

Train Time: Train Talk

Who

next to

Who can look out the windows?

Passengers can look out the windows.

He is walking next to the passenger train.

It has many windows.

rainy day

Who has a pink jacket on?

The girl has a pink jacket on.

The jacket will keep the girl dry in the rain.

They got wet.

rumbling

Who is driving the train?

The engineer is driving the train.

The train makes a loud rumbling sound.

It is coming in to the station.

greasing gears

Who is greasing the gears?

The fireman is greasing the gears.

He is keeping the metal parts lubricated and working.

It is a grease gun.

look out

Who is in the cab?

The engineer is in the cab.

He is looking out the cab window.

He can see very far.

man working

Who is under the locomotive?

The workman is fixing the brakes under the locomotive.

He is working on the wheels.

It is under repair.

bell

Who rings the bell?

The fireman pulls the string to ring the bell.

The bell rings when the train leaves the station.

It is made of brass.

train station

Who rests on the benches in the train station?

People can rest on the benches in the station.

She is the only one in the train station.

She is alone.

on

Who is getting on the train?

The woman is getting on the train.

She is getting on the train to find her seat.

She will ride on the train.

big step

Who helps people get off the train?

The conductor helps people get off the train.

She is taking a big step off the train.

He is helping her off the train.

tickets

Who is checking the tickets?

The woman is checking the passengers' tickets.

Passengers must show tickets when boarding.

She checks the tickets.

conductor

Who makes sure everyone is safely on the train?

The conductor checks the doors.

Everyone is on board safely.

He will board the train last, then close the door.

wondering

Who knows how far it is to the next stop?

The conductor says, "It is thirty miles."

Thirty miles riding on the train will be fun.

She is answering their questions.

tourists

Who visits the city?

The tourists visit the city on the train.

It is a sunny day to see the city.

They are visiting.

What

gauges

What are all the gauges for?

Gauges tell the engineer how the train is running.

These are the gauges for the locomotive.

They are in the front of the cab.

fishplates

What are fishplates?

Fishplates hold two rails together.

There are three fishplates.

They are on the gravel.

spikes

What are spikes used for?

Spikes are used to hold the rails in place.

The rusty spikes are lined up on the tie.

They are rusty.

carts

What are the carts used for?

They carry baggage from the train to the station.

Luggage and boxes are loaded onto the carts.

They are empty now.

two men

What are the men doing next to the locomotive?

They are lubricating the grease fittings.

Two men are beside the train.

They are getting the train ready to go.

electrical box

What are these boxes and cables for?

They supply electricity to the cars in the station.

The words on the electrical box say, "danger high voltage."

It is not safe to play around electrical boxes.

axle and wheel

What are those rusty pieces?

Those pieces are for the wheels of the train.

The axle fits into the wheel.

They are rusty.

cab

What color is the cab?

The cab is red.

The man is in the cab.

He is going to drive the train.

hopper car

What does this car carry?

This car can carry grain.

The covered hopper car has funnels to unload the grain.

It dumps its cargo from underneath.

windmill

What does this windmill do?

It pumps water out of the ground.

The locomotive is in the yard behind the windmill.

It uses water from the well.

broken

What happened to the car?

It was in an accident.

It is old and rusty.

It used to be a working flat car.

yard

What happens in the diesel yard?

Repairs are made in the diesel repair yard.

This is where broken locomotives are repaired.

It has many fuel pumps.

hand car

What is a hand car for?

It moves people along short sections of track.

He can pump the hand car to make it move.

It can carry up to four workers.

roundhouse

What is a roundhouse?

A roundhouse is where the engines are repaired.

One door is open on the roundhouse.

It has many wooden doors.

tunnel

What is a tunnel?

A tunnel is a hole carved in the mountain.

The train is coming out of the tunnel.

It went through the tunnel.

intersection

What is an intersection?

An intersection is where the road crosses the tracks.

The light rail train is going through the intersection.

It moves slowly through the intersection.

train

What is in the boxcar?

New cars are in the boxcar.
This train is carrying new cars.
They are going to the city.

rock ballast

What is rock ballast?

Ballast is crushed rock.

Rock ballast is used to firmly support the ties.

It keeps the ties from moving when the heavy train is on the rail.

piece of rail

What is that piece of rail?

