

Travel

Pre-intermediate

1 Planning a trip

You need to get to the airport to catch a plane. It's ten miles away, and it's the rush hour. Which do you think is the quickest way of getting there, and why? Choose from the options below.

go by bus go by car go by taxi go by train
go by motorbike go by bike go on foot

2 Word categories

Divide these words and phrases into two categories: *cars and taxis* and *buses and trains*.

get a lift	a double decker	share a taxi
hitchhike	take the underground	buy a return ticket
catch the number 9	use public transport	pay the fare
put your foot down	it's delayed	go on the sleeper
miss your connection	change at Swindon	sit on the top deck
a buffet car	stuck in a traffic jam	get on/off
get in/out of	a bus lane	hail a taxi
a taxi rank	sit in the passenger seat	
reserve a first class seat	miss the inter city express	

3 What's the difference?

What's the difference between the following?

- bus and coach
- train and tram
- helicopter and hovercraft
- passenger and pedestrian
- travel and commute

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4 Fill the gaps

Which word goes with all three sentences in each section? You may need to change the tense of the word:

- | | | | | |
|--|------|------|-------|-------|
| | take | ride | drive | catch |
|--|------|------|-------|-------|
- At the weekend I love to _____ into the country on my bike.
We went on a _____ in a helicopter last week.
The bus _____ from the airport was very pleasant.
 - The quickest way to get here is to _____ a taxi.
We _____ the 12.45 to Milan, and changed there.
How long does it _____ to get there?
 - Hurry up! We'll be late if we don't _____ the next bus.
I'll have to go I'm afraid. I have a train to _____.
If we don't leave before 5 we'll be _____ in a traffic jam.
 - It's a wonderful _____ through the mountains into Switzerland.
I learned to _____ with my dad, and passed my test four days after my seventeenth birthday.
Do you need a special licence to _____ a minibus?

5 Read and match

Match the types of trips below to the texts that describe them:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| go on a boat trip | go on an excursion | go on a voyage |
| go on a journey | go on a walk | go on a guided tour |
| go on an expedition | go on a business trip | |
- We have been planning it for years. It's one of the last remaining unexplored areas of rainforest in the world, and who knows what we will find there. In the party, there will be scientists and ecologists as well as

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- experienced adventurers because we could discover new species of plants and animals.
- 2 Well, I've booked it. We have to be in front of the hotel at six o'clock in the morning, and, as soon as everybody has taken their seat, we'll set off for Warwick and Stratford. It's motorway most of the way, but there should be some nice views when we get near Warwick. We have two hours at the castle and all afternoon to visit Shakespeare's house. We have to be back on the coach for the drive home at six.
- 3 It was a lovely afternoon, so we put on our coats and boots and headed off for Hare Hill. We took the dog, too. The path along the river is very narrow so we went in single file until we reached Newbridge village. And it's a really steep climb to the top of the hill. We were exhausted by the time we got home.
- 4 We went up on deck. The strong breeze immediately hit us in the face. I looked far out across the huge desert of green-blue that lay before us, but I could see no land. It would be three more days before we reached the coast of South America.
- 5 There were hundreds of people on the platform, and, carrying two suitcases, and a rucksack on his back, William began to worry that he wouldn't be able to find his seat. It would take two days travelling on this old train across some of the most lonely and beautiful scenery in the world before he reached the little village in the foothills where he was going to work.
- 6 I'll be arriving at Linate Airport at 3, travelling club class. Could you arrange for a driver to be waiting for me? I have to be at Head Office for the meeting at four thirty. I will only be carrying hand luggage – a briefcase and an overnight bag – so I shouldn't be delayed in customs.
- 7 It was the highlight of the holiday. We booked a trip along the River Umacinta between Mexico and Guatemala. It was wonderful. We travelled for two hours past forested banks watching the alligators, visited a Mayan ruin, and stopped for lunch in an old village.
- 8 On the left, you can see St Paul's Cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren. We're going inside now. Could you all stay together, please?'

Write a description of a trip you have been on:

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6 Who and where?

Who is speaking and where are they?

- a. How much is it to the next stop?
- b. A return to Reading, please – with a student travel card.
- c. May I see your passport, please?
- d. Would you like a lift?
- e. Put your seatbelt on, please.
- f. Where to, mate?
- g. On today's flight we will be flying at 10,000 feet.

