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Level 6

Apology after Japanese train leaves 20 seconds early

18th November, 2017

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Train companies in Japan are renowned for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for delayed trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express line apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the apology, the high-speed train pulled out of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due to staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company issued the apology, it said it had not received any complaints from passengers.

Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not sufficiently check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations. The company made a statement in Japanese on its website. It "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the scheduled train, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Many people tweeted about the apology. One tweet read: "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>

WARM-UPS

1. TRAIN PUNCTUALITY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about train punctuality. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

train companies / rail network / envy / departure / delayed / cancellation / station / express / website / inconvenience / apology / commuter / 20 seconds / major

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BEING PUNCTUAL: Students A **strongly** believe being punctual is very important; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PUNCTUALITY: How important is punctuality in these situations? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How important?	Why?
English class		
First date		
Your wedding		
Work		
Meeting a friend		
Job interview		

5. RAIL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rail". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. DELAYED: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to be delayed at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a train
- an airplane flight
- a book launch
- a hospital operation
- road works
- a sporting event
- having children
- a holiday

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. renowned | a. Happening or doing something at the agreed or proper time. |
| 2. punctuality | b. Things you say or write about regarding a situation that is unsatisfactory or unacceptable. |
| 3. envy | c. Included in or planned according to a timetable. |
| 4. departure | d. Make someone or something late or slow. |
| 5. delayed | e. The action of leaving, typically to start a journey. |
| 6. scheduled | f. Known or talked about by many people; famous. |
| 7. complaints | g. A feeling of wanting / jealousy something by seeing someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. crew | h. A person who travels to work on a regular basis. |
| 9. sufficiently | i. Trouble or difficulty caused to one's personal requirements or comfort. |
| 10. accurately | j. Of something bad or undesirable that is very great; intense. |
| 11. severe | k. A group of people who work on and operate a ship, boat, aircraft, spacecraft, or train. |
| 12. inconvenience | l. Important, serious, or significant. |
| 13. commuter | m. Enough; adequate. |
| 14. major | n. Of information, measurements, statistics, etc. that is/are correct in all details. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article said people believe Japan's railways are the envy of the world. **T / F**
- b. The article said people leave their watches on Japanese trains. **T / F**
- c. The article said all train companies worldwide apologize for delays. **T / F**
- d. The train company got eight complaints about its train departing early. **T / F**
- e. The train crew did not check the departure operations properly. **T / F**
- f. The company apologized for the severe inconvenience caused. **T / F**
- g. Another train was four minutes behind the one that left early. **T / F**
- h. UK train companies apologize for trains being two minutes late. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. renowned | a. passenger |
| 2. claim | b. left |
| 3. envy | c. examine |
| 4. pulled out | d. famous |
| 5. timetable | e. trouble |
| 6. check | f. schedule |
| 7. severe | g. assert |
| 8. inconvenience | h. big |
| 9. commuter | i. very bad |
| 10. major | j. jealousy |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Train companies in Japan are renowned | a. own watch |
| 2. Japan's rail network is the envy | b. passengers |
| 3. you can set your | c. scheduled train |
| 4. delayed trains or | d. time |
| 5. it had not received any complaints from | e. UK train company |
| 6. check the departure | f. for their punctuality |
| 7. It deeply apologized for the severe | g. cancellations |
| 8. passengers who missed the | h. things about Japan |
| 9. one of the best | i. of the world |
| 10. an apology from any major | j. inconvenience |

GAP FILL

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

Train companies in Japan are (1) _____ for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the (2) _____ of the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's (3) _____. Most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for (4) _____ trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express line (5) _____ for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the apology, the high-speed train (6) _____ out of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due to staff members failing to check the departure (7) _____. Even though the company issued the apology, it said it had not received any (8) _____ from passengers.

departure
timetable
apologized
renowned
complaints
envy
delayed
pulled

Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not (9) _____ check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure (10) _____. The company made a statement in Japanese on its website. It "(11) _____" apologized for the "(12) _____ inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the (13) _____ train, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Many people (14) _____ about the apology. One tweet read: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early departure is one of the best things about Japan." A UK (15) _____ tweeted: "They apologize for being 20 seconds early, and yet you don't get an apology from any (16) _____ UK train company until they're over 2 hours late."

