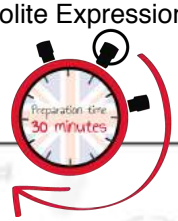
TAKE THE A TRAIN

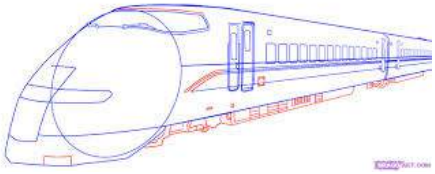


EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn vocabulary related to train travel. Practice dialogues. Test your comprehension. Learn polite expressions.

Activity One - ***Discussion***. Discuss these questions with your partner.

1. Do you often take the train?
2. Where have you been to on a train?
3. Do you prefer to travel by train, by car or by plane?
4. Do you like to travel first or second class?
5. Do you buy food and drinks on the train usually?



Activity Two - Race. (do not prepare at home). With your group or partner label the images.









Activity Three - Comprehension activity. Listen to the song and answer the comprehension questions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQnNnPLC_b4

1. Ella Fitzgerald & Duke Ellington: Take The A Train
2. Which train should you take to get to Harlem?
3. Why should you hurry?
4. What can you hear?
5. What should you get on board?
6. What do you need to catch?



Activity Four - Polite and apologetic expressions in English.

In English people often use a lot of apologetic words and expressions to be polite in simple situations. For example when asking for help, when asking for directions, when needing to pass someone etc. Sometimes it even seems exaggeratedly apologetic! But it's just the way we speak when we want to be polite. We use words like, terribly, awfully, dreadfully, really, to emphasise how sorry we are. We say 'I'm afraid', when we want to explain something, we can say 'I'm most grateful' to thank someone for something. We often say, 'It's no trouble', or 'not at all' to put someone at ease when we have helped them. On the next page you will find a list of common polite expressions.

List of Polite Expressions in for asking for help or saying sorry :

- ☐ Do you mind if..
- ☐ I'm sorry to bother you but..
- ☐ I'm terribly sorry but..
- ☐ I'm most grateful..
- ☐ I'm afraid that..
- ☐ Would you mind terribly if..
- ☐ I hope you don't mind my asking but..
- ☐ It's really no trouble at all
- ☐ It's a pleasure
- ☐ It's my pleasure
- ☐ Please excuse me

Activity Five - Dialogue. Read out the dialogue with your partner.



Conductor - Hello can I see your tickets please?
Train Passenger - Yes here they are.
Conductor - I'm really sorry Sir, but you are in the first class compartment. You must have made a mistake.
Train Passenger - Oh dear, I'm terribly sorry. I thought that this was second class!
Conductor - No, I'm afraid that you have got the wrong carriage.
Train Passenger - Oh, I see, I'm awfully sorry, can you show me where my carriage is?
Conductor - Of course, you just go through the door, past the bar and you are on the other side. It's an easy mistake to make, don't worry.
Train Passenger - Thanks a lot, I'll just get my things and go along there.
Conductor - It's no trouble, here, let me help you.

Activity Six - Act it out - Now, with your partner invent a dialogue for one of the following situations and act it out for the rest of the group.

1/ You are in a train and someone comes and says that you are in their seat.

2/ You are asleep in your train seat and the person beside you really needs to go to the toilet.

3/ Your bag falls off the overhead rack and nearly hits the person in the seat opposite you.

4/ You are on the train and everything is quiet. Suddenly your phone starts ringing really loudly and you can't find it anywhere.

Activity Seven - With a new partner read the dialogue below and then act out what happens next..

Passenger 1: I'm terribly sorry but I'm going to have to ask you to get up because I would like to go to the bar.
Passenger 2: That's no trouble at all. I will just move my computer.
Passenger 1: Thanks so much.
Passenger 2: Here you are.
— — — —
Passenger 1: Hi, sorry, I need to get back into my seat.
Passenger 2: OK, I'll just get up.
Passenger 1: Oh no, I'm so sorry, my coffee has spilled.
Passenger 2: Onto my computer!



Activity Seven - **Buy a ticket**.

One by one you will purchase a train ticket from your teacher. Give the teacher all the information you need for the outward and return journey. You need to choose a different destination, different types of passengers and different specifications from the other members of the group who go before you. Here is the information you will need to give.

- ☑ Destination
- ☑ Outward Journey date
- ☑ Return Journey date
- ☑ Single or return tickets
- ☑ Reserved seating
- ☑ Class
- ☑ Number and age of passengers
- ☑ Type of seat
- ☑ Type of carriage
- ☑ If you want to pre-order a meal onboard.



Activity Eight - **Plan a journey.**

With your partner **plan a journey.** You can take as many as three direct trains. You can stop once in a hotel overnight. You need to see as many interesting things as possible on the way. Where will you go and what will you see? Will you take a night train? Will you eat on the train or in the places you visit? Describe the places you will see.

