PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Reading Timetables

Difficulty level: Easy

Practical and Financial Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you catch the right bus, train, or plane, by reading the row for your route and the column for your day so you never miss your ride. A timetable looks busy at first, but it is just rows and columns, and your trip is one row crossed with one column. A weekday bus runs on a different column from a Saturday bus, and reading the wrong column is how people end up at an empty stop. Checking the day as well as the time is the habit that gets you on the right ride.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Find a bus time

Bus	Departs	Arrives
12	8:20	9:05

Must arrive by 9:30

SOLUTION

Bus 12: departs 8:20, arrives 9:05.

You must arrive by 9:30.

Take the 8:20 bus; you arrive at 9:05, in time.

Find the row for your bus and the column for your direction.

Read across to the departure time, then to the arrival time.

Check the arrival time against when you must be there: 9:05 is before 9:30, so this bus works.

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EXAMPLE 2

Q Find the journey length



SOLUTION

Train departs 10:15, arrives 12:00.

From 10:15 to 11:15 is 1 hour.

From 11:15 to 12:00 is 45 minutes. Total: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Count whole hours first: from 10:15 to 11:15 is 1 hour.

Add the remaining minutes to reach the arrival time.

Add the parts: 1 hour + 45 minutes = 1 hour 45 minutes

Practice questions

1 A bus departs at 8:20 and arrives at 9:05. How long is the journey?

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2 A train departs at 9:00 and arrives at 11:30. Another train departs at 10:00 and arrives at 12:15. Which journey is shorter?

- A The 10:00 train
- B The 9:00 train
- C They are the same length
- D Cannot tell from these times

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3 You must arrive by 4:00. A bus arrives at 3:40. Is it in time?

- A Yes
- B No

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4 What do rows in a timetable usually list?

- A One service, stop, or route each
- B The times at each stop, in order
- C The ticket prices
- D The days the buses do not run

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5 What do columns in a timetable usually list?

- A The times at each stop, in order
- B One service, stop, or route each
- C The names of the drivers
- D The colour of each bus

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A bus leaves every 30 minutes starting at 8:00. When is the third bus?

- A 8:30
- B 9:30
- C 9:00
- D 8:00

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Your bus departs at 7:45. You arrive at the stop at 7:50. Do you catch it?

- A Yes
- B No

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8 A timetable shows 14:30. What time is that in 12-hour time?

- A 2:30 p.m.
- B 2:30 a.m.
- C 4:30 p.m.
- D 12:30 p.m.

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9 A timetable shows a bus at 8:15 on weekdays and 9:15 on Saturdays. You are travelling on Saturday. Which time should you use?

- A 9:15
- B 8:15

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Why read the direction column carefully?

A So you do not follow the timetable for the opposite direction

B So you can find the cheapest ticket

C So you know the colour of the bus

D So you can count the stops

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ANSWER KEY

1. 45

2. The 10:00 train

3. Yes

4. One service, stop, or route each

5. The times at each stop, in order

6. 9:00

7. No

8. 2:30 p.m.

9. 9:15

10. So you do not follow the timetable for the opposite direction

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