



Unit 7: take a train

00:00-00:30

Today we're gonna learn how to use GRAND LINE phrases when we meet up with someone or we take the train somewhere!

00:36-01:45

Show me someone who hasn't boarded the wrong train at least once and I'll show you a liar... or someone who doesn't catch trains, which means they probably don't travel a lot.

It's happened to all of us- railway users at some point in our lives – even in our home environments or places where we can speak the language.

Given that trains are pretty much integral to getting around in many different countries, recognizing signs around stations or on trains can really help your journeys.

01:46-03:56

When I first came to Japan,
I learned two very important things about meeting people at train stations:

- 1) Learn the signs for exits
- 2) Never try to meet anyone at Shinjuku station without a phone

If you choose to do #2, then may the Station Spirit help you because it could be a very long time before you recover your friends or they recover you.

I'm going to teach you about English equivalents of Japanese signs at train stations





4:00-07:12

入り口 — Entrance

出口 — Exit

北口 — North Exit

東口 — East Exit

南口 — South Exit

西口 — West Exit

The exits are often written in English, so if you want to look like a real railway pro, you need to learn the types of train services, such as rapid or local.

Don't be that person hovering in the train doorway, one foot on board, one on the platform, anxiously scrutinizing the electronic display, waiting for the Japanese to be replaced by the English that tells you, that YES, this train is the local train you need, and NO, it will not rush you to somewhere several kilometers beyond your destination.

7:13-07:59

急行 — Express Train

準特急 — Semi-special Express

特急 — Special Express

快速 — Rapid

普通列車 — Local Train

8:03-08:40

You won't be getting anywhere without a ticket, so look for these to guide you:

窓口 — Service Window

切符 — Ticket

改札口 — Ticket Gate

8:45-10:20

If you're using a Suica or Pasmo, then look for the machines marked チャージ (chāgi/charge) to **top up** your balance. And if the cost to your destination is more than the ticket you bought or the balance on your card, you'll need to head to:

精算 — Fare Adjustment

10:21-11:16

For some train services, such as the Narita Express (airport service) or Shinkansen (bullet train) services, you will have the choice of reserved or non-reserved seating.

Knowing the kanji will help you board the train at the right place and save you an awkward trip stumbling through the aisles after the train has set off.

指定席 — Reserved Seat

自由席 — Non-reserved Seat





11:12-11:11

Finally, keep an eye out for priority seats and women-only cars. Although the pictures that usually accompany the signs are self-explanatory, being extra knowledgeable can't hurt.

女性専用車 — Women-only Car

優先席 — Priority Seat

12:16-17:16

Giving directions in English

go straight - Go straight on Main Street.

turn left - Turn left at the supermarket.

turn right - Turn right on the next corner.

go past - Go past the cinema and you'll find the library.

go straight - Go straight on Main Street.

turn left - Turn left at the supermarket.

turn right - Turn right on the next corner.

go past - Go past the cinema and you'll find the library.

cross - If you cross the street, you'll find a bookstore there!

go along - Go along the main road until you find the gas station.

around the corner - The museum is just around the corner.

between - You can find the coffee shop between the office building and the movie theater.

behind - There's a nice park behind the parking lot.

turn back / go back - If you get to the bridge, you went too far, you'll have to turn back.

go down - Go down the hill and you'll find the entrance to the park.

go over - To get to the building, you have to go over the walkway.

go through - Take a shortcut to the school going through the park.

go up - Go up the hill and you'll find the bus stop.

in front of - The market is in front of the City Hall.

beside - My school is beside a small park.

near - I live near the forest.

around the corner - The museum is just around the corner.

between - You can find the coffee shop between the office building and the movie theater.

behind - There's a nice park behind the parking lot.

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17:17-18:23

Asking for directions in English?

Excuse me, where is the...? / Excuse me, how do I get to...?

Excuse me, is there a _____ near here? / How do I get to...?

What's the way to...? / Where is _____ located?