7 Plan a presentation

Prepare to talk about the most unusual or exciting journey you have ever been on:

- a. Where did you go?
- b. Who did you go with?
- c. How did you travel?
- d. What did you see and what happened during the journey?
- e. What was special about it?

Tell the class about the journey.

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Teacher's notes – Travel (Pre-intermediate)

- 1 At this level it is a good idea to find visuals to help teach these words. You could bring in pictures of many different forms of transport – cars, buses, trains, etc. Show the students the pictures and elicit as many words connected with the pictures as you can.

Put the students in pairs to decide which is the best option. In the feedback, ask students to say why. Encourage discussion, as there is more than one possible answer.

Answers: Students' own ideas. However, suggestions include:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| go by bus | = there may be a bus lane. |
| go by taxi | = the driver may know a short cut to avoid the traffic jam. |
| go by train | = avoids the traffic jam. |
| go by motorbike | = can overtake the cars in the traffic jam. |

- 2 Put the students in pairs to divide these words and phrases into two categories: *cars and taxis* and *buses and trains*.

Answers:

cars and taxis: get a lift, share a taxi, hitchhike, put your foot down, sit in the passenger seat, stuck in a traffic jam, get in/out of, a taxi rank, hail a taxi

buses and trains: a double-decker, take the underground, buy a return ticket, reserve a first class seat, catch the number 9, miss the inter city express, use public transport, pay the fare, it's delayed, go on the sleeper, miss your connection, change at Swindon, sit on the top deck, a buffet car, get on/off, a bus lane

Note: we say get in/out of cars and taxis, but get on/off buses, trains, planes and boats.

- 3 Put the students in pairs to explain the differences.

Answers:

- bus** = follows a fixed route from bus stop to bus stop round a town or city.
coach = does long distance journeys/goes from one town to another/more luxurious than a bus.
- train** = goes on rails from railway station in one town to the next.
tram = like a bus on rails that stops at tram stops and follows a fixed route round a town or city.
- helicopter** = aircraft with large metal blades on top that spin and lift it into the air.
hovercraft = a vehicle that can move over both land and water, raising itself above the surface by blowing air downwards.
- passenger** = someone travelling on a bus, train, plane, etc.
pedestrian = somebody walking in the street.
- travel** = go from one place to another.
commute = travel to work by the same route everyday.

- 4 Put the students in pairs to decide which word goes with all three sentences in each section. Remind the students to change the tense of the word.

Answers:

- 1 At the weekend I love to ride into the country on my bike.
We went on a ride in a helicopter last week.
The bus ride from the airport was very pleasant.

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- 2 The quickest way to get here is to take a taxi.
We took the 12.45 to Milan, and changed there.
How long does it take to get there?
- 3 Hurry up! We'll be late if we don't catch the next bus.
I'll have to go I'm afraid. I have a train to catch.
If we don't leave before 5 we'll be caught in a traffic jam.
- 4 It's a wonderful drive through the mountains into Switzerland.
I learned to drive with my dad, and passed my test four days after my seventeenth birthday.
Do you need a special licence to drive a minibus?

- 5 **Put the students in pairs to match the types of trips to the texts that describe them.**

Answers:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. go on an expedition | 2. go on an excursion | 3. go on a walk |
| 4. go on a voyage | 5. go on a journey | 6. go on a business trip |
| 7. go on a boat trip | 8. go on a guided tour | |

Ask the students to write a description of a trip they have been on. You could set this for homework.

- 6 **Put the students in pairs to decide who is speaking and where they are.**

Answers:

- a. How much is it to the next stop?
Passenger getting on a bus at a bus stop.
- b. A return to Reading, please – with a student travel card.
Passenger at railway station ticket office or on a train.
- c. May I see your passport, please?
Customs official at check in desk at the airport.
- d. Would you like a lift?
Car driver offering a friend a lift home.
- e. Put your seatbelt on, please.
Car driver talking to passenger or flight attendant on a flight.
- f. Where to, mate?
Taxi driver at the start of journey.
- g. On today's flight we will be flying at 10,000 feet.
Pilot at start of flight – in plane.

- 7 **Give the students a few minutes to think about the questions and prepare what they are going to talk about. They may wish to make a few notes. Ask some of the students to tell the class about their journey.**