

## On the right track 火车旅行最称心

*Vocabulary: travel 词汇: 旅行*

Why do we always want to go faster? I am talking about travel. We want our cars, trains and planes to get us to places quicker. This century, there's been a rise in **high-speed** rail travel as people have seen the benefits of this form of **transport**.

I love train travel and have experienced the **efficient** and fast trains that operate in France and Japan. The **acceleration** and top speed of these trains is impressive, the space and comfort on board makes it comfortable and the ability to see something out of the window means, according to me, it beats air travel any day.



*All aboard: a high-speed train is about to depart.*

Spain recently joined **the railway revolution** with its AVE **ultra-modern** high-speed train that has a top speed of 310 kilometres per hour. Its service from Madrid to Barcelona took 20% of passengers away from Spain's national airline. In Japan, a magnetic train is being developed that will run at 500 kilometres per hour.

This has **shunted** rail travel in Britain onto the slow line. It has one high-speed line from London to France – HS1 – but now it is planning to **construct** a new line called HS2 which will connect London with the north of England. The UK government's transport secretary, Patrick McLoughlin, says "This is essential to actually make sure that our great cities are connected and we get the right benefits for the United Kingdom."

But not everyone agrees. The idea of fast train travel may appeal but not if it's going to be built in your back yard. It's **controversial**: people are arguing over the benefits and cost of having shorter journey times, less traffic on the roads and more **capacity** on the **rail network**.

John Kelleher, who is a farmer and lives on the proposed site of the new line says, "they're not taking into consideration the amount that HS2 will destroy on its construction and route through the countryside." Some people are worried the financial and environmental cost will be too high to save just half an hour on a journey.

But other countries have shown that high-speed rail is good for the economy. It has helped poorer parts of the country, reduced the need to fly and has made train travel cool. For me, there's nothing better than sipping a cold beer and **watching the world go by** from the comfort of a train seat – in fact if it's that good, what is the rush?! Maybe I will stick with the slow train.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Trains, planes and cars are types of transport.*
2. Name a country mentioned in the article which has high-speed trains.
3. How many high-speed rail lines are there in Britain?
4. According to the article, where would you not be happy for a new railway line to be built?
5. What do some people fear a new railway line would destroy?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My new sports car has excellent \_\_\_\_\_. It goes from 0 to 100 kilometres an hour in just 5 seconds!

efficiency	acceleration	capacity	transport
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2. The new art gallery building is an amazing \_\_\_\_\_. It's made of glass and steel and there is a viewing gallery on the top.

construct	constructing	construction	constructed
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3. The decision to build the motorway through the forest was \_\_\_\_\_; some people said it would be bad for the wildlife.

controversial	conservative	concerned	continental
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4. The storm caused disruption to the whole \_\_\_\_\_ because trees had blown down and blocked all the lines.

railway station	trains	signals	rail network
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5. We went to the launch of the new Bruce Willis film but got \_\_\_\_\_ to the seats at the back because all the celebrities were sitting at the front.

shunted	shouted	shoot	shortened
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## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. True or false? *Trains, planes and cars are types of transport.*  
**Answer: True.**
2. Name a country mentioned in the article which has high-speed trains.  
**Answer: France, Japan, Spain.**
3. How many high-speed rail lines are there in Britain?  
**Answer: It has one high-speed line from London to France - HS1.**
4. According to the article, where would you not be happy for a new railway line to be built?  
**Answer: If it is built in your back yard.**
5. What do some people fear a new railway line would destroy?  
**Answer: The countryside.**

### **Exercise** 练习

1. My new sports car has excellent **acceleration**. It goes from 0 to 100 kilometres an hour in just 5 seconds!
2. The new art gallery building is an amazing **construction**. It's made of glass and steel and there is a viewing gallery on the top.
3. The decision to build the motorway through the forest was **controversial**; some people said it would be bad for the wildlife.
4. The storm caused disruption to the whole **rail network** because trees had blown down and blocked all the lines.
5. We went to the launch of the new Bruce Willis film but got **shunted** to the seats at the back because all the celebrities were sitting at the front.

## Glossary 词汇表

high-speed	高速的
transport	交通运输
efficient	效率高的
acceleration	加速
the railway revolution	铁路革命
ultra-modern	超现代的
shunted	分流到, 归类到
construct	建造
controversial	有争议的
capacity	(运输) 能力
rail network	铁路网
watching the world go by	静静地欣赏周围的一切