

PART I: READING

- 1.1** Read the passage about transportation. Check (✓) the best prediction of what the reading is about. There is only one right answer.

Allan Hendricks is having a drink while traveling 250 miles per hour on a TGV. "This is the best way to travel," he says. TGVs, or *trains à grande vitesse*, French for high-speed trains, are the fastest trains in the world. One TGV train travels at 357 miles per hour. "We could have these in the United States," Hendricks, a transportation expert, says. "But the high-speed-train situation in America is complicated."

- _____ A. Allan Hendricks
_____ B. technology
_____ C. high-speed trains
_____ D. transportation experts

- 1.2** Now read the entire article. Use the information to choose the correct answers.

On a TGV

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High-speed trains have many advantages. Travel is often faster than by airplane. Train stations are close to downtown, and there is less waiting than at airports. For example, a flight from London to Paris takes around three and a half hours total, including time at both airports. The TGV travels from London to Paris in two and a half hours. "The trip is more comfortable on the train as well," adds Hendricks. Trains also use much less gas and create less pollution than airplanes. Additionally, trains can stop in other cities before they reach their destination. For these reasons, high-speed trains are common in Europe and Asia. Why not the United States?

"High-speed trains may make sense for the United States, but they are not such a great deal," says Hendricks. Unlike in Europe and much of Asia, cities in the United States are often far apart. Another problem is that high-speed trains are very expensive to build. Also, Americans usually prefer to rent a car or book airline tickets when they travel. But as gas prices and interest in helping the environment increase, Americans may begin to appreciate trains more. "The more people who take trains, the lower the fares will be," says Hendricks. "And for most people, that is what is most important."

Check (✓) the best answer to complete each sentence.

1. *Train à grande vitesse* means _____ in French.
 A. fastest train in the world
 B. best way to travel
 C. high-speed train
 D. fast travel vehicle
2. Allan Hendricks thinks travel on airplanes is not very _____.
 A. safe
 B. comfortable
 C. complicated
 D. expensive
3. The high-speed-train situation in the United States is complicated because _____.
 A. it has advantages and disadvantages
 B. the technology doesn't exist in the United States
 C. the trains travel 250 miles per hour
 D. American cities are too big
4. Hendricks says that for most travelers what is most important is _____.
 A. the environment
 B. comfort
 C. the speed of the trip
 D. the price of the ticket
5. Hendricks probably thinks the United States should _____ a high-speed-train system.
 A. forget about
 B. buy
 C. rent
 D. look into

- 1.3** Read the passage from “On the Road with John Madden” in NorthStar: Reading and Writing 2, Unit 8. Use the information from this reading and “On a TGV” to complete the activity. The first one has been done for you.

On the Road with John Madden

John Madden is one of 25 million people in the United States who are afraid of flying. These people spend millions of dollars every year trying to cure¹ their fear of flying. They go to classes, they see psychologists, and they take medications to help them with their fear. They think that they can’t live normal lives if they can’t fly.

John Madden decided not to try to cure his fear of flying; he decided to work with it. While he was coaching the Oakland Raiders, he traveled by train. Then he bought a motor home and decided that was the best way to travel. “It’s not the fastest way to travel,” says Madden, “but it’s definitely the most comfortable.” He has owned several motor homes over the last few years. The last one he bought is 45 feet long with a living room, office, small kitchen, and 1-1/2 bathrooms. He has three TVs and a full-size refrigerator.

Madden travels with several people who drive for him. This way he can be on the road 24 hours a day. He says that he is as comfortable in his motor home as a first-class airplane passenger. His fear of flying doesn’t seem to get in his way² at all. He is a great example for people who are afraid of flying.

¹ **cure:** to make an illness or problem disappear

² **get in his way:** to prevent him from doing something

Description	John Madden	Allan Hendricks	Both
He travels for his work.			✓
1. He wants to travel fast.			
2. He is afraid of flying.			
3. He thinks airplanes are not the most comfortable way to travel.			
4. He can have a drink while he travels.			

PART 2: VOCABULARY

2.1 Read the interview with Allan Hendricks. Use the words from the box to fill in the blanks. Not all of the words will be used.

a great deal	border	convenient	round-trip
arrange	coast	destination	schedule
book a ticket	complicated	fares	

INTERVIEWER: So, Mr. Hendricks, is a high-speed rail system in the United States possible?

ALLAN HENDRICKS: It isn't cheap, but it is possible. The best place for a high-speed rail system in the U.S. is on the east _____, between Washington D.C. and Boston. One day, the train could go all the way to the _____ with Canada.

INTERVIEWER: Why do many Europeans prefer high-speed trains to airplanes?

ALLAN HENDRICKS: Train travel is the most _____ way to travel for them. The stations are closer to their homes. Also, the _____ are usually cheaper on trains than on airplanes. For example, a _____ ticket from Paris to Berlin costs \$280 on the train and \$410 if you fly. If you compare the two prices, the train ticket is _____.

INTERVIEWER: Is it easy to _____ a journey on a high-speed train?

ALLAN HENDRICKS: It is very easy. First, you choose your _____. Then check the _____ to see when trains leave for that city. Choose the time you want, and you are ready to _____.

PART 3: SKILLS FOR WRITING

3.1 Fill in the blank with the superlative form of the adjective in parentheses.

High-speed trains are the most comfortable way to travel.
(comfortable)

1. Airplanes are sometimes _____ way to travel.
(fast)
2. Airplanes are also _____ way to travel.
(expensive)
3. Hendricks thinks the TGV is _____ way to get to Paris.
(good)
4. Nagoya station in Japan is _____ train station in the world.
(big)
5. Shinjuku station in Tokyo is _____ train station.
(busy)
6. Holidays are often _____ time to travel.
(bad)

3.2 Combine the sentences with the correct connector word (**and** or **but**). Add the correct punctuation.

1. High-speed trains are comfortable. They are convenient.

2. High-speed trains help the environment. They are expensive to build.

3. In Europe cities are close to each other. In America they are far apart.

4. Americans like to drive. They often rent cars when they take vacations.

PART 4: WRITING**A Persuasive E-mail (20 minutes)**

Write an e-mail to a friend about transportation in a country you know. Persuade your friend to use this transportation.

- Tell which type of transportation is the best in that country.
- Tell about the advantages of that type of transportation.
- Tell about other ways of traveling and their disadvantages.
- Tell one disadvantage of your way of traveling, and then say why it is not really a problem.
- Connect sentences with *and* or *but* and the correct punctuation.
- Use the vocabulary and grammar from Unit 8.

Unit 8 Vocabulary Words					
a great deal	book tickets	coast	convenient	look into	round-trip
appreciate	border	comfortable	destination	pollution	schedule
arrange a journey	cheap	complicated	fares	rent a car	set an example
Unit 8 Grammar: Superlative Form of Adjectives					
• The bus is the most comfortable way to get to the capital.					