

Race to the sun

1 READING

a In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- 1 When was the last time you travelled...?
by train by car by plane
Where did you go?
How long did your journey take?
Did you have a good journey?
- 2 In general, which of the three forms of transport do you prefer? Why?

b Read the introduction to the article, *Race to the sun*. Answer the questions with *by car*, *by train*, or *by plane*.

Which journey do you think was...?

the quickest _____ the most comfortable _____
the cheapest _____ the most convenient _____

c You're going to read about the first two journeys, but the paragraphs are not in the right order. Find the first paragraph for the plane journey, and then the other three. Do the same for the train journey. Then compare with a partner.

The plane

The train

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

d Now read about the two journeys again carefully in the right order. Answer the questions with T (the train) or P (the plane).

On which journey...?

Which journey was...?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 did the traveller have to get up earlier | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 quicker | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 could the traveller have something to eat or drink | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 cheaper | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 was the traveller more stressed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 more comfortable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 could the traveller see beautiful scenery | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 more convenient | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 did the traveller have a meal when he arrived | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 6 did the traveller arrive earlier than expected | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

HOW WORDS WORK...

The bus **took** 45 minutes.

It **took me** just 30 minutes from home.

How long does it **take you** to get to school?

Use *take* (+ person) + time (+ *to get to*)... to talk about the duration of a journey.

Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

How long does it take you to get to work / school?

How long does it take to get from your house to the centre?

a by car b by bus / underground c on foot



Every year thousands of British tourists travel to the South of France for their summer holiday. But what is the best way to get there, by car, train, or plane?

A British newspaper sent three of its journalists to find out. They had to travel from their homes in London to Avignon.

All three travellers set off one Saturday morning in July.



Charles went by train (the Eurostar).



Rosemary flew with a 'cut price' airline.



Martin travelled by car.

A When I got to security I saw that there was an enormous queue. I began to worry that I might miss my flight, because the boarding limit is 40 minutes before take-off. I had to run to gate 48 and I arrived completely out of breath.

B I arrived on time! I picked up my suitcase and followed the Exit signs. It was great not to have to wait ages for my luggage or to worry about getting a bus or taxi to the city centre.

C We boarded. Because there are no seat numbers on these flights, everybody tries to get on as quickly as they can. I sat next to a friendly Frenchman. We took off and soon I was looking down on London. There was no meal, not even coffee, but we landed 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

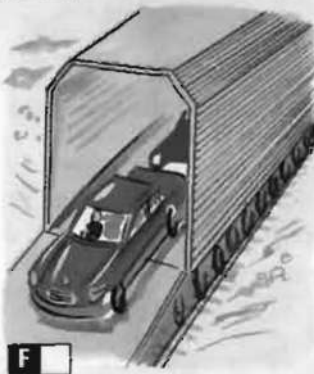
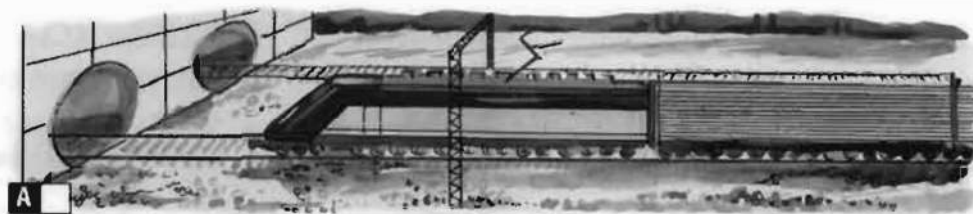
D At 4.15 a.m. a taxi picked me up and took me 32 miles to Stansted airport. Although it was early morning, there was a lot of traffic and I arrived later than I had planned. I took my luggage to check in and asked for a window seat but the woman said there were no seat numbers.

E At 7.10 a.m. I arrived at Waterloo station by taxi. It took me just 30 minutes from home. I bought the papers and walked to the platform. I got on and found my seat. As soon as we started moving, I went to find the buffet car and had a cup of coffee.

