

Grammar Lesson  
**Lesson 17: The bullet train is faster**  
レッスン 17: 新幹線の方が早いです**Target: Comparing modes of transportation**  
目的: 交通機関を比べましょう!**Reading**  
単語**New vocabulary introduced in the reading**

• not as (adj) as..	(B) ほど (A) でない	• convenience	便利 (さ)
• character	個性	• worth it	それだけの価値がある
• get to...	着く	• beat up	使い古しの
• a destination	行き先	• a hatchback	ハッチバック
• (train) run	走る	• It's got...	～がある
• in good condition	良いコンディションで	• styling	様式
• in the world	世界中で	• handling	操作
• wrong	間違った	• upgrade	アップグレード
• directly	直接に	• an exhaust	排気装置

## 1

**Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them**

Hi I'm Testsuya and I love trains. I ride trains every day. I always take the Shonun-Shinjuku Line to work. It's a really convenient train. It's faster than the Takasaki line and it's more convenient because it stops at less stations.

My favorite trains are old steam trains. Steam trains aren't as fast as modern trains, but I think they have more character and riding on a steam train is more fun than riding on a normal commuter train.

Because steam trains are slow it takes longer to get to your destination. But that's OK, because people don't use steam trains to commute in Japan, they are just something fun to ride on your day off. Also, steam trains are much noisier. They are really loud! My favorite steam train is the SL53 that runs from Takasaki to Maebashi. It's very old. It's older than most trains in Japan. Also, it's in very good condition. It's in better condition than the other steam trains I have seen.

My favorite modern train is the Maglev train in China. It's faster than any other train in the world. It's really comfortable too. It's much more comfortable than the regular trains in China. I thought it would be very expensive, but I was wrong. It's quite cheap. A single ticket is less than 1000 yen.

In Japan, I usually take the NEX when I go to the airport. It goes directly to the airport. You don't need to transfer, so I feel the NEX is more convenient than taking a local train, but it does run less regularly. Also, it is a little more expensive. But I don't mind paying a little bit extra because I think that the convenience is really worth it. There is nothing worse than transferring trains and going up and down stairs when you have lots of luggage.

I also really like cars. My friend has a R34 Nissan Skyline. It's really cool. It's much cooler than my car. I only have an old beat up hatchback. It's smaller than a Skyline and it's much slower. I really want a faster car. I think anything would be better than my current car. Everything about the Skyline is better than my car. It's got more power, the styling is nicer, it has more upgrade parts, it's got better handling, it has a better sound system, the seats are more comfortable, and the turbo sounds so much cooler than my tiny exhaust. I really want a Skyline.

## 2

**Answer the questions below**

1. Is the Shonun-Shinjuku Line faster than the Takasaki Line?
2. What trains have more character; modern ones or steam trains?
3. Do steam trains take longer to get to your destination?
4. Is the SL53 older than most trains in Japan?
5. Is a single ticket on the Maglev more than 1000 yen?
6. Does the NEX run less or more regularly than a local train?
7. Is Tetsuya's friend's car much cooler than his?
8. How many comparatives can you find?

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