

13th August 2023 – Middle B1+/B2

The Japanese *Shinkansen*, generally known as bullet trains and famed for their high speeds, are phasing out sales of food. The trains have been operating since 1964 and their popular food carts have always been an enjoyment for passengers. However in recent years, not only has there been less demand for food onboard, but also there has been no shortage of food sales on platforms. People are either buying from vending machines or bringing their own food such as the traditional Japanese *bento* **boxed** lunches. The change takes place this autumn on the original bullet train connection between Tokyo and Osaka. For customers with a **desire** for food, it will only be available in the first-class carriages and only if purchased **in advance** via an app. The slower *Kodama* bullet train on the same Tokyo-Osaka service already stopped food cart sales in 2012. Now the same applies on the other services, both the faster *Nozomi* and *Hikari* trains. So as travellers pass by landmarks such as Mount Fuji, they will need to have made **alternative** plans for food, or stay hungry. This also signals a reduction in the number of cabin crew who would be needed to push the carts up and down the aisles. **Plus** they will be dressed more simply. Female staff will neither have to wear skirts nor hats, they can be at ease in trousers and without hats. Yet the crew will still follow Japanese etiquette, bowing when entering and leaving the coaches.

Q1. \_\_\_\_\_

Preparing food for a trip or buying food on a trip – think of three good reasons for both options.

Taking “the scenic route” or going “as the bird flies”. What do these travelling phrases mean and which is the better way to travel?

Q2. \_\_\_\_\_

Which bolded words in the text mean:

1. cut .....
2. need .....
3. manners .....
4. different .....
5. also .....

6. earlier .....
7. working .....
8. happiness .....
9. sights .....
10. packed .....

Q3. \_\_\_\_\_

What does the italicised phrase below mean – *feared, recorded, or noted?*

*famed* for their high speeds

Q4. \_\_\_\_\_

Link the five synonym pairs:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. phase out  | A. line     |
| 2. connection | B. corridor |
| 3. shortage   | C. through  |
| 4. aisle      | D. lack     |
| 5. via        | E. end      |

Link the three antonym pairs:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. at ease    | A. increase |
| 2. reduction  | B. later    |
| 3. in advance | C. stressed |

Q5. \_\_\_\_\_

Spell the words correctly:

1. p i l s a e p .....
2. l s P u .....
3. q t i e t e u e t .....
4. r o i e a p g n t .....
5. o e c n t o n i n c .....

Q6. \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

What are the job responsibilities of cabin crew?

What did people do when travelling before the internet existed?

What jobs are associated with hats, helmets, or masks?

Q7. \_\_\_\_\_

How many words can you make from the letters in *platforms*?

Q8. \_\_\_\_\_

15 B2 lesson keywords: underlined in text.