

66 Public transport

1 Basic vocabulary

You catch the bus at a bus stop but you get the train at a station.

A single ticket takes you one way only, a return takes you there and back. If you make the same journey every day, you need a weekly, monthly or annual season ticket.

Sometimes you can buy a 10-journey ticket. These are sometimes called carnets.

2 Public transport verbs

Use the correct form of these verbs to complete the sentences:

miss	cancel	leave
catch	delay	run

- Can you tell me where I can the number 8 bus, please?
> Yes, the stop's round the corner in front of the Town Hall.
- Which platform does the train go from?
> 18. Hurry up or we'll it. We've got two minutes.
- Come on, let's go. Our train in five minutes.
- Sorry. I'll be a bit late for the meeting. My train's been by half an hour.
- The buses are late again. I've been waiting for nearly twenty minutes now.
- We regret to announce that the 18.04 train to Bristol has been

3 On the underground

Use these words to complete the directions:

stops exit line tube change

The quickest way from the airport to our office is by (1) Take the Piccadilly (2) to Holborn and then (3) to the Central Line. From there it's three (4) to Bank and our office is immediately opposite the (5) to Bank station.

In the United States and Scotland the underground is called the subway. Some countries use the French word metro.

4 Talking about trains

Use these words to complete the sentences:

passengers	hold-up	fares	commuters
timetable	queue	rush-hour	unreliable

- I see they've put train up again. That's the second increase this year.
- I hate travelling during the I had to stand all the way home again last night.
- The service is even worse since they changed the Now there are only two trains an hour instead of three.
- Up and down to London every day – I don't know how these do it. It would drive me crazy.
- I'd come by car if I were you. The trains are so these days.
- Sorry I'm late again. There was another just outside the station – a problem with signals or something.
- There was such a long at the ticket office that I nearly missed my train.
- I sometimes think the only people the train companies don't listen to are their

In your country, do people often complain about the trains? Do they usually run on time or are there often delays?

5 Station announcements

Use these words to complete the texts:

calling	delay	change
running	arrival	standing

- We apologise for the late of the 8.10 from Cambridge. This train will now arrive at platform 2 in approximately 15 minutes' time.
- The 4.45 to Portsmouth is approximately 20 minutes late. We apologise to passengers for the and any inconvenience this may cause.
- The train now at platform 4 is the 7.45 for London Victoria, at Gatwick Airport and East Croydon. Passengers for London Bridge should at East Croydon.