F Just outside the station I looked up and saw the medieval walls of Avignon's historic city centre. It was 2.20* in the afternoon and I was just in time for a late lunch! My ticket cost £65.80, and I gave the journey 8/10 for comfort and 9/10 for convenience.

G I only had to wait twenty minutes for my luggage. Then I walked outside into bright sunshine and waited for the bus to Avignon, about 40 kilometres away. I didn't have to wait long and the bus took 45 minutes. It was only 11.00* and I had the whole day in front of me. My ticket cost £63, and I gave the journey 5/10 for comfort and 5/10 for convenience.

H I looked out of the window. Although we were moving at 340 kilometres an hour, the journey was smooth and relatively quiet. The part where we travelled under the English Channel took just 22 minutes. Soon I was looking at the fields and farmhouses of France. The sun was shining. I closed my eyes and went to sleep.



2 LISTENING

a **2.12** Listen to Martin talking about his journey from London to Avignon by car. Number the pictures 1–7.

b Listen again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 There's a lot of traffic in London on Saturday mornings.
- 2 Petrol is more expensive in Britain than in France.
- 3 There are two ways to cross the English Channel by car.
- 4 You can't drive through the Channel Tunnel.
- 5 The journey through the tunnel takes an hour.
- 6 Drivers must sit in their car when they go through the tunnel.
- 7 The speed limit on French motorways is 120 km/h.
- 8 French motorways aren't free.
- 9 It's 970 kilometres from Calais to Avignon.

c **2.13** Listen to Martin talking about his journey and fill in the By car column in the chart. Now compare the information with your answers in 1a.

London to Avignon	By plane	By train	By car
How long did it take? (from home)	5 hours 45 mins	6 hours 40 mins	
How much did it cost?	£63	£65.80	
Comfort /10	5	8	
Convenience /10	5	9	

d Think of a town / city in your country. How many different ways are there of getting there? Which do you think is the best? Why?

* France is one hour ahead of the UK.

3 GRAMMAR comparatives and superlatives

a Read the sentences. Are the highlighted phrases right or wrong? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗), and correct the wrong sentences.

- 1 What's the quicker way to get to the South of France?
- 2 Driving is more boring than going by train.
- 3 Petrol isn't as cheap in Britain than in France.
- 4 Does the plane cost the same as the train?
- 5 Going by train is less expensive as flying.
- 6 It was the more comfortable hotel I've ever stayed in.
- 7 The worst month to travel through France is August.
- 8 Do the British drive more carefully than the French?

b p.132 Grammar Bank 2C. Read the rules and do the exercises.

c With a partner compare the experiences below using the bold adjectives.

- 1 **safe, exciting, healthy**
travelling by motorbike
travelling by car
travelling by bike
- 2 **enjoyable, dangerous, relaxing**
travelling by yourself
travelling with friends
travelling with your family
- 3 **difficult, expensive**
learning to drive
learning to ride a bike
learning to ride a horse

4 VOCABULARY transport and travel

a Put the words into the correct column.

buffet car	check in	gate	motorway
platform	rush hour	speed limit	
station	take off		

train	car	plane
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

b p.148 Vocabulary Bank Transport and travel.