This piece of rail is called the “frog.” It switches train tracks.

It allows two tracks to meet smoothly at a switch.

It is forged in one piece.

coupler

What is the brakeman doing?

He is opening the coupler.

The coupler connects two cars together.

It is between the cars.

army boxcar

What war was this used in?

It was used in World War I.

The car was used to carry supplies to troops.

It carried supplies and animals.

water tower

What was in the tower?

Water was stored in the water tower until it was needed.

Diesel engines don't use water for power.
It was used by steam engines.

rusty old switcher

What was this car used for?

This switch car moved cars around the freight yard.

This rusty old switch car is not working.

It is old and broken.

unused cart

What was this cart used for?

This cart carried men and equipment along the rails.

This is an unused cart for working on rails.

It has not been used in a long time.

laughing

What are these women doing?

The women are laughing.

They are sharing a funny story.

They are friends.

list

What is the conductor checking?

She is checking the passenger list.

Names of all the passengers are on her list.

She has a list of the people on the train.

baggage

What are they looking at?

They are checking the baggage.

The baggage is checked to see who owns it.

He has his name on the baggage tag.

When

light

When do the lights turn on?

The lights turn on before the train moves.

Locomotives have lights on both ends.

It is very bright.

stop

When do the lights turn red?

The lights are red when the train is crossing the road.

Stop on red, go on green.

It is not safe to cross on red.

clock

When do you need to use a clock?

When you need to know what time it is.

The clock is hanging in the station.

It can be seen by many people.

black brake wheel

When does the brakeman use the brake wheel?

He uses it when the locomotive is not connected to the car.

The brake wheel can stop the car.

It sets the brake.

man crossing

When does the train stop?

It stops and waits for pedestrians to cross.

He is crossing the street.

It is stopped at the traffic light.

train coming

When is the train coming?

It will be here soon.

The train is coming.

It is approaching.

red car

When was the last time this car ran?

The old red car has not been used for a long time.

It has been replaced by newer cars.

It was used in the city.

tunnel

When will the train come out of the tunnel?

The train will emerge from the tunnel soon.

The train is coming out of the tunnel.

It is large enough to fit the train through safely.

waiting

When will the train arrive?

The train is late.

They are waiting for their train.

They are sitting.

crowded

When will the train be leaving?

The train will be leaving in five minutes.

The crowded platform will be empty.

They will be on the train.

Where

yellow

Where are the cars parked?

They are parked on a siding.

The passenger cars are very bright yellow and red.

They are in the yard to be cleaned.

airport tram

Where is the tram?

The tram is in the glass tunnel.

The airport tram takes passengers to the gates.

They got off the tram. Everyone is gone.

open

Where do people sit on this streetcar?

They can sit on the wooden benches.

The open sides helped people get on and off easily.

They can get on and off this street car.

red door

Where are the handrails?

The handrails are by the door.

The bright red door was just painted.

It is a wooden door.

loading

Where are the men standing?

The men are standing beside the boxcar.

They are loading heavy crates into the boxcar.

It is a loaded boxcar.

water pipes

Where are the pipes on this car?

The pipes are on the bottom of the car.

The water pipes spray water on the tracks to prevent fires.

They can spray water.

sand

Where did the sand come from?

The sand comes from the sander on the locomotive.

Sand helps the locomotive go up hills.

It is used for traction.

wooden bench

Where do passengers sit?

Passengers sit on the wooden benches.

The wooden bench is on the train.

It is empty. No one is on the bench.

was raining

Where is everyone?

Everyone went inside when it rained.

It was best to stay in the station when it was raining.

It was raining at Union Station.

caboose

Where is the caboose?

The caboose is in the park.

The caboose is the last car on a train.

It is in the park museum.

lantern

Where is the lantern?

It is on top of the engine smoke box.

This is a lantern.

It is painted green.

storage

Where is the locomotive?

It is inside a warehouse.

The locomotive is shut down and is in storage.

It is not used anymore to pull trains.

roller coaster

Where is the roller coaster going?

This roller coaster is going over the hills.

This roller coaster is moving fast.

They are having fun.

railroad crossing

Where is the stop sign?

It is on the right side of the track.

The sign says, "private railroad crossing."

It is on this side of the tracks.

help passengers

Where is the train?

The train has not arrived yet.

She will help the passengers to get on the train.

