

Stations



Unit Objectives

After studying this unit, you are able to:

- know the functions of the facilities in a railway station
- learn about the responsibilities of different jobs in a railway station
- understand the announcement of departure and arrival in English
- know the basics of a typical subway station
- fill in lost and found registration form in a station

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Warming-up

Task 1 Where do you often see the following machines? Work in pairs. Match the picture of each machine with its English name and discuss its function.



Task 2 Translate the railway jobs in Column A into Chinese and match them with their responsibilities in Column B.

A	В
1. station attendant ()	A. sell train tickets
2. station police ()	B. help passengers to carry their luggage
3. porter ()	C. be in charge of all station affairs
4. station master ()	D. work for public safety and security check
5. station operator ()	E. offer service to passengers in waiting halls
6. booking clerk ()	F. guide passengers on the platform



Reading A





Subway Stations in Beijing

Beijing was the first city in China to have a subway. In a megalopolis like Beijing, newly-built high-speed rail stations and airports are often linked with subway stations.

All signs and indicators in Beijing subway stations are in Chinese as well as English. Subway stations are usually marked with a blue sign above the entrance with the name of the station. The logo, a capital letter "G" encircling a capital letter "D" with the letter "B" silhouetted inside the letter "D," is an abbreviated form of "Beijing high-speed electric carriage."

All subway stations have elevators and escalators to move passengers to and from platforms. They usually have a ticket office, as well as restrooms, public phones and a lostand-found office. Passengers entering a subway station go downstairs or take an elevator or escalator to the station's ticketing booth. There, they buy a ticket from the ticket booth or from an automatic ticket machine. Once, Beijing had super preferential subway fare of two yuan for unlimited mileage and unlimited transfers. The sole exception is the Airport Express, which costs 25 yuan. Now, the fare is based on the zones that passengers are traveling to, as with all other subways across the country. All passengers need to have their bags inspected by passing them through a security-check machine. Then, their

tickets are automatically checked by another machine, which allows passengers to access the platforms.

Each platform has a track on both sides with trains traveling in opposite directions. Signs on each side of the railway tracks and platforms help people to decide which side of the platform they should use to get on the train. LED screens also show how long it will take before the next train arrives. There are maps of the subway network on the platforms which show all the stations and where transfers can be made. Passengers are required to stand behind the white lines to ensure their safety. Smoking is forbidden in subway stations and on trains.

Inside a subway train, passengers may take a seat or stand holding on to the horizontal poles, as in buses. For more information about their journey, they may consult maps on the wall and station display screens, or listen to announcements over loudspeakers. On arriving at their destination, they step out of the train and follow the signs indicating how to exit the station. There are several exits for each station. Each exit leads to different sides of the streets above. Therefore, passengers must find their own destination and directions, and choose the right exit out of the subway station.

Task 1	Decide whether the following	state	ments are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.					
	Beijing was the second city to have a subway in China.							
	2. Now, a flat fare of two <i>yuan</i> applies to all lines except the Airport Express.							
	3. For information on tran	ısfer s	stations, passengers may consult the maps on the platforms					
	4. People can eat, drink a	nd sm	noke in the subway.					
	5. Usually, there is more	than c	one exit for each subway station.					
Task 2	Translate the following signs	in sul	bways and find more signs with your partner.					
	1. Mind the Step							
	2. Stand on Right							
	3. Temporarily Closed							
	4. Emergency Alarm							
	5. Beware of Collisions							
	6. Electrically Operated Gate							
	7. Stay Clear of Tracks							
	8. Fire Escape, Keep Clear							
Task 3	Match each of the English no	mes	of "地铁" with its corresponding country or area.					
	In the US	}	subway					
	In the UK	5	subway (metro)					
	In France	>	underground					
	In Singapore	1	métro					
	In Canada (Montreal)	1	tube					
	In the UK (Oral)	1	MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)					

