

Lesson 100

I overshot my station.

Target: Having a conversation about trains.

Vocabulary

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Trains



Related vocabulary

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|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| - to be on the train | - a buffet / restaurant / dining car | - a car / a carriage |
| - to overshoot a station | - a sleeper car / compartment | - a luggage rack |
| - to hang onto one's ticket | - a fare adjustment office | - peak / off peak |
| - to validate a ticket | - to lean out the window | - a train crossing |
| - to approach a station | - to punch a ticket | - a ticket gate / barrier |
| - to alight from a train | - to miss a train / connection | - a rail pass |
| - to terminate at a station | - the train track / the tracks | - a private railway |

Conversation

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1 Use the questions below to have a conversation with your partner about the topic

Partner #1: Questions

- How often do you have to go to the fare adjustment office / use a fare adjustment machine?
- What station does the train you usually take terminate at?
- What happens if you forget to hang onto your ticket and you accidentally lose it?
- Do you ever have to punch a train ticket in Japan?
- Does Japan have any private rail networks? If so, how do they compare to JR?
- What's the best thing to do if you accidentally overshoot your station?
- What happens if you lean out the window while the train is in motion?
- What different kinds of trains do you know? e.g. a locomotive, a steam train, a diesel, freight train etc.
- What's the difference between: a conductor, a guard, a ticket inspector, an attendant, a station master?
- If public transportation were free, would you use it more?

Partner #2: Questions

- What are the peak and off-peak times for trains in your country?
- Which country do you think has the best rail network? Why?
- What do you know about the unlimited JR rail pass for foreigners?
- Have you ever ridden on a steam locomotive? What was it like? Did it have different cars?
- Do you usually put your stuff up on the luggage racks? Why? / Why not?
- What would you do if you saw someone fall onto the tracks and a train was approaching?
- What problems can you encounter while travelling by train? What should you do if they happen?
- What strange people have you come across on a train?
- What new train lines would you like to be built?
- What do you think trains will be like in the future?

2 Complete one or more of the situations below

- Role play:** Partner #1: This is your first time in Japan and you want to use the trains.
Partner #2: Tell your friend how to buy a ticket in Japan and how the train system works.
- Interview:** Interview a station master about what the differences between different trains are.
- Speech:** Talk about your experiences with taking trains overseas.
- Debate:** You think the trains are the best way to travel long distances, but your partner disagrees.