They are waiting for the train.

streetcar

Where is this streetcar?

It is a streetcar in Germany.

The streetcar is out early in the morning.

It is an electric streetcar.

walking

Where are the two boys going?

They are walking to the station.

The boys are walking on the platform.

They will ride the train.

yellow line

Where is it best to stand when the train moves?

Behind the yellow line on the platform.

The yellow line warns people to stay back.

It is the safety line.

waiting

Where are they waiting?

They are waiting on the platform.

There are four passengers waiting to board the train.

They wait.

Why

model railroads

Why are model railroads so popular?

They are fun to build and operate.

This model railroad has a small town near the tracks.

It requires patience and skill to build a model.

cars waiting

Why are the cars stopped?

The cars must wait until the train has safely passed.

The cars will wait for the light rail train to pass.

It is an electric passenger train.

rails

Why are the lights so low on this locomotive?

They allow the workers to see the rails at night.

This train grinds worn edges in the rails.

It is used to repair the rails.

field

Why are there bales in the field?

The hay is cut and baled to feed the animals.

We can see the bales out the window of the train.

They are still in the field.

the side panels

Why are there covers on the diesel locomotive?

Covers on the engine protect it from damage or dirt.

Side panel numbers tell how much weight can go in the car.

It is a hatch cover for the engine.

handrails

Why are there handrails on the end of the caboose?

Handrails help the workers to board safely.

Hold on to the handrails when you step up.

They are sturdy.

many lights

Why are there many lights on the ceiling?

The lights let people read when it is dark outside.
There are many lights in this passenger car.
They are not turned on.

wheel

Why are there locks on the boxcars?
Locks keep the materials inside the car safe.
This wheel locks and unlocks the door.
It is made of steel and is very strong.

river down below

Why do railways often follow rivers?
River valleys offered an easy terrain to follow.
The Colorado River is below the railroad track.
It is a long way down to the river.

water

Why does the train locomotive need a tender?
The tender carried water and fuel for the engine.
The water is loaded into the tender.
It flows down the boom into the tender.

look at watch

Why does the engineer look at his watch?
His watch helps him to keep his train on schedule.
He is checking the time on his watch.
It is time to go.

junk

Why does the flat car have junk on it?
The junk material may be recycled.

The junk is piled on the flat car.
It is full of junk.

front

Why does this locomotive have so many lights?
High-powered lights can let the driver see farther.
The front of the locomotive is huge.
It was a fast diesel locomotive.

white boxcar

Why is the boxcar beside the warehouse?
It is unloading the material.
The white boxcar is next to the loading dock.
It will soon be empty.

railroad crossing

Why is the crossing gate up?
There are no trains near the crossing.
The railroad crossing gate is up.
It will lower when a train comes.

man talking

Why is the man talking on the radio?
He is telling the driver when to stop the engine.
He is talking on the radio.
He is communicating.

pretty flowers

Why is the track not used anymore?
The railroad trains were replaced by trucks that travel on roads.
The pretty flowers grow on the old track.

It is not used by trains anymore.

tram goes

Why is the tram in the air?

It takes passengers over roads safely and quickly.

The tram is leaving.

It is a high speed passenger shuttle.

train stop

Why is there a stop at the end of the track?

The stop keeps cars from derailing.

The train must stop at the end of the track.

It will stop cars.

It is burning.

Why is there fire in the engine's firebox?

Fire makes heat and energy to power the engine.

The oil burns in the firebox.

It is very hot.

smoke

Why is there smoke coming out of the top?

The smoke is coming from the firebox.

The fire heats the water in the boiler.

It is smoky.

yellow stripes

Why is this locomotive not used anymore?

It was replaced by new more powerful ones.

The first diesel locomotives were made to look fast.

It was a powerful locomotive when it was used.

overgrown

Why is this train not running?

It is not in working condition.

The old locomotive has not moved in years.

It is broken.

old depot

Why were depots so important to small towns?

The trains brought people and supplies to the depot.

The old depot is closed.

It is not used as a railroad depot anymore.

How

covered windows

How are the windows covered?

The windows are covered with strong wire mesh.

They are covered to keep what is inside secure.

It is used to protect valuables.

boxcar

How can we see the top of the boxcar?

We are above the boxcar looking down at it.

The boxcar top is rusty.