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Listening and Speaking



Task 1 Listen to the announcement about a train departure and complete it with who								
	hear.							
	Ladies and gentlemen. A, please. The for Changsha is now							
	b The train will leave at am from Platform Passengers for							
	Changsha please have your t ready for inspection and c through Gate No.							
	for boarding. Thank you.							
Task 2	Work in pairs. With your partner, practice the following conversation about the above							
	announcement by asking and answering the following questions.							
	A: Which train is leaving for Changsha?							
	B: The N203.							
	A: When will it leave?							
	B: At 8:16 in the morning.							
	A: From which platform?							
	B: Platform 2.							
	A: Which is the check-in gate for this train?							
	B: Gate No. 5.							
	A: Thank you.							
	B: My pleasure.							
Task 3	Listen to the announcement about a train arrival and complete it with what you hear. Attention, please. The from Xi'an to Tianjin is running about minutes late. The expected time of arrival is now. We apologize for any The train will arrive at Platform We will begin to check in soon to Tianjin please get your tickets ready and wait for your turn to People who have come to meet your friends please go to the or the platform.							
Task 4	Work in pairs. With your partner, practice the following conversation about the above announcement by asking and answering the following questions. A: Is Train 1515 running on schedule? B: No, it's late. A: How long will it be delayed? B: By about twenty minutes. A: What do they mean by saying "wait for your turn"? B: It means that the passengers should check in and board the train in order. A: Where should people coming to meet their friends go? B: They should go to the exit or the platform.							

Task 5 At the inquiry office, a passenger is asking some questions and a conductor is helping him. Practice the conversation with your partner.

Conductor: Good morning. Can I help you?

Passenger: Yes, where can I buy a timetable in English, please?

Conductor: Sorry, we only have timetables in Chinese. Train schedules for major cities are

displayed on screen in both English and Chinese in the ticket office.

Passenger: Oh, thanks. Where is the ticket office?

Conductor: It's over there, on the west side of the hall.

Passenger: OK... and um, can I buy two tickets with my passport?

Conductor: No, I'm sorry. A passenger can only buy a ticket in his or her own name and only

on the date of departure. You will need to show your passport in order to buy a

ticket.

Passenger: Oh. I see. Thanks. **Conductor:** You're welcome.

Task 6 Role-play the following conversation in groups of three. One acts as a station attendant who is checking tickets at the entrance of the waiting hall. The other two are passengers coming to the entrance. One passenger is Chinese and the other is a foreigner.

Station Attendant: May I see your ticket and ID card, please.

Passenger 1: Here you are.

Station Attendant: Thank you. You will need to go through the security check and then you

can wait in the waiting room. And yours, please?

Passenger 2: Here's my ID card. I just want to see my friend off and help her with her

luggage.

Station Attendant: You'll need a platform ticket, then.

Passenger 2: I tried but there doesn't seem to be anywhere to buy one.

Station Attendant: Well, I'm sorry but you can't be allowed in without a ticket. There are

porters in the waiting rooms so your friend could ask them to help her.

Passenger 2: OK, that's fine. Which waiting room does she need to go?

Station Attendant: Her train is south-bound so she needs to go to Waiting Room 5 on the

second floor.

Passenger 1: Are there any newspapers or magazines there?

Station Attendant: Yes. There are bookstores upstairs.

Passenger 1:

Thank you.

Passenger 2:

Station Attendant: You're welcome.

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A railway station is where trains stop to load or unload passengers or freight. Central passenger train stations are often the main public transport hub in a city, to allow easy transfers between rail and bus or subway services. Therefore, the traffic near railway stations is nearly always very busy.

Generally, a train station consists of two parts: platforms and a station building. The platforms are designed for passengers to get on and off a train easily and safely. The station building consists of administration offices, a ticket office, and waiting rooms.

People can buy train tickets from a ticket window or automatic ticket machine. Passengers with questions or complaints, or who need to change their tickets, are usually directed to special counters where they may have their tickets refunded or changed. In China, there are also special counters for military personnel, journalists, seniors, or people with special needs, etc. In larger stations, there may also be ticket windows offering services in other languages.

Waiting rooms serve as rest areas for passengers waiting for trains. Passengers need to go through a security check before entering them and there are special waiting rooms for "soft seat" passengers, military personnel, nursing mothers, or passengers needing special care. In

most stations, there are also food services, shops and newsstands, which may sometimes also be found in a waiting room. Most large stations also provide a left luggage office where passengers can safely leave their luggage if needed.

Platforms often connect to the station building via footbridges or underground passages. In some older stations, passengers have to go up and down stairways to get to their platforms. Stairs usually have a narrow ramp so that wheeled bags may be pulled rather than carried. At some stations, porters may be available to help carry luggage. Some waiting rooms are equipped with accessible devices for persons with special needs to get to platforms, such as elevators or ramps. Newly built high-speed railway stations have escalators and straight ladders to solve these problems.

