

Topic: Read a Bus Schedule

Let's get started...

Do you ride the bus? How often? Where do you go? Do you read the bus schedule before you go?

Background:

Many people ride the bus everyday. People ride the bus to work, school, stores, and many other places. Sometimes, riding the bus is difficult. You need to know which bus to take, where to catch the bus, where the bus will drop you off, and how much the bus fare is. You can use resources such as the bus schedule and the online trip planner to get more information about using the bus.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Talk about the differences between buses in America and in your native country:

- How much does it cost?
- How often does the bus come?
- How convenient is the bus?
- Is there a bus stop near your house?
- Does the bus go to many places?



Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

How can you learn about the bus schedule? Do you use a booklet, look at the information on the bus stop, or check the Internet?

Have you ever gotten lost when you were on the bus? How did you feel? What did you do?

Do you think bus passes are too expensive, or too cheap?

Have you ever missed the bus? What did you do?

Have you ever missed your stop while you were on the bus? What did you do?

What are some advantages to taking the bus? What are some disadvantages?

What are some common rules of bus etiquette?

In your native country, do people ride the bus more or less than they do in the U.S.?

Did you ride the bus in your native country? Was the bus system confusing?

What do you do while riding the bus?

What do you do if you have a question while you are riding the bus?

Who can help you when you're riding the bus?

Who are the front seats reserved for?

Have you ever called the phone operator? What do you need to tell the phone operator?

How can you pay to ride the bus? (For example, with cash, coins, a bus pass) Which do you use? Why?

When should you arrive to your bus stop before your bus comes?

What should you do if you want to get off the bus?

What are some symbols in the bus schedule? Do you have any questions about these symbols?

Which is more convenient for you: riding the bus or driving a car? Which do you prefer? Why?

What kinds of transportation did you use in your native country that you don't use in America?

New words and Idioms:

"catch the bus," "drop you off," "pick you up," "online trip planner," booklet, bus stop, etiquette, symbol, phone operator, bus pass