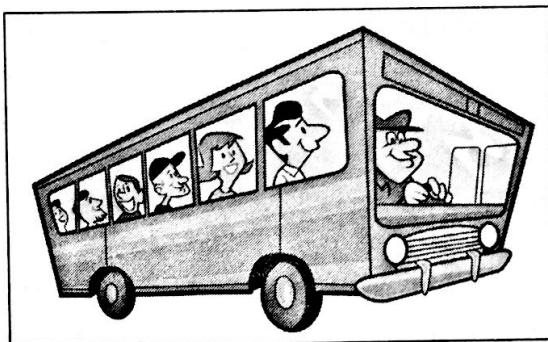


Getting Around



Riding the Bus



No car? No problem!

There are plenty of ways to get around. Most cities and towns have an **efficient mass transit** system; that is, they have buses or trains to get you where you need to go.

Often, you may need to take a bus to the train station. Sometimes it can

be **complicated** to figure out which bus or train will take you where, but there is help! Most cities have a special department just to **provide** that information. You can call the transit company to ask. When you call the company, you will need to tell them where you are and where you need to go. You can also ask if you need exact change for the bus. Drivers usually can't accept cash.

DIALOGUE 1: TRACK 5

TRANSIT OFFICE: Good afternoon. Unionville Transit System. This is Stanley speaking.

COMMUTER: Hi. I need some travel information. I need to go to 52nd Street and Broadway. I live on 8th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

TRANSIT OFFICE: Well, you can take the B12 bus to Mercer Street. Then you'll have to **catch** the B9. You can **take the subway**, too.

COMMUTER: I live near a **bus stop**, so I prefer to **take the bus**. What time does it come?

TRANSIT OFFICE: The buses **run** about every 15 minutes. Bus schedules are posted at the bus stop. You can also check our website.

COMMUTER: How much does it cost?

TRANSIT OFFICE: You'll need \$2 in change. The driver won't take dollar bills, and he won't give you change. Make sure you have **exact change**.

COMMUTER: Okay. Thanks for the help. Have a good day.

TIP 1



Most bus systems offer a *transfer*. If you need to take more than one bus to get somewhere, you can get a free transfer to the second bus or train. Ask the driver!

TIP 2



Many companies have an 800 number. An 800 number is a telephone number that will not be charged on your phone bill. Yay! We like free phone calls!

VOCABULARY

- **bus stop:** the place you must go to wait for a bus (They are several blocks apart. They are usually marked with the bus route and have posted schedules.)
- **commuter:** someone who travels to and from work on the bus or train, or by car
- **complicated:** not easy to understand
- **efficient:** smart and fast
- **exact change:** the correct number of coins

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- **mass transit:** a transportation system provided by a city
- **provide:** give
- **run:** come, on a schedule
- **subway:** an underground train system
- ① **take/catch the bus or train:** get on a bus or train



PRONUNCIATION POINTER

- Even though it looks funny when you write it, the word *buses* is pronounced **busses**. In fact, some people spell it with two s's, just like it's pronounced. (Sometimes in English a word may have two correct, but different, spellings or pronunciations.)
- *Have to* sounds like **hafta** in spoken English.

GRAMMAR REMINDER 1: The Present Simple Tense— Affirmative Statements

The present simple tense is used to talk about things that happen all the time or usually. The verb is used in its base form.

Don't forget to add the letter *s* in the third person (he, she, it)!

Examples:

- I live
- You live
- He, she, or it lives
- We live
- They live

GRAMMAR REMINDER 2: The Present Simple Tense — Negatives, and Questions with *does*

For present simple third-person questions (except that **wacky** verb *to be*), don't forget to use *does* and the *base form* of the verb.

Questions — Correct Examples:

What time **does** it **come**?
How much **does** it **cost**?

Not:

What time does it comes?
How much does it costs?

To form the negative, just add the contraction form of *not* between *does* and the base verb.

- It **doesn't** come late.
- It **doesn't** cost too much.

GRAMMAR REMINDER 3: The Future Simple Tense Affirmative Statements, and Negatives

Use *will* (or the short form/contraction) for the future simple tense when talking about a fact.

- You'll **have** to catch the B9. (You will have to . . .)
- You'll **need** \$2 in change. (You will need . . .)

Use the short form of *will not* (*won't*) for the negative.

- The driver **won't** take dollar bills and he **won't** take change.

Stay tuned! There *will* be more reminders about *will* later on!

Going Underground: The Subway



Large cities have very efficient subway systems. Taking these trains can get you just about anywhere in the city, and you don't have to wait outside in the rain! At some stations, there may be people singing or playing a musical instrument. This can be an **entertaining** way to wait for the train—unless the singer isn't very good, haha. For most subway systems,

you will need a **token** or **farecard**. You can buy these right at the station, either at the **token booth** or at the ticket machine. You can put dollars or credit cards right into the machine. It will give you a farecard in the amount you choose. To get onto the **platform**, slide the card into the card reader or put a token into the slot. Then push through the **turnstile** and **hop on** the train!

