Travel and Transport

Cars, trains and planes, the station and the airport, the road and the railway, and the language of transport policy, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 23

a return, please · set off · miss the boat

Getting around *A1–A2*

car	bus
coach	train
tram	the Tube
plane	ferry
bike	motorbike
taxi	on foot
take, catch	get on, get off

go by car · by bus · by train · but on foot

Station and airport *A1–A2*

station	airport
ticket	platform
single	return
timetable	gate
departure	arrival
passport	luggage
drive, ride	fly, leave, arrive

get in a car or taxi · get on a bus, train or plane

Journeys, airports and roads *B1–B2*

Journeys: a journey, a trip, travel (no plural)

Problems: delayed, cancelled, miss the train, a connection, a strike

Airport: check in, a boarding pass, security, hand luggage, baggage reclaim, customs

Driving: a motorway, a lane, overtake, the speed limit, a petrol station, a traffic jam, a driving licence

Phrasal verbs: set off, get in / out of, pick up, drop off, take off, pull in

UK / US: petrol / gas, motorway / highway, return / round trip, lorry / truck

*We **set off** early, but the train was **delayed** and we **missed** our **connection**.*

In Britain, drive on the left and overtake on the right

Policy and idiom *C1–C2*

Policy: commute, congestion, gridlock, infrastructure, connectivity, high-speed rail, modal shift

Costs and change: a fare, a rail replacement bus, a low-emission zone, a carbon footprint, lifecycle emissions

Evidence: per passenger-mile, per journey, a fair comparison, the fine print

Idioms: hit the road, in the same boat, miss the boat, off the rails, the end of the line, a dead end, at a crossroads, in the driving seat, put the brakes on, light at the end of the tunnel

*At peak times **congestion** turns to **gridlock**, so the council plans to invest in **infrastructure**.*

No exhaust is not the same as no emissions

On the move

- *A return to London, please.*
- *Which platform does it leave from?*
- *Can you drop me off at the station?*
- *Our flight has been cancelled.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I go by foot.~~ → I go **on** foot.
- ~~a good travel~~ → a good **journey** / **trip**
- ~~I lost the train.~~ → I **missed** the train.
- ~~my luggages~~ → my **luggage**

Words with a past

- **cab**: *cabriolet*, a carriage that leapt like a goat
- **taxi**: the *taximeter*, which measured the charge
- **helicopter**: Greek *helix* + *pteron*, a spiral wing
- **roundabout**: a fairground ride before a road junction

My new words

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