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Commute Hacks 101

〔 B1 Level 〕 〔 Duration: 1 h 〕 〔 Group lesson 〕 〔 Age: adults 〕

〔 Main focus 〕 Students can compare and contrast alternatives, discussing what to do, where to go, who or which to choose etc.

Students can understand short texts on subjects that are familiar or of current interest, in which people give their points of view.

1 Reading

Exercise 1: Look through the dialogue. Answer the following questions:

**What is the tone of the conversation between Jack and Sophie?
What are they feeling?**

Jack: It's always the same old thing. Wake up early, get dressed **in a hurry** and then rush to **catch this train**.

Sophie: I know what you mean. The worst part is that it's so **crowded** all the time. You can hardly move.

Jack: Yes, especially during **peak hours**. And don't even get me started on those annoying **delays and cancellations**.

Sophie: Yeah, they can be **such a pain**. One time I had to wait for an hour just because someone pressed the emergency button.

Jack: That's terrible! And even when everything **runs smoothly**, it takes forever to **reach our destination.**

Sophie: Tell me about it. By the time we get to work, we're exhausted already from standing and being crushed by people.

Jack: Exactly! And let's not forget about the returning trip. It's a **nightmare** to commute after long working hours.

Sophie: So true. We are not alone in feeling unhappy, right?

Jack: Yeah, look at these sad and exhausted faces...

2

Vocabulary

Exercise 2: Match each word from the list with its definition. Find two synonyms in the list of words that have the same definition.

a. the act of deciding not to go ahead with something that was planned or scheduled.

b. To get on a train before it leaves the station.

c. The busiest times of the day when most people are traveling or working.

d. To do something quickly because there is not much time left.

e. A very bad experience that can cause fear, anxiety, or stress.

f. When something does not happen at the expected time or is postponed.

g. Something that is very annoying and causes inconvenience.

h. A place that has too many people in it, making it difficult to move around comfortably.

i. When things happen without any problems or interruptions.

j. to arrive at the place where you intended to go.

k. to travel regularly between home and work or school.

cancellation

to run smoothly

a delay

to commute

to catch a train

to be in a hurry

peak hours

crowded

to reach a destination

such a pain

nightmare

to rush

Exercise 3: Read the dialogue again and make a list of problems that Sofie and Jack face every morning on their way to work and every evening on their way back. Share it with the class.

_____

_____

Exercise 4: Fill in the gaps in the message from Jack to his friend:

reach   be in a hurry   smoothly   delays   catch

crowded   pain   peak

Hey, maaaan!

I'm so excited for your party tonight, I can't wait to catch up with everyone. Just a quick message to let you know that I'll be coming after work so I might be late a bit. OMG, I'll definitely _____(1) because I want to _____(2) my train, and _____(3) hours are always so _____(4). You know how it is. Hopefully, there won't be any _____(5) or cancellations – that's always such a _____(6). But fingers crossed everything runs _____(7) and I'll _____(8) our destination on time. See you later!

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3 **Speaking**

Exercise 5: Have a look at these facts about modern commuting. What do you think "telecommuting" and "flextime" mean? Would you prefer these types of commuting to the traditional one?

> **Telecommuting** saves time and money on commuting for employees.
>
> **Flexitime** gives employees greater autonomy and work–life balance.

Exercise 6: Answer the following questions:

- Do you commute to work every day?

- How much time does it take you to get to work?

- In your opinion, what's the optimal time to commute and what's the best means of transportation for it (car, train etc.)?

Exercise 7: In pairs, come up with your tips on how to make commuting easier.

Give at least 3 tips each, use at least 4 words from the target vocabulary in Exercise 2. Present the tips in the form of a dialogue between two friends or passengers. Use the dialogue in Exercise 1 as an example.

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Correct answers and teaching tips

Exercise 1

Created in the "Create a dialogue" tool

Exercise 2

Created in the "Word-definition marching" tool

a. cancellation
b. to catch a train
c. peak hours
d. to be in a hurry; to rush
e. nightmare
f. a delay
g. such a pain
h. crowded
i. to run smoothly
j. to reach a destination
k. to commute

Exercise 4

Created in the "Create a Text" (Informal letter) + "Fill in the Gap" tools

1. be in a hurry
2. catch
3. peak
4. crowded
5. delays
6. pain
7. smoothly
8. reach

Exercise 5

Created in the "Find interesting facts" tool

Exercise 6

Created in the "Discussion questions" tool