deeply
tweeted
operations
scheduled
major
sufficiently
commuter
severe

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Train companies in Japan are renowned for _____
 - a. their punctually
 - b. their punctual it tea
 - c. their punctuality
 - d. their punk chew a little
- 2) Many people claim Japan's rail network is the _____ world
 - a. envies of the
 - b. envy of the
 - c. envious of the
 - d. envied of the
- 3) companies around the world apologize to passengers _____ trains
 - a. for delayed
 - b. for relayed
 - c. for elate
 - d. for relate
- 4) due to staff members failing to check _____ timetable
 - a. the depart your
 - b. the deep art your
 - c. the depart chore
 - d. the departure
- 5) Even though the company _____ apology
 - a. issued a
 - b. issued then
 - c. issue the
 - d. issued the
- 6) Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not _____
 - a. sufficiently check
 - b. sufficiency check
 - c. sufficient recheck
 - d. suffice shan't check
- 7) The company made a statement in Japanese _____
 - a. on nits website
 - b. on knits website
 - c. on its website
 - d. onyx website
- 8) apologized for the severe inconvenience caused to passengers _____ scheduled train
 - a. whom mist the
 - b. who mist the
 - c. who misses the
 - d. who missed the
- 9) apology for 20-second-early departure is one of the best _____ Japan
 - a. thing about
 - b. things about
 - c. thingies about
 - d. thinks about
- 10) any major UK train company until they're _____ late
 - a. over 2 hours
 - b. overly 2 hours
 - c. rover 2 hours
 - d. overt 2 hours

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Train companies in Japan (1) _____ their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is (2) _____ the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the (3) _____ passengers for delayed trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express (4) _____ one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the apology, the high-speed train pulled out of a station 20 seconds earlier than (5) _____ staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company issued the apology, it said it had not received (6) _____ passengers.

Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew (7) _____ check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations. The company (8) _____ in Japanese on its website. It "deeply" apologized for the "(9) _____" caused to passengers who missed the scheduled train, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Many people tweeted (10) _____. One tweet read: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early departure is one of the best things about Japan." A UK commuter tweeted: "(11) _____ being 20 seconds early, and yet you don't get an apology (12) _____ UK train company until they're over 2 hours late."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What are train companies in Japan renowned for?
2. What do people say you can set by a Japanese train's departure?
3. What kind of train did the article say departed too early?
4. What did staff members fail to check?
5. What did the train company say it had not received?
6. What did the train crew fail to sufficiently check?
7. What kind of inconvenience did the train company apologize for?
8. How much longer did passengers have to wait for the next train?
9. What did a Tweeter say was one of the best things about Japan?
10. When did a tweeter say major UK train companies apologized for delays?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What are train companies in Japan renowned for?
 - a) innovation
 - b) good employers
 - c) punctuality
 - d) manners
- 2) What do people say you can set by a Japanese train's departure?
 - a) your watch
 - b) a world record
 - c) a back
 - d) exchange rates
- 3) What kind of train did the article say departed too early?
 - a) a rush-hour train
 - b) a bullet train
 - c) a local train
 - d) a high-speed train
- 4) What did staff members fail to check?
 - a) if the doors were closed
 - b) the departure timetable
 - c) the rails
 - d) the Internet
- 5) What did the train company say it had not received?
 - a) money
 - b) feedback
 - c) complaints
 - d) a warning
- 6) What did the train crew fail to sufficiently check?
 - a) the brakes
 - b) the departure time
 - c) passenger safety
 - d) the training manual
- 7) What kind of inconvenience did the train company apologize for?
 - a) terrible inconvenience
 - b) unplanned inconvenience
 - c) minor inconvenience
 - d) severe inconvenience
- 8) How much longer did passengers have to wait for the next train?
 - a) 14 minutes
 - b) 4 minutes
 - c) 34 minutes
 - d) 24 minutes
- 9) What did a Tweeter say was one of the best things about Japan?
 - a) the train company's apology
 - b) sushi
 - c) the bullet train
 - d) punctuality
- 10) When did a tweeter say major UK train companies apologized for delays?
 - a) after 20 minutes
 - b) every time
 - c) on Tuesdays
 - d) after two hours

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – A Train

You think a train is the worst thing to be delayed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad for their things being delayed. Also, tell the others which of these involves the fewest problems when being delayed (and why): road works, having children or a sporting event.

Role B – Road Works

You think road works is the worst thing to be delayed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad for their things being delayed. Also, tell the others which of these involves the fewest problems when being delayed (and why): a train, having children or a sporting event.

Role C – Having Children

You think having children is the worst thing to be delayed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad for their things being delayed. Also, tell the others which of these involves the fewest problems when being delayed (and why): road works, a train or a sporting event.

Role D – A Sporting Event

You think a sporting event is the worst thing to be delayed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad for their things being delayed. Also, tell the others which of these involves the fewest problems when being delayed (and why): road works, having children or a train.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'express' and 'train'.

express	train
----------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• claim• set• delayed• high• staff• issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• crew• website• missed• four• best• major
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

TRAIN PUNCTUALITY SURVEY

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

TRAIN PUNCTUALITY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'train'?
3. What do you know about Japan's trains?
4. What thing in your country is the envy of the world?
5. What are the trains like in your country?
6. How can Japanese trains be so amazingly punctual?
7. How punctual are you?
8. What experiences do you have of trains not being on time?
9. What would you complain about to a train company?
10. Do you think the company needed to apologize?