Under the guidance of information icons or station attendants, passengers may easily find their corresponding platform and train carriage. Usually, the names of the originating station and terminal station and the number of the carriage are clearly marked on the outside of the car or on the LED screens inside the train. Along the edge of the platform are white or yellow painted lines, behind which all passengers should stand while waiting for their trains.

Task 1 Tick off the station facilities mentioned in the text.

	platform	bus
	ticket window	newsstand
	automatic ticket machine	bullet train
	waiting room	security check
	luggage cart	luggage office
Task 2	Choose the best answer according	g to the text.
	1. Passenger train stations allow easy	transfers between rail and bus services, which means
	A. there are bus stops near train state	ions
	B. passengers can get off trains and	get on buses on platforms
	C. subway stations must be built ins	ide train stations
	D. there are airports next to train sta	ations
	2. People can buy tickets from ticket w	indows, and they can also buy tickets from
	A. automatic ticket machines	B. waiting rooms
	C. platforms	D. newsstands
	3. Where can passengers have their tic	kets changed in a station?
	A. special counters for military pers	onnel
	B. special counters dealing with ticl	xet changes or refunds
	C. special counters for seniors	
	D. special counters for journalists	
	4. The place for passengers to store the	ir luggage is called
	A. stores	B. left luggage office
	C. post and store	D. lost and found
Task 3	What is the proper order of tak procedures according to the text	ing a train in China? Rearrange the following and your experience.
	1. come into the waiting room	2. come to the platform
	3. pass the security check	4. board the train
	5. wait in line at the ticket gate	6. buy a train ticket
	The right order of taking a tr	ain:





Registration Form of Lost and Found

Task
You are a receptionist at the Lost and Found Office of your railway station. Your name is Wang Yue. You are on duty today. James Brown, a foreign passenger, comes and tells you that he had his backpack taken away when he was taking a nap on the chair in Waiting Room 2. His backpack is red and rectangular. There are some clothes, books, a wallet, and an iPad in it. He leaves you his mobile phone number (12345678910) and address (20/F, Star Plaza, No. 10 Nanjing Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai). Discuss with your partner and fill in the following form according to the information given.

Registration Form of Lost and Found

No.: 201301105

Lost Found Article							
Article Description	Time	Place	Person w	vho lost found			
			Name:				
			Telephone:				
			Address:				
Problem Solving Record:							
Receptionist (signature): Time:							
Result:							
	Group leader (signature): Contact (signature): Time: Time:						



Project Guidelines

This project aims to familiarize the students with different jobs and their responsibilities in a railway station. The whole project consists of three steps. Step One gets students prepared for the role-plays in Step Two. Step Two focuses on the roleplays about asking ways and ticket checking in railway stations. Step Three concerns the performance of the students and the evaluation of their performance.

Please follow the Task Description to complete the project.

Task Description



Step One

- Work in small groups; the groups with odd numbers act as the station attendants while those with even numbers act as passengers.
- Review the conversations in the Listening and Speaking part of this unit to get familiar with the terms and expressions used by each role.



Step Two

- Do the following two role-plays.
- The passenger groups ask directions in the railway station and the station attendant groups help them by answering their questions.
- The passenger groups have some troubles when having their tickets checked at the entrance to their platforms while the station attendant groups offer help.



Step Three

- One passenger group and one station attendant group do a role-play in front of the
- Summarize the performance of the role-players and put forward suggestions for their improvement.



Self-evaluation

Rate your progress in this unit.	D	M	Р	F*	
I know the functions of the facilities in a railway station.					
I can understand the responsibilities of different jobs in a railway station.					
I can understand the announcement of departure and arrival in English.					
I know the basics of a typical subway station.					
I can fill in lost and found registration form in a station.					

