



A TRAIN TRIP THROUGH NORWAY - THE OSLO TO BERGEN LINE

Vocabulary from Context

Guess the meaning of the underlined words.

scenic

/ˈsiːnik/

Tim: What are the most scenic places in Japan?

(**interesting** / **expensive** / **beautiful**)

Aki: It's said that Amano Hashidate in Kyoto, Miyajima in Hiroshima, and Matsushima in Miyagi are the three most scenic places in Japan. I've been to Matsushima, and the views are amazing.

pace /peɪs/

Tom: Do you prefer to live in a big city or in a small town?

Shinya: I love big cities. There are many things to do.

Tom: I find the pace of life more relaxing a small town.

(**speed** / **cost** / **challenge**)

Pre-reading

Discuss the following questions in groups and as a class.

1. In which European countries were the pictures on page 32 taken?

Why do you think so?

A = _____ B = _____ C = _____

D = _____ E = _____

2. Have you ever taken a trip with your friends or family?

Where did you go?

3. What is the most fun way to travel: by car, bus, plane, or train?

Why do you think so?



A



B



C



D



E

Part 1



I'm Naomi, and this is my husband, Jason. We love traveling. We have visited many wonderful places such as Hawaii, India, and the Far East. But our favorite travel destination is Europe. We love the continent's great cities such as Paris, Vienna, and Berlin. Each city is special, having its own charm. But for our most recent trip, Jason and I decided to enjoy a slower pace. We had always wanted to take a train trip in Europe, and we opted for the scenic country of Norway.

New words

5 - [a] **destination**
/,desti'neɪʃən/

5 - [a] **continent** /'kɑːntənənt/

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions with “Yes,” “No,” or “Maybe.”

1. Have Jason and Naomi ever visited Japan?
2. Have they visited many places in Europe?
3. Were the European cities which Jason and Naomi visited similar?
4. On their last trip, did they want to have a quieter and slower experience?
5. Had they ever taken a train trip in Europe before?

4- **the Far East** - Korea and Japan are in the Far East.

9 - **opt for** ~ - I opted for pizza at the restaurant.

Vocabulary from Context

Guess the meaning of the underlined words.

Akiko: Let's go to Hokkaido on the train.

Steve: OK. How long is the tunnel from Honshu to Hokkaido?

approximately Akiko: I think it's approximately 54 kilometers or so. But I'm not sure.

/ə'prɒ:ksəmətli/

(**about** / **more than** / **less than**)

Let's check the Internet.

[a] capital

/'kæpɪtəl/

Rudy: Hey, what's the capital of South Korea?

(**most important city** / **smallest city** / **most interesting city**)

Bill: I think it's Seoul. They had the Olympics there once.

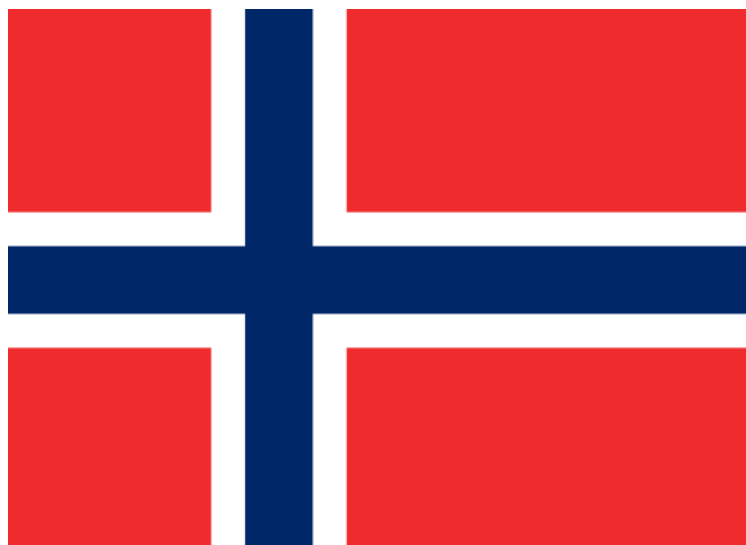
Rudy: I see. And how about North Korea?

