

Un billete para ...

Using public transport while abroad widens horizons considerably – and it pays to give your learners the confidence to plan independent journeys. This activity practises asking standard questions at a train station and understanding likely answers. It includes asking what time trains depart and arrive, which means that learners need to be able to say and understand times before they can tackle it, ideally both online in Spanish Steps and in a group activity.

Getting ready

The master timetable below contains information about trains departing from Madrid's Atocha station. You'll need it during the activity to see all the information at a glance.

On page 2, there are two versions of this timetable, each with different pieces of information missing. Make copies of these, one set per pair of learners. If you're looking for a longer activity, you can blank out some more information.

Remind your group of the Spanish Steps dialogue at the railway station in Atocha, where Kevin buys a ticket to Segovia. Then practise the phrases needed to

- ask for a return ticket to somewhere
(Un billete de ida y vuelta para Toledo, por favor.)
- ask how much it costs
(¿Cuánto es?)
- ask what time the train leaves and gets to the destination
(¿El tren para Segovia sale a qué hora? ¿El tren para Granada llega a qué hora?)
- find out which platform the train leaves from
(¿De qué andén sale el tren para Sevilla?)

Getting them talking

Learners work in pairs, one with version A of the timetable and the other with version B. On no account must they show their timetables to each other.

Explain that each person has information on his/her timetable that is missing from his/her partner's; the only way to find that information is by asking the right questions in Spanish – exactly as they would have to if they were talking to staff at Atocha station.

The aim is to find all the missing information and enter it in the spaces. When all the blanks are filled, pairs should compare timetables – which should be identical.

Master timetable

Destino	Andén	Salida	Llegada	Precio de ida y vuelta
Ciudad Real	4	08h15	09.12	€ 42.00
Toledo	8	10h30	11h30	€ 9.60
Córdoba	3	09h00	10h50	€ 90.00
Sevilla	7	11h00	13h50	€ 100.00
Granada	2	17h00	22h50	€ 65.00
Aranjuez	4	17h45	18h15	€ 9.60

A

Destino	Andén	Salida	Llegada	Precio de ida y vuelta
Ciudad Real	4	?	?	€ 42.00
Toledo	8	10h30	11h30	?
Córdoba	?	09h00	10h50	€ 90.00
Sevilla	7	11h00	?	€ 100.00
Granada	2	17h00	22h50	?
Aranjuez	?	?	18h15	€ 9,60



B

Destino	Andén	Salida	Llegada	Precio de ida y vuelta
Ciudad Real	?	08h15	09.12	?
Toledo	8	?	11h30	€ 9.60
Córdoba	3	09h00	?	?
Sevilla	?	11h00	13h50	€ 100.00
Granada	2	17h00	?	€ 65.00
Aranjuez	4	17h45	?	€ 9.60