*Note: Distinction, Merit, Pass, Fail



Reading A

New Words

abbreviate /ə'briːvieɪt/ v. 缩写
announcement /ə'naonsmənt/ n. 通告, 布告,
预告, 宣告
carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ n. 客车车厢
encircle /ɪn'sɜːrkəl/ v. 环绕, 包围
horizontal /ˌhɑːrə'zɑːntl/ adj. 水平的
indicate /'ɪndɪkeɪt/ v. 标示
mark /mɑːrk/ v. 作记号, 给······打分, 在······留下
痕迹
megalopolis /ˌmegə'lɒpəlɪs/ n. 巨大都市, 人口

preferential /ˌprefə'renʃəl/ adj. 优先的, 优先选 择的, 特惠的 require /rɪ'kwaɪər/ v. 要求, 规定 security /sɪ'kjurəti/ n. 安全 silhouette /ˌsɪlu'et/ v. 仅仅显出轮廓 sole /soul/ adj. 单独的, 唯一的

Phrases & Expressions

horizontal pole (地铁、公交车上水平的) 扶杆

Reading B

稠密地带

New Words

administration /ədˌmɪnə'streɪʃən/ n. 管理, 行政 available /ə'veɪləbəl/ adj. 可用的, 有空的 elevator /'eləveɪtər/ n. 电梯 footbridge /'fotˌbrɪdʒ/ n. 天桥 freight /freɪt/ n. (水运、空运、陆运的) 货物 hub /hʌb/ n. 中心 journalist /'dʒɜːrnəlɪst/ n. 记者, 新闻工作者 military /'mɪlətəri/ adj. 军队的 ramp /ræmp/ n. 斜坡, 斜道 refund /riː'fʌnd/ v. 退还 (钱款)

senior /ˈsiːniər/ n. 较年长者 transfer /trænsˈfɜːr/ n. 转乘, 换乘

Phrases & Expressions

underground passage 地下通道

Technical Terms

automatic ticket machine 自动售票机 left luggage office 行李寄存处 ticket office 售票处 waiting room 候车室

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Vocabulary and Structure

Task 1	Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word given in brackets.							
	1.	Mr. Smith is on holiday and v	vill be	(available) ne	ext Tuesday.			
	2.	His breakfast	_ (consist) of dry	bread and a cup of	tea.			
	3.	3. You should have your ticket (refund) before train departure.						
	4.	He (transfer)	from No. 360 Bi	is to the Subway Li	ne 4 every day.			
	5.	Many trains have been cance	led and a	(limit) se	rvice is operating on other			
		lines.						
	6.	The house is	(encircle) by a h	igh fence.				
	7.	Railway rules	_ (forbid) passen	gers from smoking	on bullet trains.			
	8.	The center is easily	(access) to	o the general public				
	9.	"Chief Executive Officer" is	((abbreviation) as "C	EO".			
	10.	She stood in front of the wind	low,	(silhouette) aga	inst the dawn sky.			
	the	traffic transport track serve	agent access		deal with get to			
		cruck Scrvc	decess	арргоден	gerto			
	1.	Both New York and Los Ang	eles have	problems.				
	2.	The shop assistant was	a custo	omer when the boss	came in.			
	3.	The goods of your company have been cased up for						
	4.	A plane can carry only so mu	ch	_ after all.				
	5.	In fact, we can hardly	the state	on by 6 o'clock.				
	6.	These ticket	check in the pass	engers one by one.				
	7.	As the boat w	As the boat we could see its flag more clearly.					
	8.	The only to the	he town is across	the bridge.				
	9.	Signals control each section of	of the railway	·				
	10.	The station master has a huge	pile of letters to	·				

Task 3 Match each of the following terms with its Chinese equivalent.

- A. luggage depository
- B. platform ticket
- C. message board
- D. lost and found
- E. notice board
- F. ticket office
- G. red caps
- H. night porter on duty
- I. free Internet access

- 1. 行李寄存处
- 2. 失物招领
- 3. 通告栏
- 4. 站台票
- 5. 夜间搬运工
- 6. 售票处
- 7. 免费上网
- 8. 留言板
- 9. 小红帽
- Task 4 Translate the following sentences into English by using the words or phrases given in brackets.
 - 1. 火车站通常是一座城市的公共交通中心。(transport hub)
 - 2. 许多车站里面会有餐馆、店铺和报刊亭。(newsstand)
 - 3. 旅客在站台排队候车时一定要站在安全白线之后。(behind the white line)
 - 4. 北京的地铁站以入口上方的一个蓝色标牌为标志。(marked with)
 - 5. 所有旅客都要把行李放在安检仪器上通过安检。(pass through)





Parts of Speech and Sentence Components

Task 1 Identify the part of speech of each underlined word in the following paragraph.

