



Asking for Directions and Buying Train Tickets

KS3

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14



3 min read

Getting Around in a Foreign Country

When you travel to another country, you'll need to communicate with local people to find your way around and get tickets. Learning a few key **phrases in the local language** can make your trip much easier and more fun. Whether you're asking a stranger for help or buying a train ticket at a station, knowing what to say is really important.

Asking for Directions

The first thing to know is how to **politely ask for help**. In most languages, you start by saying something like "**Excuse me**" or "**Please**." Then you ask your question clearly. For example, you might say "**Where is the train station?**" or "**How do I get to the museum?**"

Think of it like asking a friend at school where the science block is—you say "excuse me" first to get their attention, then ask your question politely.

When someone gives you directions, they might mention **landmarks** (like a church or fountain), tell you to turn **left** or **right**, or say how many **metres** or **blocks** to walk. It's helpful to repeat back what they said to make sure you understood correctly.

Buying a Train Ticket

At the train station, you'll need to talk to someone at the **ticket counter**. First, decide where you want to go and when. Then you ask for a ticket. A simple way to do this is: "**One ticket to [city name], please**." You should also mention if you want a **return ticket** (going both ways) or a **single ticket** (one way only).

Think of it like ordering food at a café—you tell the person what you want, how many you need, and whether you want it "to stay" or "to go."

The ticket seller might ask you questions like "**What time would you like to travel?**" or "**Do you want first or second class?**" **First class** is more comfortable

and costs more money, while **second class** is cheaper. Have your money ready, and check your **ticket** before you leave the counter to make sure all the details are correct.

Practice Makes Perfect

The best way to prepare is to **practise these phrases** before your trip. You could write them down on a piece of paper, record yourself saying them, or ask your teacher or a **native speaker** to help you. Don't worry about making mistakes—most people are happy to help travellers who are trying to speak their language!