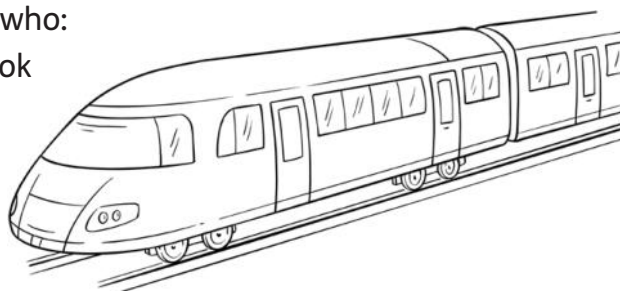


On the train

1. Read the sketch.
2. Form groups of two students and decide who is who:
 - the rail traveler¹ **Matt** who wants to read a book
 - the rail traveler **David** who wants to talk
3. Act out the sketch.
4. Swap roles.



A man called Matt sits in the train and reads a book. Another man – his name is David – enters the compartment².

David: Good evening! Is this seat taken?

Matt: Hi. No, it's free.

David: Lucky me! (*sits down and looks out of the window*) Beautiful day, right?

Matt: (*doesn't look up*) Mmmm ... yes.

David: What are you reading?

Matt: (*doesn't look up*) A book.

David: I can see that, man. What kind of book? Is it good?

Matt: (*slightly annoyed*) It's alright.

David: Do you want to know what book I read?

Matt: (*irritated*³) No, not really.

David: It's a great book about two women who get lost in the desert. They have no water, no food – all they have is each other. Suddenly a man appears ... Guess what happens next.

Matt: (*angrily*) To be honest, I don't care. Actually, I just want to read my book – without talking.

David: Oh, sorry. Message received⁴. I won't bother⁵ you anymore.

Matt: Thanks.

David: No problem. I get it. Small talk is not for everyone.

Matt: Right.

David: My sister doesn't like small talk either. Whenever I try to talk to her about the weather, she tells me to go away and waste⁶ someone else's time.

Matt: Your sister sounds nice.

David: She is. At least most of the time. Have you got a sister or a brother? There's nothing more important than family, right?

Matt: Right. (*looks at his book again*)

David: Oh yeah, right. Got it. No more talking.

Matt: (*impatiently*⁷) Yes, please.

1 rail traveler = Bahnreisende/r

2 compartment = Abteil

3 irritated = genervt

4 to receive = erhalten, empfangen

5 to bother sb. = jdn. behelligen, belästigen

6 to waste = verschwenden

7 impatiently = geduldslos

On the train

- David:** (*finds a menu⁸ on the seat next to himself and looks at it*) Oh, they offer food here. That's interesting. (*reads*) Chips, cashews and almonds. (*to Matt*) Hey, I bet you didn't know that cashews and almonds are no real nuts. That's crazy, isn't it?
- Matt:** (*doesn't look up and answers angrily*) Yeah ... crazy.
- David:** I know. (*looks at the menu*) And they've got all kinds of drinks. Juice, espresso, cappuccino, latte macchiato ... I never know how to pronounce this. Do you know it?
- Matt:** (*looks around and whispers*) Listen, I'm going to tell you a secret.
- David:** Uhhh, great. I love secrets!
- Matt:** I'm not allowed to speak to anyone because I am on a secret mission. I work for powerful people from Italy.
- David:** Really? Wow. Let me guess: You are a real mafioso.
- Matt:** I can't say anything. It would put you in great danger. You don't want that, do you?
- David:** No, definitely not. (*takes out his phone and dials a number*) Yeah, it's me. Found him. (*waits*) No, he doesn't look dangerous. I can handle him alone. (*waits*) See you at the police station. (*hangs up the phone*)
- Matt:** Excuse me?
- David:** My instinct was right. I've been a cop for a long time, you know. We've been looking for you for quite a while, Antonio.
- Matt:** What are you talking about? My name is Matt. I'm a cook.
- David:** Tell that to my colleagues at the police station. And now turn around. (*turns Matt around and handcuffs⁹ him*)
- Matt:** Stop that! Are you crazy? I only made that story up because you wouldn't stop talking.
- David:** Nice try, Antonio. It's over.

8 menu = Speisekarte

9 *anlegen* = anlegen; *Handschellen anlegen*



Your role: David

Read the card and act out your role.

Who is in the sketch? Two men: Matt and David

Where is it? On the train

What happens?

- You enter a train compartment¹ and ask the reading man who is already sitting there if the seat next to him is free.
- You sit down next to him.
- You try to start some small talk about the book that the man reads and about the book you currently read. It's about two women who get lost in the desert.
- When he asks you to stop talking, you are quiet for about half a minute.
- Now you chat about your sister who hates small talk too and about how important family is. You ask the other man about his family.
- Then you find the menu² and talk about the offered food and drinks.
- When the man tells you that he is on a secret mission for important people from Italy and that he can't talk to you because of this, you are sure that you have found the criminal that you have been looking for.
- You take out your phone and make a call in which you say that you have found Antonio.
- You tell the man that you work for Scotland Yard.
- When the man tells you that he made up his secret mission for Italian guys to stop you from making small talk, you ignore him.
- You order him to turn around so that you can handcuff³ him. You say to him that it's over and that you'll take him to the police station now.



1 compartment = Abteil

2 menu = Speisekarte

3 to handcuff sb. = jdm. Handschellen anlegen