Andrew didn't go to the <u>cinema</u> with <u>other</u> students. Rachel <u>told</u> him <u>they</u> were going <u>there</u>, but <u>he</u> wanted to <u>finish</u> his homework. Andrew isn't very <u>sociable</u>. He stays <u>in</u> his room <u>and</u> concentrates <u>totally</u> on his studies. He's <u>an excellent</u> student, <u>but</u> he doesn't have much <u>fun</u>.

1.	to	prep.	9.	sociable	
2.	cinema		10.	in	
3.	other		11.	and	
4.	told		12.	totally	
	they		13.	-	
	there		•	excellent	
	he		•	but	
	finish		•	fun	
ο.	11111511		. 10.	- 1 1 1 1	

Task 2 Identify the part of speech of the underlined word in each sentence.

1.	We went to a wonderful show in Beijing.	<u>n.</u>
2.	Jenny wanted to show Jack her photos.	
3.	Henry thought Claire looked beautiful.	
4.	A strange thought came into her head.	
5.	The windows are <u>clean</u> .	
6.	We should <u>clean</u> the windows.	
7.	Wendy is feeling quite <u>tired</u> now.	
8.	Studying all day had tired Wendy out.	
9.	We did some <u>hard</u> work.	
10.	They worked <u>hard</u> .	

Task 3 Match each underlined word with its corresponding component in the sentence.

Some sentence components may be used twice.

1. <u>Time</u> flies.	•)		A. subject
2. The scenery is <u>beautiful</u> .	•)	• 1	B. predicate
3. My father works in a large	company.		C. object
4. <u>She</u> loves music very much	h. • 🗸	• 1	D. attribute
5. He passed me <u>a book</u> .	•)	• 1	E. adverbial
6. The visitor gave an apple to	to the monkey.	• 1	F. complement
7. I have the <u>perfect</u> present to	for her.		G. predicative
8. He came back sick.	• \	• 1	H. appositive
9. John runs quickly.	• {		
10. We <u>students</u> should study	hard.		

Task 4 Fill in each blank with the proper form of the word given in the brackets.

1.	Living in the country is	less <u>expensive</u>	(expense) than livi	ng in the city.			
2.	We need to reduce our		(depend) on oil as	source energy.			
3.	The chairman emphasiz	ed his ideas by spe	aking more	(loud).			
4.	4. Some foreign businessmen in China are spending a lot of time in						
	(learn) Chinese.						
5.	Some people do believe	that smoking will		(certain) cause lung cancer.			
6.	I'm	(real) sorry for the	e mistake our office	worker made last month.			
7.	Her	(beautiful) had fac	ded over the years.				
8.	The sellers allowed us t	o pay them on a	(1	month) basis.			
9.	It's	(danger) for wome	n to walk alone at n	ight.			
10.	I was impressed by the		(deep) and comple	xity of the book.			

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词类与句子成分

词类	缩写	中文名	例 子	概念或功能
noun	n.	名词	boy, milk, bike	表示人、物及抽象概念的名称,除谓语 (predicate)外,可充当句子任何成分。
pronoun	pron.	代词	you, I, my, yours	代替名词或起名词作用的短语、句子,可充当主语 (subject)、表语 (predicative) 和宾语 (object) 等。
adjective	adj.	形容词	good, happy, nice	描绘人或事物的特征、性质、状态,可作定语 (attribute)、表语、补语 (complement) 等。
adverb	adv.	副词	well, badly, quickly	修饰动词、形容词、副词或全句,表达时间、地点、程度、方式等概念,主要用作状语(adverbial)。
verb	v.	动词	be, cut, run, jump	表示动作或状态,作谓语或作为系动词 (linking verb) 与表语连用。
numeral	num.	数词	two, third	表示数目多少或顺序,可作主语、宾语、定语、同位语 (appositive) 等。
article	art.	冠词	a, an, the	限定、说明名词的所指。
preposition	prep.	介词	at, in, with, for	表示词与词、词与句之间的关系,与介词 宾语构成短语,可作表语、定语、状语、补语等。
conjunction	conj.	连词	and, so, because	连接词、短语或句子, 表达逻辑关系。
interjection	interj.	感叹词	oh, yeah, ouch	表示喜怒哀乐等感情或情绪。

Comprehensive Exercises

Task 1 Cross out the wrong word in each word pair underlined.

