

Timetables and announcements

Timetables provide written information about arrival and departure times of planes, underground trains, buses, coaches and trains. Inside stations, electronic departure and arrival boards are visible and located at key points. Besides times they may also show symbols explaining important details about the kinds of service offered, such as, for example, stopovers, frequency, classes, catering facilities, etc. Symbols may change from country to country, so a careful reading of the key notes and their meaning is advised to all travellers.

Announcements, instead, are oral messages providing travellers with information about the

transportation service operated by the station. They usually concern delays, changes and general information about the progress of the daily service. The language is formal, clear and imperative, so as to prevent misinterpretations.



OP
ERA
TOR

Giving information about times and dates

*There's a train at... departing from platform... and arriving at...
I'm afraid there is nothing before/after this one.
This service runs on working days only. / This service is operated from... to...
There are some delays in the service today, so you need to listen to the announcements.*

Giving information about prices

*It's ... £/€/\$.
A supplement should be paid in case of ticket class change or sleeping car accommodation.*

Giving information about general information and services

*It leaves from bay/platform...
The train/coach stops in... / There is a stopover in...
No, there are no stops between... and... / Yes, it is a direct service.
Yes, sure. / No, I'm afraid there isn't.
They arrive at/leave from... station.*

OP
ERA
TOR

*The... train number... to... is departing from/arriving at platform number...
Attention please, train number... from... is running approximately... minutes late. We apologise for any inconvenience it may cause.
Your attention please, this is a platform alteration. The... train to... is leaving from platform... instead of platform...
We regret to announce that the coach arriving from... is delayed... minutes.
Please, do not leave your luggage unattended. Any unattended item will be promptly removed by security staff.
Alight here for...
The coach to... is leaving from bay...
Due to traffic congestion, the coach arriving from... is delayed... minutes.*

CU
STO
MER

Asking about times and dates

*Excuse me, is there a train to... around... o'clock, please?
Isn't there anything a bit earlier/later?
What time does it get to...?
Is there a coach to... on Sundays?*

Asking about prices

*How much is the second class fare?
Do I have to pay a supplement?*

Asking about general information and services

*What platform does it leave from?
Are there any stops? / Is it a direct service?
Is there a buffet car on the train?
Can you tell me which station the trains to... arrive at/leave from?
How long does it take to go to... ?*





1 Listen to these conversations at the information office at Venice Santa Lucia station and find out this information.

Conversation 1

1. departure time:
2. departure station:
3. arrival time:
4. arrival station:
5. number of tickets:
6. class:
7. number of stops:

Conversation 2

8. departure time:
9. departure station:
10. arrival time:
11. arrival station:
12. number of tickets:
13. class:
14. total cost:



2 Listen to the announcements at London Paddington Station and fill in the table.

	From	To	Time	Platform
1	Paddington			
2	Paddington			
3	Paddington			
4		Paddington		
5		Paddington		



3 **PAIR WORK** Act out a conversation between a traveller from Leicester coach station and an information officer.



DEPARTS	FROM	TO	ARRIVES	DURATION	STOPOVERS	PLATFORM
13:15	Leicester coach st.	Manchester coach st.	18:00	4h45m	Birmingham	9
17:20	Leicester coach st.	Manchester coach st.	20:40	3h20m	0	4
19:40	Leicester coach st.	Manchester coach st.	23:59	4h19m	Birmingham	11

Leicester coach station: Gravel street, Leicester, LA1 3AG
Manchester coach station: Chorlton street, Manchester M1 3JF

Dialogue 1

Two young boys would like some information about departure and arrival times of coaches from Leicester to Manchester. They want to leave in the afternoon so that they can be in Manchester before 7 pm.

Dialogue 2

A group of friends want to go to Manchester tomorrow for an evening event that will start at about 11 pm. They have to be there a couple of hours earlier. They prefer a direct coach.