Apology after Japanese train leaves 20 seconds early – 18th November, 2017
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TRAIN PUNCTUALITY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'punctuality'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about Japan's bullet train?
15. How important is punctuality?
16. What should happen to the crew who did not check the schedule?
17. When has a train company inconvenienced you?
18. What is one of the best things about your country?
19. Has there been a time when you were very unpunctual?
20. What questions would you like to ask the train company CEO?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Train companies in Japan are (1) _____ for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the (2) _____ of the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for (3) _____ trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express line apologized for one of its trains (4) _____ 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the apology, the high-speed train pulled (5) _____ of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due to staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company (6) _____ the apology, it said it had not received any complaints from passengers.

Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not (7) _____ check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations. The company made a statement (8) _____ Japanese on its website. It "(9) _____" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the scheduled train, even though the next train was just four minutes (10) _____. Many people tweeted about the apology. One tweet read: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early (11) _____ 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 (12) _____ they're over 2 hours late."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) renowned | (b) renewed | (c) renounced | (d) renamed |
| 2. | (a) jealousy | (b) covet | (c) envy | (d) crave |
| 3. | (a) delays | (b) relays | (c) delayed | (d) relayed |
| 4. | (a) left | (b) leave | (c) leaves | (d) leaving |
| 5. | (a) out | (b) up | (c) in | (d) over |
| 6. | (a) issuing | (b) issued | (c) issue | (d) issues |
| 7. | (a) suffocating | (b) suffusing | (c) suffering | (d) sufficiently |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) of | (d) on |
| 9. | (a) deepest | (b) deepen | (c) deeply | (d) deeps |
| 10. | (a) lateness | (b) later | (c) lately | (d) late |
| 11. | (a) departing | (b) departs | (c) departed | (d) departure |
| 12. | (a) still | (b) until | (c) after | (d) by |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. renowned for their ayttnupculi
2. a Japanese train's rutrapede
3. apologize to pnegserssa
4. gcdraconi to
5. earlier than sdcdelueh
6. it had not received any olimapsntc

Paragraph 2

7. did not iinuftyefcsl check
8. failed to rtecacluya perform
9. The company made a aetemtstn
10. evrsee inconvenience
11. tweeted about the oyagplo
12. A UK ecruotmm tweeted

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

() time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations. The company made a statement in Japanese on its

() world apologize to passengers for delayed trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express

() about the apology. One tweet read: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early departure is

() to staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company issued

(**1**) Train companies in Japan are renowned for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the envy

() the apology, it said it had not received any complaints from passengers.

() website. It "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed

() apology, the high-speed train pulled out of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due

() of the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the

() line apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the

() one of the best things about Japan." A UK commuter tweeted: "They apologize for

() Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not sufficiently check the departure

() 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."

() the scheduled train, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Many people tweeted

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Train renowned companies for in their Japan punctuality are .
2. is world the Japan's envy rail of network the .
3. - pulled a high train of The speed out station .
4. to members to Due staff failing check .
5. not had It said any received complaints it .
6. The not train sufficiently crew check did .
7. for severe It apologized the inconvenience deeply .
8. Passengers the who missed train scheduled .
9. The train just later next was four minutes .
10. an from Get train any apology company major .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Train companies in Japan are *renowned* / *re-owned* for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the *envy* / *envious* of the world. Others say you can *let* / *set* your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for *delayed* / *delay* trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express *lined* / *line* apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the *apology* / *apologize*, the high-speed train pulled *over* / *out* of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due *to* / *for* staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company *issuing* / *issued* the apology, it said it had not received any *complaints* / *complaint* from passengers.

Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not *sufficient* / *sufficiently* check the departure time and failed to *accuracy* / *accurately* perform the departure operations. The company *made* / *did* a statement in Japanese on its website. It "deeply" apologized for the "*severely* / *severe* inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the *scheduled* / *schedule* train, even though the next train was *justly* / *just* four minutes later. Many people tweeted about the apology. One tweet read: "Tokyo train company's apology for 20-second-early *departure* / *departs* is one of the best things about Japan." A UK *commuter* / *computer* tweeted: "They apologize for being 20 seconds early, and yet you don't get an apology from any *majority* / *major* UK train company *still* / *until* they're over 2 hours late."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Tr__n c__mp_n__s __n J_p_n __r__r_n_wn_d f_r th__r
p_nct__l_ty. M_ny p__pl__cl__m J_p_n's r__l_n_tw_rk
__s th__nv_y f th__w_rld. __th_rs s_y_y__c_n s_t_y__r
__wn w_tch __s_ng __J_p_n_s__tr__n's d_p_rt_r. M__st
r__l__c__mp_n__s __r__nd th__w_rld __p_l_g_z__t__
p_ss_ng_rs f_r d_l_y_d tr__ns __r c_nc_ll_t__ns.
H_w_v_r, th__p_r_t_rs __f T_ky_'s Ts_k_b__xpr_ss
l_n__p_l_g_z_d f_r __n__f__ts tr__ns l__v_ng 20
s_c_nds t__ __rly __n T__sd_y. __cc_r_d_ng t__th__
__p_l_gy, th__h_g_h-sp__d tr__n p_ll_d __t__f__st__t__n
20 s_c_nds __r_l__r th_n sch_d_l_d d__t__st_ff
m__mb_rs f__l_ng t__ch_ck th__d_p_rt_r__t_m_t_bl__
__v_n th__gh th__c__mp_ny __ss__d th__p_l_gy, __t_s__d
__t h_d n_t r_c__v_d __ny c__mpl__nts fr_m p_ss_ng_rs.

B__ss_s __f th__Ts_k_b__xpr_ss s__d th__tr__n cr_w_d_d
n_t s_ff_c__ntly ch_ck th__d_p_rt_r__t_m__nd f__l_d
t__cc_r_t_ly p_rf_rm th__d_p_rt_r__p_r_t__ns. Th__
c__mp_ny m_d__ __st__t__m__nt __n J_p_n_s__ __n __ts
w__bs_t__. __t "d__ply" __p_l_g_z_d f_r th__"s_v_r__
__nc_nv_n__nc__" c__s__d t__p_ss_ng_rs wh__m__ss_d th__
sch_d_l_d tr__n, __v_n th__gh th__n_xt tr__n w_s j__st
f__r m__n_t_s l_t_r. M_ny p__pl__tw__t_d __b__t th__
__p_l_gy. __n__tw__t__r__d: "T_ky__tr__n c__mp_ny's
__p_l_gy f_r 20-s_c_nd-__rly d_p_rt_r__s __n __f th__
b__st th_ngs __b__t J_p_n." __K__c__mm__t__r tw__t_d:
"Th_y __p_l_g_z__f_r b__ng 20 s_c_nds __rly, __nd y_t
y__d_n't g__t __n __p_l_gy fr_m __ny m__j_r __K tr__n
c__mp_ny __nt_l th_y'r__v_r 2 h__rs l_t__."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

train companies in japan are renowned for their punctuality many people claim japan's rail network is the envy of the world others say you can set your own watch using a japanese train's departure most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for delayed trains or cancellations however the operators of tokyo's tsukuba express line apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on tuesday according to the apology the high-speed train pulled out of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due to staff members failing to check the departure timetable even though the company issued the apology it said it had not received any complaints from passengers

bosses of the tsukuba express said the train crew did not sufficiently check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations the company made a statement in japanese on its website it "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the scheduled train even though the next train was just four minutes later many people tweeted about the apology one tweet read "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"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Train companies in Japan are renowned for their punctuality. Many people claim Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. Others say you can set your own watch using a Japanese train's departure. Most rail companies around the world apologize to passengers for delayed trains or cancellations. However, the operators of Tokyo's Tsukuba Express line apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early on Tuesday. According to the apology, the high-speed train pulled out of a station 20 seconds earlier than scheduled due to staff members failing to check the departure timetable. Even though the company issued the apology, it said it had not received any complaints from passengers. Bosses of the Tsukuba Express said the train crew did not sufficiently check the departure time and failed to accurately perform the departure operations. The company made a statement in Japanese on its website. It "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused to passengers who missed the scheduled train, even though the next train was just four minutes later. Many people tweeted about the apology. One tweet read: "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."

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. JAPANESE TRAINS: Make a poster about Japanese trains. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. RAIL TRAVEL: Write a magazine article about rail being the best form of travel in the world. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with those who do not believe it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on train punctuality. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f 2. a 3. g 4. e 5. d 6. c 7. b
8. k 9. m 10. n 11. j 12. i 13. h 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b F c F d F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. renowned | a. famous |
| 2. claim | b. assert |
| 3. envy | c. jealousy |
| 4. pulled out | d. left |
| 5. timetable | e. schedule |
| 6. check | f. examine |
| 7. severe | g. very bad |
| 8. inconvenience | h. trouble |
| 9. commuter | i. passenger |
| 10. major | j. big |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Their punctuality
2. Your watch
3. A high-speed train
4. The departure timetable
5. Complaints from passengers
6. The departure time
7. Severe inconvenience
8. Four minutes
9. The train company's apology
10. After they are two hours late

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)