

Intermediate Conversation Templates: Bussing and Transportation.



Buying a train ticket:

Setting: At a train station ticket counter.

Customer: Maria

Ticket Agent: John

Maria: Hello, I'd like a ticket to the city center, please.

John: Sure! Is that a one-way or a round-trip ticket?

Maria: Just one way, please.

John: That will be \$2.50. Would you like to pay with cash or card?

Maria: I'll use my card. (She hands her card to John.).

John: (Processing the payment) Thank you. The next train leaves in fifteen minutes from platform 2.

Maria: Great! Could you tell me how long the journey will take?

John: It should take about 20 minutes.

Maria: Perfect! And when I want to come back, which train should I take?

John: You can take any train marked "Downtown Express." They run every 30 minutes.

Maria: Sounds good! Are there any stops along the way?

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John: Just a couple—one at Main Street and another at Second Avenue, but they're quick.

Maria: Thank you! Oh, and are there any facilities like restrooms at the city center station?

John: Yes, there are restrooms available as soon as you exit the platforms, along with a small café if you need a snack.

Maria: That's helpful to know! I might grab a cup of coffee before heading out.

John: Definitely a good idea! Is there anything else I can assist you with?

Maria: No, that's all for now. Thank you for your help!

John: You're welcome! Have a safe trip and enjoy your day in the city.

Maria: Thanks! I'm looking forward to it!

Practice Questions:

1. What kind of ticket did Maria buy?
2. How much did it cost?
3. Where does Maria need to go to catch her train?
4. How often do the "Downtown Express" trains run?
5. How long is the train journey to the city center?
6. What facilities are available at the city center station?
7. Did Maria decide to buy anything at the station?



Asking About the Bus Schedule

Setting: At a bus stop.

Passenger 1: Ahmed

Passenger 2: Lisa

Ahmed: Excuse me, do you know when the next bus to the university arrives?

Lisa: Yes, it should be here in about ten minutes.

Ahmed: That's great! Does this bus go directly to the university, or do I need to transfer?

Lisa: It goes directly, but it stops at the hospital first.

Ahmed: That's good to know. Is it usually on time?

Lisa: Most of the time, yes. But during rush hour, it can be a little late. Traffic gets pretty heavy, especially in the mornings.

Ahmed: I see. I've only been in the city for a week, so I'm still trying to figure everything out.

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Lisa: I completely understand. It can be overwhelming at first! Is this your first time taking the bus?

Ahmed: Yes, it is. Back home, I mostly used my bike to get around.

Lisa: Oh, biking is a great way to explore too! But the bus system here is pretty convenient once you get used to it.

Ahmed: That's good to hear. I've noticed there are a lot of different bus lines.

Lisa: Yes! There are quite a few, and they all cover different parts of the city. If you have a smartphone, you can use the transit app to see real-time updates and track the buses.

Ahmed: I'll definitely try that. Do you use it often?

Lisa: All the time! It helps me plan my trips better, especially when I have to catch a connecting bus.

Ahmed: That sounds helpful. How do I know which bus line to take for other places?

Lisa: The app has a trip planner feature. You just enter your destination, and it tells you which buses to take and when.

Ahmed: Wow, that sounds so easy! Thank you for the advice.

Lisa: No problem! And if you ever need help with the routes, feel free to ask. The locals are usually happy to help newcomers.

Ahmed: I appreciate that. I was a bit nervous about getting around, but it helps to talk to someone who knows the system.

Lisa: Absolutely! And if you're ever unsure about where to go, just remember that bus drivers are also really friendly. They can give you directions too.

Ahmed: That's good to know! Well, I'll make sure to download that app and keep an eye out for the bus.

Lisa: Sounds like a plan. Enjoy your ride to the university!

Ahmed: Thank you! I'm looking forward to my first day there.

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Lisa: You're welcome! Good luck, and I hope you enjoy the city!

Ahmed: Thanks! I'm sure I will.

Practice Questions:

1. Where does Ahmed want to go?
2. Does the bus go directly to his destination?
3. What can cause the bus to be late?
4. How can Ahmed check real-time bus updates?
5. Why is Ahmed asking for help?