

Public transport

You may use it every day, but can you talk about it in English?

ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents words that have to do with public transport.

medium plus  



- 1. (double-decker) bus
- 2. passengers
- 3. bus driver
- 4. queue (UK), line (US)

- 5. bus stop
- 6. bus shelter
- 7. timetable
- 8. bus lane

- 9. map
- 10. ticket machine
- 11. tracks
- 12. departures board

- 13. escalator
- 14. platform
- 15. ticket inspector
- 16. ticket barrier

Bus talk

- Excuse me. Does the number 12 bus **go** to Church Street Underground station?
- Let me see... No, it doesn't. It's best to **take** the number 19 to the station and walk from there. Or you could **catch** the 142 and then **change** at Rupert Square. The number 7 will **take you** to Church Street from there.
- But I thought the number 142 **runs** only once an hour.
- Oh, that's right. And you've just **missed** it. Yes, it's probably best to **get** the 19. It **stops** over there, where the queue is.

Train talk

- I always go to work **by train**. It's only a **half-hour journey**, and it's much cheaper than **driving**.
- Haven't they just put the **fares** up again, though? A **single** to the city centre costs £9, I think.
- Well, I've got a **season ticket**. It's £147 a month, and it lets me **travel** all over the city as often as I like.
- But isn't it hell during the **rush hour**, when everything is **packed with commuters** — especially in summer? I'd rather **go on foot** or **by bike** any day.
- No, it's OK, and I can read the newspaper on the train, too.



Practice

Now try the exercises below to practise talking about public transport.

1. Match the words on the left to their definitions on the right.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------|--|
| a) A fare... | a ➞ | 1. is a ticket that lets you make regular journeys during a particular period. |
| b) A commuter... | b ➞ | 2. is someone who travels in a car, bus or train but does not drive it. |
| c) A ticket barrier... | c ➞ | 3. is a list of the times when buses or trains leave. |
| d) A timetable... | d ➞ | 4. is someone who travels regularly to and from a place of work. |
| e) A season ticket... | e ➞ | 5. is a gate where your ticket is checked before you go on to the platform. |
| f) A passenger... | f ➞ | 6. is the price you pay to travel by public transport. |

2. Complete the sentences below with words from the opposite page.

- a) You're not allowed to drive along there. That's the _____.
- b) Oh, no! The _____'s out of order. I'll have to carry all these bags up the stairs.
- c) Look at that long _____ at the bus stop. It'll be quicker to walk.
- d) The city is putting up new _____ so passengers can keep out of the wind and rain.
- e) I don't understand this _____. Are the blue lines the buses or the trams?

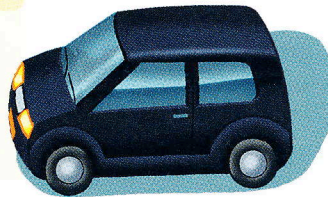
Tips

The verb **get** is used very commonly — often in the context of travel:

- How do you **get to** (= travel to) work?
 - What time did you **get in** (= arrive) this morning?
 - When do you usually **get** (= arrive) home?
 - I usually **get** (= take) the subway (*US*) to 42nd Street.
- Remember: you **get on** or **off** a bus, a tram, a train, a plane or a boat, but you **get into** or **out of** a car or a taxi.

3. In each line, one of the verbs printed in bold is incorrect in the context. Cross it out.

- a) Do you **catch**, **get**, **go** or **take** a bus?
- b) Do you **come**, **drive**, **go** or **travel** by train?
- c) Do you go **by bus**, **car**, **foot** or **train**?



4. Complete the table below with words from the opposite page in British and American English.

| | British English | American English |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| a) the system of buses, trains and trams: | _____ | public transportation |
| b) a ticket for just one journey: | a _____ | a one-way ticket |
| c) a system of trains that travel through tunnels below a city: | the _____ | the _____ |
| d) the time spent travelling from one place to another: | a _____ | a trip |