Bill: I don't know any cities in North Korea.

Pre-reading

Discuss in groups and as a class.

1. Do you know anything about Norway (cities, size, etc.)?
2. Do you have any image of Norway?



Part 2

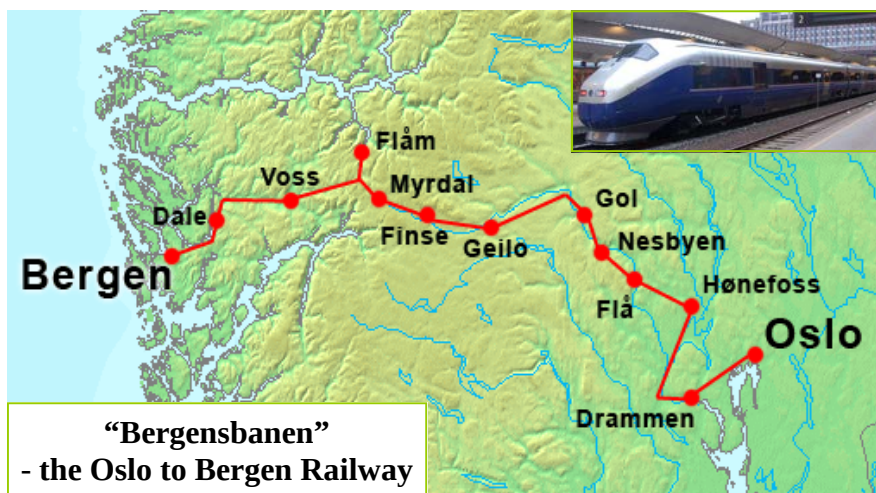
Norway has one of the most spectacular railways in Europe, the Oslo to Bergen line. The line began to operate in 1909, requiring more than 30 years to complete and 15,000 workers. It is approximately 500 kilometers long and takes about six and a half hours to cross the country. The line climbs 1,200 meters high, going through 113 mountain tunnels.

New words

- 1 - spectacular
/spek'tækjələ/
- 1 - [a] railway /'reil,wei/
- 2 - operate (~) /'a:pə,reit/
- 9 - provide ~ /prə'vaɪd/
- 12 - [a] Scandinavian
/,skændə'nervɪən/

Names of Places

- 2 - Oslo /'a:zlou/
- 2 - Bergen /'bɜ:ɡən/
- 8 - Finse /'fɪnsə/



Jason and I started our journey in Oslo, the capital, and headed north to the ski resort of Finse. The train was great. They provided Wi-Fi, a coffee shop, and even a children’s playroom. Here, we met some friendly Scandinavians.



the coffee shop



the kids' room

Comprehension Questions

Write a ✓ for the ideas discussed in part 2, an X for those that aren't.

1. A country full of beautiful nature is the usual image most people have of Norway. ___
2. The Oslo to Bergen line is more than 100 years old and took a long time to build. ___
3. This train is very advanced and kid-friendly. ___
4. Many business people take this train every day. ___

Vocabulary from Context

Guess the meaning of the underlined words.

scenery

/ˈsiːnəri/

Tom: Norway has amazing **scenery**.

(views / paintings / people)

Shinya: I agree. There are so many beautiful mountains and lakes.

Jane: Have you seen the movie *The Walk*?

Kenta: Yes. Walking on a wire between two towers 411 meters above the ground was an amazing **feat**.

[a] **feat**

/fi:t/

(show / idea / achievement)

Jane: Yes, no-one had ever done anything like that before.

Pre-reading

Discuss in groups and as a class.