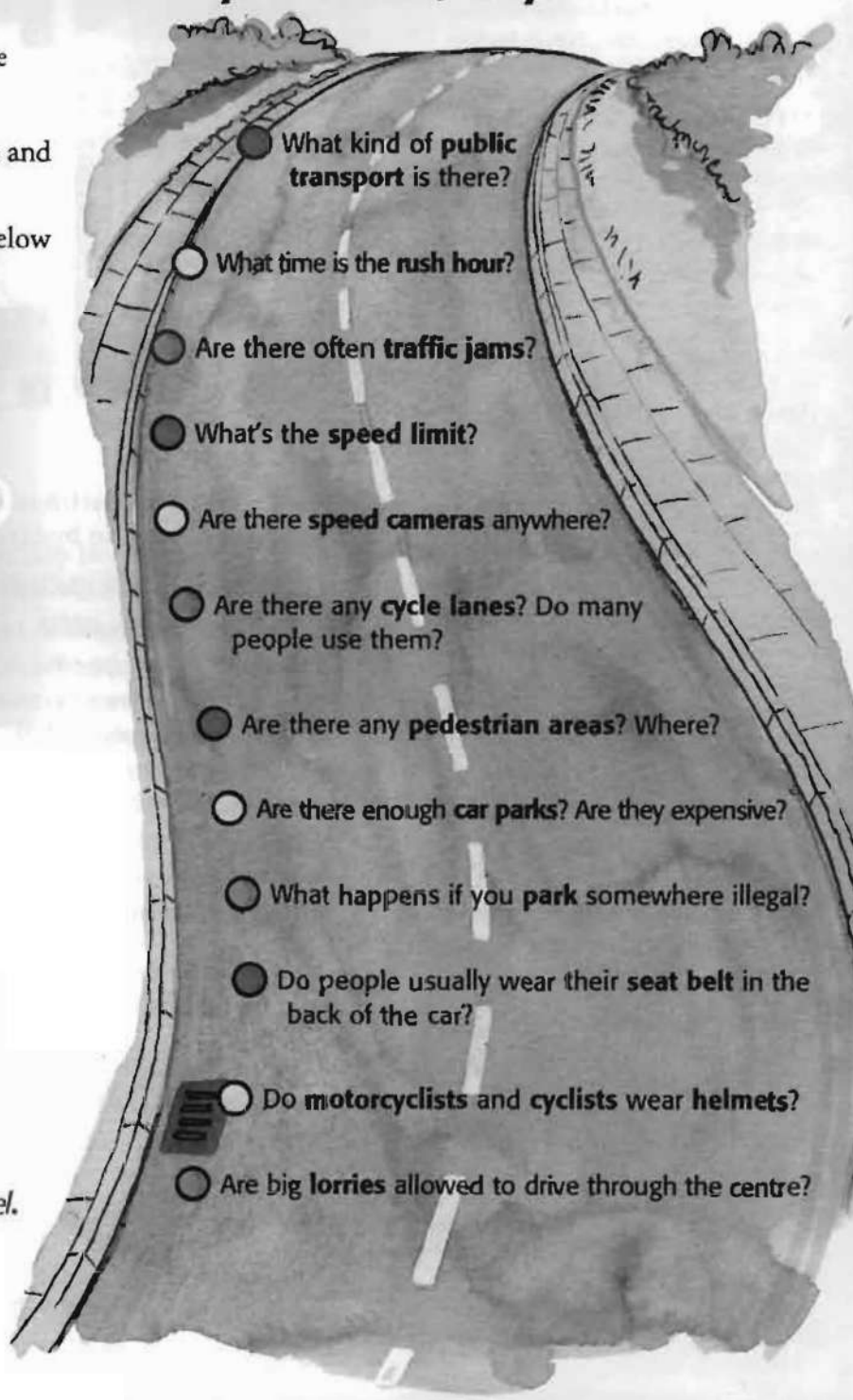
5 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING stress in compound nouns

a 2.14 Listen and repeat the compound nouns. Which word is usually stressed more?

traffic lights	pedestrian area
boarding pass	road works
car park	rush hour
car crash	seat belt
cycle lane	speed camera
parking fine	speed limit
traffic jam	ticket office

b Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

In your town / city...



6 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a Read the beginning of a newspaper article and then talk to a partner:

- 1 Do you (or your family) ever do any of these things while driving a car?
- 2 Which three do you think are the most dangerous? Number them 1–3 (1 = the most dangerous).



Which of these things is the most dangerous when you're driving a car?