It is below us.

bumpy edge

How do people safely step off a train?

People can step onto the yellow, non-skid surface.

The yellow plate is bumpy.

It is on the platform.

tunnel

How does a train go under a mountain?

It goes through a tunnel.

The train has just come out of the tunnel.

It is dark and smoky in the tunnel.

guard

How does the guard work?

The guard or “cowcatcher” pushes large objects aside.

The little train has a green guard on the front.

It prevents the train from running over large objects.

light

How does the light turn on?

A switch will turn on the light.

The light is on.

It is protected by a metal cage.

monorail

How does the monorail start and stop?

The monorail is controlled by a computer.

The monorail glides on a single electrified rail.

It is high above the ground.

throttle

How does the throttle work?

The throttle sends signals to the motor.

The throttle is used to slow down the engine.

It is used to control the streetcar’s speed.

toy tracks

How does the train go?

The toy train is controlled by an electric controller.

The toy train is on the tracks.

It is on the track and is passing the toy building.

under the bridge

How does the train go across the gorge?

The train goes over the tressel bridge.

This tressel bridge was built in 1889.

It is made with steel and wood.

whistle blowing

How does the whistle blow?

Steam is released from the boiler to the whistle.

The train's whistle is blowing.

It is loud.

red train

How does this car get electricity?

It is connected to wires above the car.

This train goes past the river.

It is powered by electricity.

yellow locomotive

How far away is the train?

It is very far away.

I can see the yellow locomotive down below.

It is a yellow locomotive.

end

How many boxcars are on the middle track?

There are four boxcars.

The black boxcar is on the end.

It is last.

price tag

How much does the toy train cost?

It looks expensive.

This train is for sale.

It is on the shelf.

old caboose

How old is the caboose?

The yellow caboose is very old.

It has not been used in quite a while.

It is parked on the side rail.

red post

How do people know when the trains are coming?

The schedule tells people when the trains run.

The schedule is on the red post.

It is at the train station.

telegraph pole

How was the telegraph used?

The telegraph wires were used to carry signals.

The telegraph pole carried wires beside the tracks.

They were replaced by the telephone.

Which

boy and girl

Which child is pulling the luggage cart?
The girl is pulling the luggage.
He is taller than she is.
They are waiting for the doors to open.

on top
Which is on top, the rail or the tie?
The rail is on top.
The rail will be laid in place soon.
It is made of steel.

boy and grandmother
Which person is older?
She is older. She is the boy's grandmother.
He is next to his grandmother.
They look happy.

door open
Which way is he driving the train?
He is driving the train backwards.
He looks out the open door to drive the train.
It is the rear of the train.

red pants
Which woman is getting off the train?
The woman in the red pants is getting off the train.
There are several people near the train.
She is the only one with red pants.

supplies
Which compartment is open?

The kitchen supply compartment is open.
The cook is getting supplies.
He is preparing for the on-board meals.

Other

old town

Are the town's buildings made of wood?
Yes, wood was the only material available for building.
The train goes past the old town.
It is an old western town.

sign

Can the door be open when the train is moving?
No, it must be closed and locked.
Read the sign.
It is important information.

fixing rails

Do rails need to be replaced?
Yes, rails are replaced when they are not safe.
This train is used to fix rails that are bad.
It is used to replace miles of used rails.

big station

Do the cars park in front of the station?
Yes, the cars are bringing passengers to the station.
The railroad station is a large brick building.
It is the entrance to the train station.

grass grows

Do trains still use these tracks?

No, they are abandoned.
The grass grows up between the old rails.
They are not used anymore.

railroad bridge

Does this bridge carry trains?

This bridge carries trains on the lower level.

The railroad bridge can be drawn up to allow boats to pass under.

It can go up and down.

empty

Is it empty?

Yes, the boxcar is empty. Nothing is in it.

It is used for hauling scrap metal.

It can hold a lot of scrap metal.

city station

Is the platform covered with a roof?

Yes, the roof keeps the passengers dry.

This train station is in the city.

It is covered by a roof.

bridge

Is the train on the bridge?

Yes, the bridge allows the train tracks to cross a river.

The long train is going over the bridge.

It is on the bridge.

small train

Is the train stopped?

It is stopped next to a parking lot.

“Little Toot” is a small train.
It is a very small passenger train.