

5A | High-speed trains

SPEAKING

- 1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.
 - What is more common in your country: to travel by train or travel by car?
 - Do you travel by train? How often? Where do you go?
 - What do you think of the trains in your country?

READING

- 1 Look at the photos of different popular trains. Check you understand the words in the box and underline the ones you think you will find in the article.

fast slow comfortable noisy
convenient cheap horrible tall

- 2 Read the article to check your answers.
- 3 Read the article again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Why do many people like high-speed trains more than planes? Find three reasons.
 - 2 Which train has a name that means bird?
 - 3 Which train is called a bullet train?
 - 4 Which train has a big network of cities?
 - 5 Which train is the fastest?
- 4 Does your country have a high-speed train? Would you like to travel on one? Why or why not?



High-speed trains

The trains of the 21st century are here, and they are safe and comfortable. And they are fast. Super fast.

Today's high-speed trains can go up to three or four hundred km per hour. They can't fly, but in many ways they are more convenient than airplanes. Airports are usually outside city centres. With high-speed trains people can go from city centre to city centre. Many people like high-speed trains more than airplanes. Passengers on a high-speed train have more space than in an airplane. They can work on a computer and go for a walk. They can see the world go by – at 300 km per hour. In airplanes, you can't see anything.

These are some of the world's fastest trains:

The CRH (China)

China Rail High-Speed, the Chinese Rail system, uses many different trains. They have names like CRH1, CRH2, CRH3, etc. The CRH3 can travel at 350km per hour and travels between Beijing and Tianjin.

The TGV (France)

The TGV is French for *Train de Grande Vitesse*. It is France's famous high-speed train. The TGV has a big network. It can go to 150 different cities. The TGV's top speed is 320km per hour.

The AVE (Spain)

The AVE stands for *Alta Velocidad España*, but is also the Spanish word for *bird*. It is Spain's high-speed train. It can travel at 300 km per hour and has routes between the capital, Madrid, and other important cities in Spain.

Shinkansen (Japan)

The Shinkansen high-speed train network covers all of Japan. This Japanese train is called a *bullet train* and it can go up to 360 km per hour.



GRAMMAR: can/can't

Use *can/can't* to talk about ability.
 It *can* travel very fast.
 It *can't* travel very fast.

SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 60

1 Complete the English Language Ability Survey with *can/can't* so that it's true for you.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY SURVEY – Can you do it?

- 1 I ___ spell my first name and last name.
- 2 I ___ introduce myself and another person.
- 3 I ___ give my address and phone number.
- 4 I ___ understand the words in English songs.
- 5 I ___ talk about the people in my family.
- 6 I ___ describe someone in the class.
- 7 I ___ talk about where I live.
- 8 I ___ give simple directions.
- 9 I ___ answer a phone call and take a message in English.
- 10 I ___ speak on the telephone for a long time in English.

2 Work in pairs, A and B.

- A: Turn to page 134.
- B: Turn to page 136.

PRONUNCIATION: can/can't

1 **1.73** Listen how the words *can/can't* are pronounced in these sentences.

It can travel very fast.
It can't travel very fast.

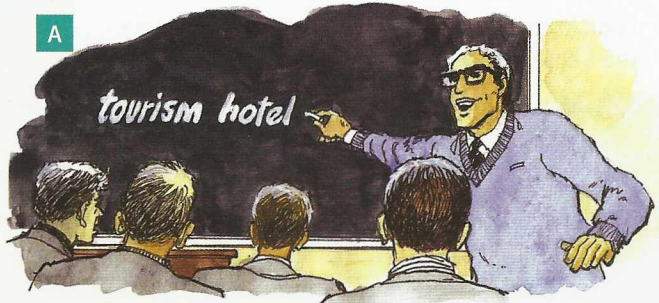
In sentences and questions, *can* is pronounced /kən/.
 In negatives, *can't* is pronounced /kɑ:nt/.

2 **1.74** Listen and underline the word you hear. Then repeat the sentences.

- 1 We can / can't get there by plane.
- 2 We can / can't take the train.
- 3 You can / can't sit here.
- 4 They can / can't hear you.
- 5 It can / can't go very fast.

SPEAKING

1 **1.75** Listen to two dialogues. Match them to the pictures A and B.



2 Work in pairs. Look at audioscript 1.75 on page 142 to check your answers. Practise the dialogues with your partner.

3 Prepare a similar dialogue for the other picture.



Useful language

Excuse me, can you repeat that, please?
Can you write it for me on a piece of paper?
I'm sorry, I don't understand. Do you speak Spanish/French/Polish ...?
I only speak a little English.
Can you speak more slowly, please?

