

Which platform does the train leave from **LEARNING OUTCOME** learn how to buy a train ticket

Everyday life



1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where is this person and what is he doing?
What are the good and bad things about travelling by train?

Everyday vocabulary

2 Below are some words that you hear when you are buying a train ticket. How could you explain the words and expressions in *italics*?

- 1 What *platform* does the train leave from?
- 2 I'd like *a return ticket*.
- 3 Do I get a *discount* with my *student railcard*?
- 4 The train *departs* from platform 5.
- 5 How long does *the journey* take?
- 6 It's a *direct line*.

3 Add any other words you know related to train travel.

Dialogue

4 **08** Listen to the dialogue. Where does Julie have to go to catch her train?

Julie is visiting the UK. She wants to travel to a music festival out of London. She wants to buy a train ticket.

Julie: I'd like to buy a train ticket to Chelmsford please.
Attendant: (1)
Julie: A return please.
Attendant: When are you going to come back?
Julie: On Sunday evening. (2)
Attendant: It's £31.
Julie: (3) Do I get a discount with my student railcard?
Attendant: Yes, can I see it please?
Julie: Here it is.
Attendant: Thank you. That's 25% off. So that's £23 and 25 pence.

Julie: Here you are. Do I have to change trains?
Attendant: (4)
Julie: Which platform does the train leave from?
Attendant: Let me see. (5)
Julie: Thank you. How long does the journey take?
Attendant: (6)
Julie: When does the next train leave?
Attendant: The next train leaves in five minutes so you should hurry!
Julie: OK. Thanks very much!

5 Read and complete the dialogue with the phrases (a–f). Then listen again and check.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| a One question. | d It's about half an hour. |
| b It departs from platform 12. | e Would you like a single ticket or a return? |
| c How much is it? | f No, it's a direct line. |

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: BUYING A TRAIN TICKET

Look at the expressions from the dialogue. Who says each one: Julie or the attendant?

- I'd like to buy a train ticket to Chelmsford please.
- Do I have to change trains?
- Which platform does the train leave from?
- It departs from platform 12.
- How long does the journey take?
- It's about half an hour.

Over to you!

6 Work in pairs. You are deciding how to travel from London to a festival outside the city. One of you is the traveller, and the other is the ticket office attendant. Follow the steps below and role-play a conversation. Then change roles. Use the expressions in the Everyday English Toolkit.

Traveller: You are in London and you want to go to a festival in another city. Choose either Brighton or Manchester. Ask the attendant for a ticket, then ask for more information

Attendant: Look at the information below. Respond to the traveller's questions. Ask if they want a single or return ticket.

London Victoria to Brighton – Direct 1 hour
 Single £15.80 / Return £31.60 / Single with railcard £11.85 / Return with railcard £23.70
 Depart: 16.20 (Platform 3); Arrive: 17.20

London Euston to Manchester – 2 hours 30 minutes – Change at Stafford
 Single £41.20 / Return £82.40 / Single with railcard £30.90 / Return with railcard £61.80
 Depart: 16.20 (Platform 7); Arrive: 18.50