Dear Christine,

Well, here I am in Australia. Thank you for your 1 kind/kindly letters. You ask me what it's like here. I must say it's pretty 2 good/well! The language school is very 3 efficient/efficiently organized. On the first morning we had to take a test, which I found rather 4 hard/hardly. However, I got a 5 surprising/surprisingly good mark, so I'm in the second class. At first, I couldn't think of the words 6 quick/quickly enough, but 7 late/lately I can speak English much more 8 fluent/fluently. I'm staying with a family who live 9 near/nearly the school. They are quite 10 pleasant/pleasantly although I don't see much of them because I'm always so 11 busy/busily hanging out with my friends from school. I was surprised how 12 easy/easily I made friends here. They come from 13 different/differently parts of the world and we have some 14 absolute/absolutely fascinating discussions. I do hope you will be able to join me here next term. I'm sure we'd have a 15 good/well time together.

Best wishes,

Celia

Task 2 Rewrite each of the following sentences without changing its meaning.

1.	The boy is a quick learner.			
	The boy learns			
2.	The man can cook really well.			
	The man is a(n)			
3.	Your behavior was quite foolish.			
	You behaved			
4.	. The hotel staff treated us in a very friendly manner.			
	The hotel staff were			
5.	. He proposed that we put off our meeting, which is unreasonable.			
	His that we put off our meeting is unreasonable.			
6.	Philippa is usually a hard worker.			
	Philippa usually works			
7.	Tom looked sad when he saw the injured dog.			
	Tom looked at the injured dog			
8.	I wish you could swim fast.			
	I wish you were a(n)			
9.	She speaks perfect English.			
	She speaks English			
10.	I didn't go out because of the heavy rain.			
	I didn't go out because it rained			

Task 3	Task 3 Identify the part of speech and sentence component of each underlined wo			
TUSK 3	,			
	phrase in the following paragraph.			
	Mike thinks Lily is beautiful. He loves her deeply and dreams of marrying her ① ③ ④ ④ ⑤ ⑤ with their friends Jenny and Luc ② ⑥ ⑥ ① ⑥ ① ① ② ⑥ ⑥ ② ⑥ ⑥ ① ⑥ ① ② ⑥ ⑥ ② ⑥ ⑥ ② ⑥ ⑥ ② ⑥ ⑥ ② ⑥ ⑥ ⑥ ⑥			
	her <u>happy</u> .			
	Word/Phrase	Part of Speech	Sentence Component	
	1. ① Mike			
	2. 9 Today			
	3. ③ Jenny			
	4. (5) flowers			
	5. ② beautiful			
	6. ® old			
	7. (4) some			
	8. (6) happy			
	9. 4 loves			
	10. ® are			
	11. ③ He			
	12. ⑥ her			
	13. ⑤ madly			
	14. ① unluckily			
	15. ① at a café			
	16. ② With their friends			
Task 4	Fill in each blank with the	• •	_	
	When Helen Keller was born she was a(n) 1 (health) baby. If 2 (unfortunate), when she was 19 months old, she had a sudden fever. Lat the fever 3 (disappearance), but she became blind and deaf. When Helen was seven years old, a teacher named Anne Sullivan came to live we Helen's family. First, Anne taught Helen how to talk with her fingers. Then Anne taught Helen to read by the Braille system. Helen learned those things 4 (quick). However learning to speak was harder. Anne continued to teach Helen with 5 (patients).			
	6 (final), when	Helen was 10 years old, she	e could speak 7 (clear)	
	enough for people to understand her. Helen went to an institute for the blind, where she did very well in her studies. The			
	went to college, where she graduated with honors when she was 24 years old. Helen tr			
	8 (extensive) with Anne. She worked 9 (tireless), trave			
over America, Europe, and Asia to raise money to build schools for blind people.				
	message was that disabled people are like everybody else. They want to live life fully and 10 (normal). Helen wanted all people to be treated equally.			





At the Ticket Office

Passenger: Can I catch the three o'clock train to Toronto?

Ticket Agent: That depends on how fast you can run. It left fifteen minutes ago.

On the Platform

Passenger: Is this my train?

Conductor: No, Sir. It belongs to the Railway Company.

Passenger: Don't be funny. Can I take this train to New York?

Conductor: No, Sir. It's much too heavy.

