

Unit 8

Getting started

- How did you get here today?
- What different forms of transport have you used in the UK?
- Draw a map of the UK. Label places you know or you've visited.

Skills

- How do you plan your journeys?
- How do you like to travel around?
- Can you drive or ride a bicycle?

The local area

- What interesting places have you visited in the local area and how did you get there?
- What do you know about public transport and costs in this area?
- Ask each other for directions to some local landmarks.

Around the UK

- Where have you visited across the UK and how did you get there?
- Where would you like to visit in the UK?

Around the world

- How does public transport vary across places that you know?
- Where in the world would you like to visit and why?

Staying safe

- How can you stay safe on public transport?
- What is the safest method of transport and why?

Travel and transport



Useful apps and websites

- Google maps
- City mapper (London, Birmingham, Manchester)
- Step counter apps
- Local transport sites and apps for journey planning, live bus times, status updates
- National transport sites and apps, e.g. National Express, Megabus
- Comparison transport sites, e.g. Trainline, split tickets for trains, Checkmybus for coaches, Skyscanner for planes
- www.gov.uk/learn-to-drive-a-car including information on the theory test

Taking the topic further

- Plan a local trip together.

Social / Community

- What advice about transport would you give to someone new to the area?
- Is there a local transport service you would like to improve? What could you do about it?

Our rights and responsibilities

- Is freedom of movement between countries a right? Why / why not?
- Are there any rules when you use local transport? Do people stick to them?

Personal view

- Should the government restrict flying and driving for environmental reasons?
- What changes would you make to transport locally or in the UK?

Travel and transport

Unit 8

Introduction to the topic

This is a very practical topic which will be of particular interest for people new to the area. Conversations can cover:

- Local transport options, including costs, advantages and disadvantages
- Using smartphones for navigation and up-to-date travel information
- Asking for and giving directions
- Sharing advice on how to travel safely



Session ideas at a glance

Welcome	If required, participants sign in or you record attendance on a register.
Opening chat/ circle time	Introductions for anyone new. General chatting. Anything to follow up or report back on from the previous session? Any news from anyone?
Getting started	<p>Remind/tell new participants what the topic of the session is: Travel and transport.</p> <p>Choose one or more warm up activities linked to the topic. See next page for ideas on using a Picture pack and Transport signs.</p> <p>Ask some questions to get the conversation started and find out which aspects of travel and transport participants are most interested in talking about. (See mind map and next page for ideas).</p>
Conversations	<p>Plan to have 2 or 3 main conversations linked to this topic, possibly with supporting activities. See next page for ideas for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local area: Local transport signs• Staying safe on public transport• Staying safe: What do you think? <p>If you have a large group, and participants divide into small groups or pairs for each activity/conversation, finish each of these with the whole group reporting back and maybe discussing their ideas further together.</p>
Closing chat/ circle time	<p>Feedback about today's topic and conversations.</p> <p>Discuss any ideas for any follow up action or research for taking the topic further, e.g. discussing the topic more, planning a local trip, going on a local trip using public transport to get there.</p> <p>Share ideas and agree the main topic for the next session.</p> <p>Any reminders or important dates/events coming up?</p>

Level of English: The unit is generally aimed at lower levels, although it can be adapted to all levels. With lower levels especially, it is useful if there are shared languages so that participants can work out meanings together.

Things to consider: Jobs involving driving are often taken up by migrants who have lower levels of English, so this may be a useful area for discussion with some groups. If all of your participants are interested in learning to drive and doing the practice theory test, they could try out and discuss the free practice materials on the GOV.UK website. www.gov.uk/take-practice-theory-test. You would need Wi-Fi for this activity.

Getting started: Picture pack

Resources and preparation: Take photos of local transport, bus stops, the station etc. and collect images, timetables, leaflets, etc. related to local transport options. Collect some local and national maps showing transport options, e.g. train stations.

- Spread the picture pack on the table. Ask some questions to get the conversation started. (See the mind map for more ideas):
 - *How did you get here today? How do you usually travel around locally?*
 - *What types of transport have you used in the UK? Where did you go? Why?*
 - *Can you drive? Would you like to learn to drive? Would you like to try the theory test?*
 - *How do you find your way to somewhere new? Do you use any apps to help find a route or plan a journey? If so, which apps do you use? Can you show us how to use them?*
 - *Is there anything you would like to find out about?*
- Ask participants to choose a picture they would like to talk about. Encourage everyone to ask each other questions about their choice.
- Encourage participants in pairs or small groups to tell each other more about how they get around locally, the cheapest way to travel, useful apps, interesting or unusual journeys they have made, etc. Come back together as a whole group to share what they found out.

The local area: Local transport signs

Resources and preparation: Print two sets of **Local transport signs** for each small group. If possible, replace and add other images for transport in your local area, e.g. local bus and tram stops, etc.

- Spread one set of images on the table and ask participants to pick them up and tell each other what they know. If there are some they don't know, encourage them to ask each other questions, e.g. *What's this sign? What does it mean? Have you seen it? Where?*
- Give each group a second set of the same **Local transport signs**. Explain/demonstrate how to play Pelmanism, (see *English conversation practice toolkit*, Section 2).

Staying safe on public transport

Resources and preparation: This activity is good for lower level participants. Prepare word cards or write key words on the flipchart.

- Point out or hold up the key words relating to staying safe on public transport or on the street, e.g. **Travel tickets Jewellery Bags Purses and wallets Money**
- Encourage participants to make 'staying safe' suggestions for each one, e.g.
 - **Travel tickets:** *Keep your travel tickets in a safe place.*
 - **Jewellery:** *Don't wear lots of jewellery. Cover up your jewellery. Hide valuable things.*
 - **Bags:** *Make sure your bag is done up. Make sure you can see your bag. Put the strap across your body. Bags and pockets with zips are best.*
 - **Purses and wallets:** *Don't get your purse or wallet out in the street.*

Finish with a general discussion and tips about staying safe on public transport.

Staying safe: What do you think?

Resources and preparation: This activity is good for higher level participants. Print out and cut up the **What do you think?** discussion cards as whole sheets or into separate strips.

- Participants work in pairs or small groups and take it in turns to select a question to discuss.
- Finish with a general discussion about travel and transport and any follow up information or research that may be needed to answer any questions that have come up, e.g. whether there is a local free bicycle scheme, or whether the local council runs free cycling classes.

Getting started:

Picture pack - Local transport signs



Image 1: Unsplash.com

Staying safe: What do you think?

What age do you think children should go to school by themselves? Is this different in other countries?

How can we teach children about road safety?

At what age should children go out without an adult?

Can you ride a bicycle? If not, would you like to learn?

Do you think it is safe to cycle in your area?

Do you think more people should cycle?
Where can adults learn to cycle locally?

Do you feel safe on public transport?
Why? Why not?

What's your advice for staying safe on public transport?
What about at night?

How would you get help if you felt unsafe on public transport?

Have you ever got lost? What happened?
What did you do?

What's your advice about local transport for someone new to the area?