- making a call on your mobile
- listening to your favourite music
- listening to music you don't know
- opening a packet of crisps or a can of drink
- picking up a specific CD from the passenger seat
- talking to other passengers

A car magazine tested car drivers in a driving simulator. The drivers had to 'drive' in the simulator and at the same time do the things in the list above. The results of the tests were surprising (and worrying).

b **2.15** Now listen to a road safety expert talking about the tests. Number the activities 1–6. Were your top three right?

c Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What should you do when you are driving?
- 2 Why is opening a packet of crisps or a can so dangerous?
- 3 What do people often do when they pick up a CD?
- 4 What gets worse when drivers are talking on the phone?
- 5 How do people drive when they are listening to their favourite music?
- 6 What happens if the music is fast and heavy?
- 7 What's the main problem when drivers talk to other passengers?
- 8 Why is listening to music you don't know the least dangerous?

d Look at the statements below and decide whether you agree or disagree. Tick (✓) the ones you agree with and put a cross (✗) next to the ones you disagree with. Think about your reasons.

Drivers should not use any kind of phone when they are driving.

The minimum age for riding a motorbike should be 25.

People who drink and drive should lose their licence for life.

The speed limit on motorways should be 100 kilometres an hour.

Cyclists are just as dangerous as car drivers.

Speed cameras do not stop accidents.

People over 70 are more dangerous drivers than young people.

e In groups, give your opinions on each sentence. Do you agree?

Transport and travel

1 Plane

Match the words and pictures.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> land (vb) | <input type="checkbox"/> take off (vb) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> check-in desk | <input type="checkbox"/> gate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> luggage /'lʌɡɪdʒ/ | <input type="checkbox"/> (suit)case |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boarding card pass | <input type="checkbox"/> aisle /aɪl/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baggage reclaim | |



2 Train

Match the words and pictures.

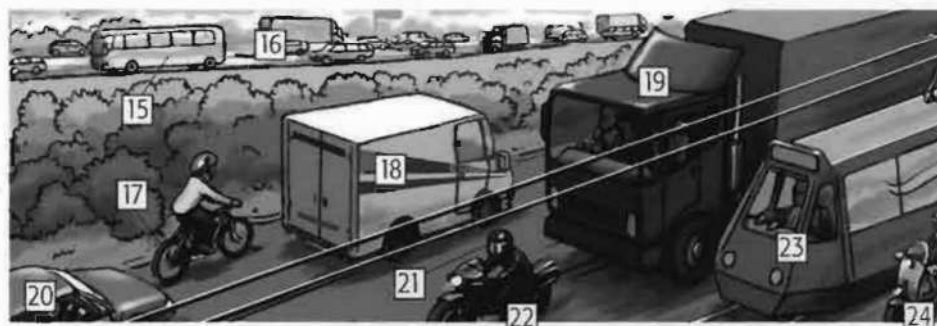
- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> railway station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> platform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ticket office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the underground |



3 Road

a Match the words and pictures.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> coach | <input type="checkbox"/> bike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lorry | <input type="checkbox"/> car |
| <input type="checkbox"/> van | <input type="checkbox"/> scooter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorbike | <input type="checkbox"/> tram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> helmet | <input type="checkbox"/> motorway |



b Complete the compound nouns.

area belt crash fine hour jam lane lights
limit park rank station transport works

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 petrol _____ | a place where you can get petrol, often with a shop or café |
| 2 traffic _____ | |
| 3 seat _____ | |
| 4 rush _____ | the time of day when there is a lot of traffic |
| 5 car _____ | when two or more cars hit each other |
| 6 parking _____ | money you have to pay for parking illegally |
| 7 traffic _____ | when there is so much traffic that cars can't move |
| 8 speed _____ | |
| 9 public _____ | buses, trams, trains, etc. |
| 10 pedestrian _____ | a place where you can't drive |
| 11 cycle _____ | a narrow part of the road for bicycles only |
| 12 road _____ | |
| 13 taxi _____ | where taxis park when they are waiting for customers |
| 14 car _____ | a place where you can leave your car |

4 Travel

flight journey /'dʒɜːni/
trip travel

- A _____ is when you travel from one place to another by car, train, plane, etc.
- _____ is normally used as a verb, e.g. I _____ a lot.
- A _____ is when you go somewhere by plane.
- A _____ is when you go somewhere, either for a holiday or on business, stay there, and come back again.

Can you remember the words on this page? Test yourself or a partner

⌂ p.30