1. Do you like to travel by train?
2. Have you seen any beautiful views from a train?



Part 3

After an hour, the scenery began changing. The urban landscape of Oslo turned into beautiful countryside and villages. We crossed rivers and passed through forests. Gaining altitude, we began to see mountains. There was snow on the ground, and the lakes were frozen, even though it was mid-summer.

Four hours after leaving Oslo, we reached Finse, the highest station in Northern Europe, at 1,222 meters above sea level. The village of Finse was covered in snow, and the views were stunning. Near the station was a small museum dedicated to the workers who built the railways. Thousands of men worked hard in freezing weather, and the living conditions were terrible. About sixty-five men died working on this railway. Jason and I understood the unbelievable feat they achieved.

New words

- 1 - **urban** /'ɜːbən/
- 2 - [a] **landscape** /'lænd,skeɪp/
- 2 - [the] **countryside** /'kʌntri,sɑɪd/
- 3 - [an] **altitude** /'æltə,tuːd/
- 7 - **sea level** /'siː ,levəl/
- 9 - **stunning** /'stʌnɪŋ/
- 9 - **dedicate** ~ /'dedə ,keɪt/



The men who built the railways



Comprehension Questions

Find the mistakes. Compare the sentences below with those in part 3. Correct any untrue parts. There may be some sentences with no mistakes.

1. An hour into the journey from Oslo to Bergen, the city views disappeared.
2. In Finse, there is a museum dedicated to skiing.
3. The living and working conditions for the workers were awful.
4. Building the mountain railways was a safe job.

Part 4

From Finse, we headed to the next stop, Myrdal, which was fifteen minutes away. Here, we changed to the Flam line to visit the village of Flam. The Flam line descended 864 meters down a steep valley, passing waterfalls and villages. The snow was gone, and it was summer again. The train stopped so that people could take photos.



New words

6 - descend /də'send/

6 - [a] waterfall /'wɔ:tər_fɔ:l/

8 - [a] photo /'fotəʊ/

9 - [a] harbor /'hɑ:rbər/

10 - [a] cruise ship /'kru:z _ʃɪp/

13 - instantly /'ɪnstəntli/

Names of Places

2 - Myrdal /'mɪrdəl/

4 - Flam /flɑ:m/



Fifty minutes later, we arrived in Flam. In the harbor, we saw a huge cruise ship. These cruise ships come to Flam almost daily during the tourist season, meaning that the population of this village goes from 400 people to over 6,000 people instantly. Then, in the evening, Flam goes back to being a sleepy village.



11 - [the] **tourist season** - The beaches are full during the tourist season.

15 - [a] **sleepy village** - I grew up in a sleepy village in Akita.

In Flam, Jason and I took a power boat ride down a fjord. The boat sped between hills, passing waterfalls and villages. It seemed that the only way to reach these old villages was by boat, as there were no roads.



a power boat ride

New words

2 - [a] power boat

/ˈpaʊər ˌboʊt/

2 - [a] fjord /fjɔːrd/



the Aurlandsfjord

Finally, we took the Flam railway back to Myrdal and then a local train bound for Bergen on the west coast. When the train arrived in Bergen, it was raining, and we went to our hotel. Having traveled for twelve hours from one side of Norway to the other, we were exhausted. But the Oslo to Bergen line was a journey we would never forget.



