

## Starting up

- Do you travel for work?
- If you travel, can you choose how and when you travel?
- If you can make choices, how do you make them? Do you try to travel cheaply? Quickly? Conveniently? Something else?
- Have you ever travelled by sleeper train (a train with beds for overnight journeys)?

## Vocabulary 1 – business and the environment

Match each **bold** word with the correct definition (a-g).

- 1 Businesses are trying to reduce **emissions** from factories, transport, and all other sources of air pollution.
  - 2 **ESG** (environmental, social and governance) concerns include how much pollution companies produce, how they manage workers, how safe their products are and much more.
  - 3 The company offers workers **incentives** including extra pay for meeting production targets.
  - 4 Government **subsidies** help farmers in times when conditions are bad for producing food.
  - 5 An import step in car design is to make **prototypes** of new models for testing before producing large numbers of vehicles.
  - 6 Modern transport systems including planes and fast trains increase **mobility** for businesspeople.
  - 7 Many businesses are working to become **carbon-neutral** in order to fight climate change.
- 
- a the three main factors in measuring the impact of a business on people in the world and on the health of the planet
  - b money paid by the government to support a business
  - c gases or other substances that are sent into the air
  - d the ability to move easily
  - e taking the same amount of carbon dioxide out of the air, for example by planting trees, as is produced
  - f things that encourage you to do a certain thing
  - g the first form that a new design of a car, machine etc has, or a model of it used to test the design before it is produced

## Reading 1

True or false, according to the article?

- 1 The number of sleeper train services in Europe is increasing.
- 2 To compete, airlines are introducing more sleeper planes.
- 3 According to the article, sleeper trains can be more convenient than air travel.
- 4 Experts believe that sleeper trains may soon greatly reduce air travel.
- 5 Our entire transport system will need to change in the next 30 years.

## Reading 2

Choose the best answer (a-c) to the questions below.

- 1 What is the main reason passengers want sleeper trains?
  - a) for more luxury
  - b) to cut travel costs
  - c) to avoid air travel
- 2 Which sleeper route was recently launched?
  - a) the Anglo-Scottish Caledonian Sleeper
  - b) Malmo to London
  - c) London to Hamburg
- 3 Why have night trains become less popular in the past 40 years?
  - a) poor customer service
  - b) reduced air travel prices
  - c) rail firms' financial problems
- 4 According to the article, what do sleeper trains help reduce?
  - a) jet lag
  - b) hotel costs
  - c) air traffic
- 5 According to the article, what would increase rail travel?
  - a) fair tax on emissions
  - b) subsidies for rail firms
  - c) rail loyalty schemes
- 6 What advantage do sleeper trains have in the fight emissions reduction?
  - a) new tracks are being laid
  - b) Elon Musk is investing in them
  - c) the technology already exists

## Sleeper trains can drive cleaner business travel

For many, sleeper trains remain associated with luxury travel: <sup>1</sup>**sublime vistas**, <sup>2</sup>**opulent** settings and a mystery or two — even a decade after the last descendant of the original Orient Express ceased running. But a Vienna to Brussels night service unveiled this month gives hope that Europe's sleepers could <sup>3</sup>**mount a comeback** in the age of *flygskam*: flight shame.

While many European rail operators cut their sleeper services over the past decade, Austria's OBD has expanded its Nightjet service, linking cities including Hamburg, Basel and Innsbruck. In Sweden, the government is considering running trains from Malmö to London. And in the UK, the Anglo-Scottish Caledonian Sleeper put £150m into new stock which was unveiled last year — albeit not without <sup>4</sup>**hiccups**.

The expansion of cheap air travel from the 1980s onwards has been blamed for the pressure on night trains. As environmental concerns have grown, the consumer <sup>5</sup>**calculus** appears to have shifted. Commercial aviation was responsible for about 2 per cent of man-made carbon dioxide emissions last year, according to the International Air Transport Association. In response, activists such as Greta Thunberg have called on travellers to <sup>6</sup>**shun** the airways. The Malmö-London proposal is one such effort to reduce emissions.

For business travellers, these services have an appeal beyond ESG concerns. With a sleeper, they can attend late-night meetings, hop into a <sup>7</sup>**berth** and arrive refreshed in a new city — a welcome break from early morning flights, long security queues and <sup>8</sup>**tedious** baggage carousels. Sleeper trains also have advantages over daytime trains, offering a chance to rest without <sup>9</sup>**forking out** for a hotel.