DIALOGUE 2: TRACK 6

ALAN: I need some tokens, please.

TRANSIT WORKER: One way or **round trip**?

ALAN: Round trip. And I'd like a few extra ones, please.

TRANSIT WORKER: Most people aren't **crazy about** carrying around a lot

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of tokens. Maybe you should just get a farecard. It's better than a pocketful of tokens, and you can use it anytime.

ALAN: Thanks. That's a good idea. Do I need exact change for a farecard?

TRANSIT WORKER: No, the machine can take bills, and it will give you change.

ALAN: Thanks for the tip. Now can you tell me where I get the train to Broadway? And where do the trains arrive?

TRANSIT WORKER: Sure. Catch the train right over there. Just follow the signs for Northbound/Uptown trains. You'll have to change at 34th Street for the D train.

ALAN: Thanks. And can you tell me where the **restroom** is?

TRANSIT WORKER: Right over there on the left.

TIP 3



In some cities like New York City, you can buy a *FunPass*. This is a special farecard that you can use all day. It usually costs about the same as two trips, but you can use it as many times as you like. It's a real bargain!

TIP 4



Americans rarely ask where the toilet is. Instead they use the word *restroom* or *bathroom*. Careful! These public restrooms are not places to take a rest or a bath! These terms are just polite ways of saying *toilet*.

VOCABULARY

- ① **crazy about:** really like a lot!
- **entertaining:** amusing, fun
- **farecard:** a prepaid card that you can use instead of a token
- ① **hop on:** get on; jump on
- **platform:** the place in the station beside the train tracks where you wait for your train
- **restroom:** toilet
- **round trip:** there and back again!
- ① **stay tuned:** pay attention for more information; don't go away!
- **token:** used in place of a coin to pay a fare

- **token booth:** a place in the station where you can buy tokens, and where a transit worker can help you
- **turnstile:** a machine that lets people go through one by one
- **wacky:** silly, crazy, complicated

GRAMMAR REMINDER 4: The Present Simple Tense Negatives, and Questions with *do*

For questions using *I*, *you*, or plural subjects, use *do* and the base form of the verb. To form the negative, just add the contraction form of *not* between *do* and the base verb.

Examples:

- **Do I need** exact change? (I **don't have** exact change. You **don't need** exact change.)
- Where **do the trains arrive?** (They **don't arrive** on this platform.)

Usage Reminder: *I would like* is a more polite way of saying *I want*. It's often shortened to *I'd like*.

Hey, Taxi!

If the train and bus won't take you where you need to go, or if you're in a hurry, you can call a cab. In larger cities, you can **hail a cab** on the street. Just step off the sidewalk into the street (watch for cars and buses!) and raise your arm. You can also call out, "Taxi!" In cities, the **fares** are posted right in the **cab**, and the **rates** are set by a group that regulates taxi companies.

If you need a ride in a smaller city or town, you can call a car service. This is a private taxi company that usually does not have cars driving around the streets. Drivers wait in the office until someone calls, and then a manager will **dispatch** a car. You can also call **in advance** and **arrange** to be **picked up** on another day.



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DIALOGUE 3: TRACK 7

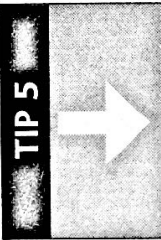
CAR SERVICE: Little Apple Car Service. This is Larry speaking.

LIA: Hi. I need a car to take me to the airport at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

CAR SERVICE: Do you need to be there at 5:30, or is that when you want us to pick you up?

LIA: I need to be at the airport at 5:30 or I'll miss my flight.

CAR SERVICE: That's right in the middle of **rush hour**. Traffic will be a **nightmare** at that time. I'll have a car get you at 4 p.m. What's your address?



Tipping (everyone loves a tipping tip)! Drivers of buses and trains do not get a tip; however, tipping is expected for taxi drivers. The usual tip is 15% to 20%. There is no extra charge for singing **cabbies**!

VOCABULARY

- **arrange:** make a plan for something
- ① **cab:** taxi
- ① **cabbie:** taxi driver
- **dispatch:** send
- **fare:** the cost of the trip
- ① **hail a cab:** signal that you want a taxi
- **in advance:** before the time
- ① **nightmare:** a very bad situation
- ① **pick up:** get, collect
- **rate:** how the fare is calculated
- ① **rush hour:** the very busy traffic times (morning and evenings) when most people are traveling to and from work

MORE FUN WITH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS:

Transportation

- **off track:** off the subject
*The meeting got **off track** when Juan began talking about his family's vacation.*

- **lose track:** forget or lose

*I **lost track** of where I put my glasses. How will I be able to read the paper?*

- **one-track mind:** thinking of only one thing

*They couldn't make any progress at the meeting because the boss had a **one-track mind** and could only talk about his golf game that afternoon.*

- **miss the boat:** miss an opportunity

*When the salesman came, he offered all the workers free coffee, but Stephen **missed the boat** because he was chatting on the phone.*

- **in the same boat:** in the same situation

*They're both **in the same boat**: neither of them remembered to do the homework.*

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