



# Transport and Travel

Multiple choice: independent travel | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. How confident are you using public transport alone?
2. What can make a journey stressful for young travellers?
3. Why might train travel be useful for teenagers?
4. What advice would you give before a first solo journey?

### Exercise 4 at a glance

Read one longer text and answer six multiple-choice questions. Choose A, B or C. The correct answer may depend on attitude, purpose or a detail across a whole paragraph, not just one matching word.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the article. What did Lina gain from travelling alone by train?

### My first solo train journey

by Lina Reyes

Last year, I travelled by train alone for the first time. I was going to visit my aunt in another city, and the journey involved changing trains once. My parents offered to drive me, but the trip would have taken longer by car, and I wanted to become more independent. I had used trains with my family before, so I was not completely new to stations. Still, buying a ticket, finding a platform and changing trains without an adult beside me felt very different. I was also aware that if I managed the journey successfully, shorter trips in the future would feel much less frightening.

I prepared more than I probably needed to. I saved the timetable on my phone, printed the ticket and wrote the platform numbers in a notebook. My brother laughed at the notebook, but later I was glad I had it because the station Wi-Fi stopped working. I also packed light so I could move quickly between platforms. The only thing I forgot was a bottle of water, which mattered more than I expected once the first train became crowded and warm. My aunt had sent me a map of the station where I needed to change, but the printed plan still looked confusing at first.

The change of trains was the part I had worried about most. My first train arrived five minutes late, and I had only nine minutes before the next one. At first, I panicked and almost followed a group of passengers who were walking towards a different platform. Then I stopped, checked the departure board and realised my train was on the opposite side of the station. I arrived with two minutes to spare. It was not dramatic, but it felt like a huge achievement. That moment taught me to slow down before copying other passengers, because people in stations are often going in completely different directions.

During the second part of the journey, I started to enjoy myself. I watched fields, factories and small towns pass by, and I noticed how different places looked from the train window. On car journeys I usually look at my phone, but this time I did not want to miss the route. A woman sitting nearby asked if I knew where the toilets were, and I was surprised that I could answer confidently. For once, I was not the person asking for help. I also began to understand why some people prefer trains: you can think, read or simply notice the journey instead of only waiting to arrive.

When I arrived, my aunt said I looked taller, which made no sense but somehow felt true. I had not done anything extraordinary; people travel by train every day. But I had planned a journey, handled a delay and reached the right place on my own. Since then, I have used trains several times. I still check the timetable carefully, but I no longer imagine every problem as a disaster. The experience did not make me careless; if anything, it made me respect preparation more because it gave me room to stay calm.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Watch for true details

A wrong option may include a true detail from the text but answer the wrong question. Check that the option matches the exact question focus.

### 4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

#### Question 1

Why did Lina choose to travel by train?

- A She wanted to practise being more independent.
- B Her parents were unable to drive her that day.
- C She had never travelled by train with her family.

#### Question 2

Why was Lina glad she had written information in a notebook?

- A Her printed ticket was not accepted.
- B Her phone battery ran out quickly.
- C The station internet stopped working.

#### Question 3

What happened when Lina changed trains?

- A She followed passengers to the correct platform.
- B She nearly made a mistake but checked the information.
- C She missed her train because the first one was late.

#### Question 4

How did Lina feel during the second part of the journey?

- A annoyed that she had forgotten her water
- B worried that someone might ask her for help
- C interested in what she could see outside

#### Question 5

What does Lina mean when she says she 'looked taller'?

- A The journey had made her feel more grown-up.
- B She had been standing for most of the journey.
- C Her aunt was surprised by how much she had changed physically.

#### Question 6

What does Lina suggest about careful preparation?

- A It removes the need to ask other people for help.
- B It helps her stay calm when small problems happen.
- C It matters less once a traveller knows the route.

### 5. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: What would make a first solo journey easier for teenagers?
2. Strategy: Choose one wrong option and explain why it is tempting but not correct.
3. Writing: Write advice for a student taking public transport alone.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to travel, timetables and independence.

# Transport and Travel

Multiple choice: independent travel

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: She gained confidence by preparing carefully, solving a small problem and realising she could manage independently.

## 4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

1. A; 2. C; 3. B; 4. C; 5. A; 6. B

1. A - She says her parents offered to drive, but she wanted to become more independent.

2. C - She was glad because the station Wi-Fi stopped working.

3. B - She almost followed the wrong group, then checked the departure board.

4. C - She watched the route and says she did not want to miss it.

5. A - The phrase suggests confidence and independence, not actual height.

6. B - She still prepares carefully, and this helps her avoid treating every problem as a disaster.