platform 12

- 5 Ask students to look at the dialogue on the page and complete gaps 1–6 with the missing sentences a–f. They check answers in pairs, then listen to the dialogue again and check.

Answers

1 e 2 c 3 a 4 f 5 b 6 d

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT

Ask students to look at the expressions and find them in the dialogue, noting who says each one. Ask students to think about the meaning of each expression and to think of how they could say each thing in a different way. Check the answers as a class and write some good sentences on the board. Ask students to practice saying the expressions.

Answers and suggested answers

I'd like to buy a train ticket to Chelmsford please? (Julie)

Do I have to change trains? (Julie)

Which platform does the train leave from? (Julie) Which platform does the train go/depart from?

It departs from platform 12. (Attendant)

How long does the journey take? (Julie)

It's about half an hour. (Attendant)

Over to you!

- 6 Students work in pairs and decide who will be the traveller and who will be the attendant. Ask them to read the instructions and follow the steps. Tell the student who is the traveller to choose a destination. Ask them to use the prompts. Remind students to use expressions from the Toolkit and the dialogue in 4. When students have finished ask them to swap roles and do the role-play again with the second destination. Monitor and make a note of errors or good language during role-plays. Write these on the board (anonymously) for the class to correct or note in their notebooks. Some pairs could act out their dialogues in front of the class.

Extension: Students use the Internet to research a train journey to a destination of their choice. When they have noted down the relevant information (times, places, costs, etc.), they repeat the role play with another student.