rainy Bergen

Comprehension Questions

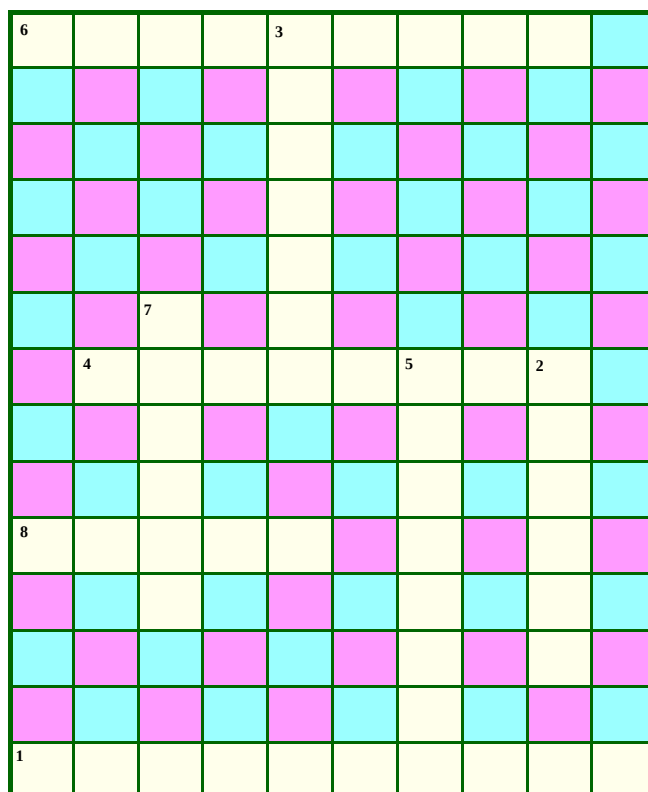
True / False / Question mark - Circle the correct answer. If the answer is not written in the text, circle '?'.

1. Going from Finse to Flam is like going from winter to summer. T / F / ?
2. The locals in Flam don't like so many visitors coming to their village. T / F / ?
3. Jason and Naomi took a slow boat from Flam down the fjord. T / F / ?
4. The villages along the fjord had no roads and were very old. T / F / ?
5. The city of Bergen is at a high altitude. T / F / ?

Summary (Rephrasing)

Use words from parts 1 - 4 to finish the crossword puzzle.

1. Naomi and Jason have visited most of the ~, but their favourite is Europe.
2. Norway is a ~ country with many beautiful views.
3. Oslo is the ~ of Norway.
4. The ~ in Norway have beautiful views.
5. Finse is at a high ~ of 1,222 meters.
6. Finse ~ a museum to the builders of the railway.
7. You can see cruise ships in the ~ at Flam.
8. Naomi and Jason rode on a power boat in the ~.



General Comprehension

1. What does Part 1 suggest?
 - a. Jason and Naomi know Europe very well.
 - b. Norway is the most scenic country in Europe.
2. According to Part 2,...
 - a. you can travel to the west coast of Norway by train from Oslo in under seven hours.
 - b. Finse is the most popular ski resort in Norway.
3. What is the main idea of part 3?
 - a. Thanks to the high altitude, the town of Finse has great views.
 - b. It's amazing what the railway workers were able to do, despite their old age.
4. What does Part 4, page 37 imply?
 - a. The village of Flam is a popular tourist spot.
 - b. The village of Flam has a large population.
5. According to Part 4, page 38,...
 - a. Naomi and Jason would recommend that you must experience the same trip.
 - b. Bergen is less beautiful, having few scenic views.

Optional Reading

The Writer's Corner

I was excited to read online that Japan has a new type of bullet train called the Maglev (magnetic levitation). The first stage of this project, which will connect Tokyo and Nagoya, is to be completed by 2027. At 500 kilometers per hour, this journey will take only 40 minutes. Part of this line may be operating during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The second stage, expanding the line to Osaka, is to be completed by 2045. The Maglev will take passengers from Tokyo to Osaka in just 67 minutes. I'm looking forward to riding this amazing new train.

5

Listening

Listen to a conversation between Ayumi and Steven and answer the questions.

1. Does Steven prefer to travel by train or by airplane? Why?

He prefers _____ because _____

2. Where did Steven go in Japan and what did he like about this trip?

He went _____ and he liked _____

3. What does he remember?

He remembers the _____

Writing and Class Discussion

Write about one topic below. Share in groups and as a class.

1. What did you learn in this lesson?
2. What are some differences between the Oslo to Bergen line and Japanese trains?
3. Have you ever taken a long train trip? Where did you go and how was it?
4. Are there any scenic railways in Japan you would recommend to visitors?
