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Level 5

Apology after Japanese train leaves 20 seconds early

18th November, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-5.html>

Japan's trains are renowned for their punctuality. People say Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. Others say you can set your watch by a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies apologize to passengers for delayed or cancelled trains. However, the operators of a Tokyo express train apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. The high-speed train pulled out of a station earlier than scheduled when staff failed to check the departure timetable. The company said it had not received any complaints from passengers.

The Tsukuba Express company said the train crew failed to accurately perform the departure operations. It made a statement that read it "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Someone on Twitter wrote: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early departure is one of the best things about Japan." A UK commuter tweeted: "They apologize for being 20 seconds early, and yet you don't get an apology from any major UK train company until they're over 2 hours late."

Sources: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-16/japan-rail-operator-says-sorry-as-train-leaves-20-seconds-early>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/16/japanese-rail-company-apologises-train-departs-20-seconds-early/>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5089569/Japanese-train-leaves-20-secs-early-company-apologises.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Japan's trains are renowned for | a. watch |
| 2. Japan's rail network is the envy | b. out of a station |
| 3. set your | c. from passengers |
| 4. delayed or | d. a Tokyo express train |
| 5. the operators of | e. their punctuality |
| 6. The high-speed train pulled | f. timetable |
| 7. check the departure | g. cancelled trains |
| 8. it had not received any complaints | h. of the world |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the train | a. an apology |
| 2. accurately perform the | b. minutes later |
| 3. severe | c. commuter |
| 4. the next train was just four | d. 2 hours late |
| 5. one of the best | e. inconvenience |
| 6. A UK | f. crew failed |
| 7. you don't get | g. things about Japan |
| 8. they're over | h. departure operations |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-5.html>

Japan's trains (1) _____ their punctuality. People say Japan's rail network is (2) _____ the world. Others say you can set your watch by a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies apologize to passengers (3) _____ cancelled trains. However, the operators of a Tokyo express train (4) _____ of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. The high-speed train pulled out of a station earlier than scheduled when (5) _____ check the departure timetable. The company said it had not received (6) _____ passengers.

The Tsukuba Express company said the train crew (7) _____ perform the departure operations. It made a statement that read it (8) _____ the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers, (9) _____ next train was just four minutes later. Someone on Twitter wrote: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early (10) _____ of the best things about Japan." A UK commuter tweeted: "They (11) _____ 20 seconds early, and yet you don't get an apology (12) _____ UK train company until they're over 2 hours late."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-5.html>

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TRAIN PUNCTUALITY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171118-train-punctuality-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about train punctuality in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