The return of the sleeper is not necessarily a smooth ride. For intercontinental journeys, complex combinations of trains are unlikely to convince travellers to <sup>10</sup>**ditch** the convenience of aircraft. Loyalty schemes and cut-price sales are strong incentives to keep flying within Europe, particularly if train tickets are costly. The solution to this problem could lie in pricing aircraft emissions more fairly, rather than throwing subsidies at operators. At the same time, the quality of rest that sleeper trains afford business travellers will have to rise to match the best airlines' business class.

Regardless of these challenges, the expansion of night train routes is a reminder that those designing the future of transport do not need to reinvent the wheel. Prototypes of mobility in 2050 often <sup>11</sup>**stray into** the <sup>12</sup>**costly realms** of science fiction — from Tesla chief executive Elon Musk's Hyperloop vacuum tube train, to Samsung's imagined underwater highways. A carbon-neutral world will require radical changes in how we move around. In the meantime, the tracks are laid for the new golden age of the sleeper.



© The Financial Times Limited. All Rights Reserved.

## Vocabulary 2 – vocabulary in context

Choose the correct meaning of the bold words in the article.

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 a) amazing views             | b) boring journeys        |
| 2 a) uncomfortable, cheap      | b) comfortable, expensive |
| 3 a) completely disappear      | b) return                 |
| 4 a) problems                  | b) easy success           |
| 5 a) calculations, preferences | b) income                 |
| 6 a) use                       | b) avoid                  |
| 7 a) bed                       | b) seat                   |
| 8 a) exciting                  | b) boring                 |
| 9 a) looking                   | b) paying                 |
| 10 a) throw away               | b) accept                 |
| 11 a) wander into              | b) avoid                  |
| 12 a) convenient technology    | b) expensive ideas        |

## Grammar – future continuous and future perfect simple

Complete the conversations below with the future continuous or future perfect simple of the verbs in brackets.

- A What kind of transport do you think we <sup>1</sup> ..... (use) twenty years from now?  
B I think someone <sup>2</sup> ..... (invent) a new, carbon-neutral fuel for planes.
- A So you think people <sup>3</sup> ..... (fly) still?  
B Yes, I do. I think we <sup>4</sup> ..... (solve) a lot of our emissions problems by then.
- A Do you think travel <sup>5</sup> ..... (become) carbon neutral?  
B I hope so. If not, people <sup>6</sup> ..... (work) very hard to make it carbon neutral.
- A Do you think underwater highways <sup>7</sup> ..... (build)?  
B Probably not. But I'm sure in the next 30 years, the way we drive <sup>8</sup> .....  
(change).

## Further discussion

Work together to answer these questions. Give your reasons.

- 1 Do you think 'flight shame' is helpful?
- 2 Would you choose to travel by sleeper train?
- 3 Do you think airlines should pay more tax?

**ANSWER KEY****Starting up**

Students' own answers

**Vocabulary 1**

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1 c | 5 g |
| 2 a | 6 d |
| 3 f | 7 e |
| 4 b |     |

**Reading 1**

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1 T | 4 F |
| 2 F | 5 T |
| 3 T |     |

**Reading 2**

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1 c | 4 b |
| 2 a | 5 a |
| 3 b | 6 c |

**Vocabulary 2**

- |     |      |
|-----|------|
| 1 a | 7 a  |
| 2 b | 8 b  |
| 3 b | 9 b  |
| 4 a | 10 a |
| 5 a | 11 a |
| 6 b | 12 b |

**Grammar**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 will be using      | 5 will have become     |
| 2 will have invented | 6 will be working      |
| 3 will be flying     | 7 will have been built |
| 4 will have solved   | 8 will be changing     |

**Further discussion**

Students' own answers

Articles sourced from the Financial Times have been referenced with the FT logo. These articles remain the Copyright of the Financial Times Limited and were originally published in 2020. All Rights Reserved. FT and 'Financial Times' are trademarks of The Financial Times Ltd. Pearson ELT is responsible for providing any translation or adaptation of the original articles.

With a worldwide network of highly respected journalists, the Financial Times provides global business news, insightful opinion and expert analysis of business, finance and politics. With over 500 journalists reporting from 50 countries worldwide, our in-depth coverage of international news is objectively reported and analysed from an independent, global perspective.

For more information: <http://membership.ft.com/pearsonoffer/>