

Lesson 97

My train is running late.

Target: Having a conversation about commuting.

Vocabulary

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Commuting



Related vocabulary

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| - to commute to work | - to be stuck on a train | - to carpool |
| - a rush-hour train | - to feel like a sardine | - to go around a corner |
| - to be running late | - to be pinned up against... | - to step on someone's feet |
| - a delay / to delay / to be delayed | - to swipe... over a scanner | - to lose one's balance |
| - to miss one's stop | - to charge up one's Suica | - to topple over |
| - to run for a train | - to give up one's seat | - to molest... / to grope... |
| - the priority seats | - to get a seat | - to commit suicide / a suicide |

Conversation

会話

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

Partner #1: Questions

- Do you enjoy taking rush-hour trains? Why? / Why not?
- How often do you get a seat on the train?
- Do you think all trains should offer free Wi-Fi? Which stations / trains have free Wi-Fi?
- When was the late time you felt like a sardine?
- Do you usually zone out when you are on the train?
- What are some of the advantages of using a Suica?
- Have you ever toppled over and stepped on someone's toes? How did they react?
- How do you like to kill time on the train?
- What's the longest time you have ever been stuck on a train?
- How often are you delayed due to suicides / human accidents?

Partner #2: Questions

- How do you think people will commute in the future?
- Have you ever lost your balance as the train went around a corner?
- What do you usually get pinned up against in the train?
- How could you improve commuting in Japan?
- What do you think of people on the train that have really bad BO or dandruff?
- How often do you charge up your Suica?
- What do you call a choumeshoumeishou in English?
- Have you ever given up your seat for someone else? How often do you see other people do this?
- What are some of the benefits of carpooling? Do you think carpooling will ever take off in Japan?
- Do you think Japan has a problem with male commuters trying to molest female commuters?

2 Complete one or more of the situations below

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. Role play: | Partner #1: You have just arrived in Japan and are shocked by the commuting culture.
Partner #2: You have lived in Japan for ages. Help your friend adjust to commuting in Japan. |
| 2. Speech: | You are the new head of JR Railways. Talk about what you would change. |
| 3. Speech: | Describe your daily commute. |
| 4. Debate: | You think commuting by train is the best, but your partner thinks driving is better. |