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China opens world's longest high-speed railway

27th December, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. The line joins China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and stretches across half of China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and arrived in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an average speed of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities along its route. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A one-way ticket for the journey costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's economy as business people can now travel across the country a lot quicker.

Chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 December to commemorate the birth of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway track, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to extend this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told reporters: "The opening of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has started to take shape." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how proud she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has developed so quickly".

Sources: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-12/26/c_132063630.htm
http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-12/26/content_16055421.htm

WARM-UPS

1. TRAINS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about trains. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

longest / railway / capital / super-fast / journey time / different cities / one-way ticket / media / bullet train / world leader / network / reporters / proud / amazing / quickly

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

3. SPEED: Do you want faster speeds? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Yes / No	How much faster/slower?	Why?
English listening			
Trains			
Shop cashiers			
Drying hair			
Internet			
Cars			

4. TRAIN: Students A **strongly** believe trains are better than planes; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. TRANSPORT: Which is best? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- train
- plane
- bicycle
- bus
- coach
- ferry
- cruise ship
- car

6. RAILWAY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'railway'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The world's longest high-speed railway starts and ends in Shanghai. | T / F |
| b. The first train to run on the line left in the evening. | T / F |
| c. The journey between Beijing and Guangzhou is now 12 hours faster. | T / F |
| d. A ticket on the train costs less than \$140. | T / F |
| e. The train service started on the birthday of a former Chinese leader. | T / F |
| f. China already has over 10,000km of high-speed railway track. | T / F |
| g. China hopes to have 50,000km of high-speed track in the next decade. | T / F |
| h. A passenger said the train was nothing special for China. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. joins | a. departed |
| 2. stretches | b. begun |
| 3. left | c. extends |
| 4. cuts | d. faster |
| 5. quicker | e. links |
| 6. commemorate | f. pleased |
| 7. former | g. celebrate |
| 8. started | h. reduces |
| 9. proud | i. progressed |
| 10. developed | j. ex- |

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. stretches across | a. along its route |
| 2. cuts the journey time from | b. started to take shape |
| 3. It stops at 35 different cities | c. a lot quicker |
| 4. the train will help | d. train service |
| 5. travel across the country | e. half of China |
| 6. the bullet | f. developed so quickly |
| 7. commemorate the birth of former Chinese | g. the country's economy |
| 8. It plans to extend this | h. leader Mao Zedong |
| 9. China's high-speed railway network has | i. 20 hours to just eight |
| 10. It's amazing China has | j. to 16,000 km |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The longest railway line in the world (1) _____ on Wednesday. The line joins China's capital Beijing with the (2) _____ Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and (3) _____ across half of China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and (4) _____ in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an (5) _____ speed of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities along its (6) _____. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A one-way ticket for the (7) _____ costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's economy as business people can now travel across the country a lot (8) _____.

average
quicker
southern
route
stretches
opened
journey
arrived

Chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 December to commemorate the birth of (9) _____ Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's (10) _____ in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway (11) _____, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to (12) _____ this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told reporters: "The (13) _____ of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has started to take (14) _____." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how (15) _____ she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has (16) _____ so quickly".

opening
proud
track
former
developed
extend
leader
shape

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

- 1) The _____ China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.
 - a. line in joins
 - b. line joints
 - c. line enjoys
 - d. line joins
- 2) stretches _____ China.
 - a. a cross over half of
 - b. across halves of
 - c. across half of
 - d. across half for
- 3) The super-fast train travels _____ 300 kph
 - a. at the average speed of
 - b. at an over age speed of
 - c. at an average speed of
 - d. as an average speed of
- 4) It stops at 35 different _____.
 - a. cities along its route
 - b. cities a longer of its route
 - c. city is along its route
 - d. cities along it is a route
- 5) business people can now travel across _____
 - a. the country a lot quicker
 - b. China a lot quicker
 - c. the countries a lot quicker
 - d. the country a lot more quickly
- 6) commemorate _____ Chinese leader Mao Zedong
 - a. the birth of farmer
 - b. the birth for former
 - c. the birthday of former
 - d. the birth of former
- 7) The train is also a sign of China's plan to become _____-speed rail travel.
 - a. the world's reader in high
 - b. the world's lead are in high
 - c. the world's leader in high
 - d. the world's leading high
- 8) It plans to extend this _____
 - a. to 16,000 km by 2050
 - b. to 60,000 km by 2015
 - c. two 16,000 km by 2015
 - d. to 16,000 km by 2015
- 9) China's high-speed railway network has _____
 - a. started to take shape
 - b. start it to take shape
 - c. started to take a shape
 - d. started to take sharp
- 10) A passenger who travelled on the first train _____ she was
 - a. explained what proud
 - b. explained who proud
 - c. explained how proud
 - d. explained why proud

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. (1) _____ China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and stretches (2) _____ China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and arrived in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels (3) _____ of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities (4) _____. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A (5) _____ the journey costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's economy as business people (6) _____ the country a lot quicker.

Chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 December to commemorate (7) _____ Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel. It already (8) _____ high-speed railway track, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to extend this (9) _____ and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told reporters: "The opening of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-(10) _____ has (11) _____." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how proud she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has (12) _____".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

1. Which two cities does the new high-speed line join?

2. How long is the railway line?

3. How long does the journey take?

4. How much faster is the high-speed journey?

5. Who does the government hope the train will help?

6. Which ex-leader's birthday does the railway's opening celebrate?

7. How much high-speed railway track does China currently have?

8. How much track does China plan to have in 2020?

9. What did Zhou Li say about China's high-speed railway network?

10. What feeling did a passenger have for the train?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

1. On what day did the railway open?
 - a) Tuesday
 - b) Wednesday
 - c) Thursday
 - d) Friday
2. How long is the line?
 - a) 2,928 kilometers
 - b) 22,298 kilometers
 - c) 2,228 kilometers
 - d) 2,298 kilometers
3. What time did the train leave Beijing?
 - a) 9 a.m.
 - b) 9.09 a.m.
 - c) 9 p.m.
 - d) 9.09 p.m.
4. How many different cities does the train stop at?
 - a) 25
 - b) 30
 - c) 35
 - d) 40
5. How much is a one-way ticket?
 - a) 138 yuan
 - b) \$138
 - c) \$183
 - d) 183 yuan
6. On whose birthday did the first train run?
 - a) Jiang Zemin
 - b) Deng Xiaoping
 - c) Mao Zedong
 - d) Hu Jintao
7. How much high-speed railway track does China have?
 - a) 16,800 km
 - b) 6,800 km
 - c) 16,000 km
 - d) 8,600 km
8. By when does China plan to have 50,000 km of high-speed railway track?
 - a) 2020
 - b) 2025
 - c) 2030
 - d) 2050
9. Who is Zhou Li?
 - a) a worker at China's Ministry of Railways
 - b) a journalist
 - c) the first passenger on the train
 - d) a driver of the high-speed trains
10. What feeling did a passenger have?
 - a) ecstasy
 - b) pride
 - c) boredom
 - d) envy

SUPERLATIVE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The ~est or the most

	What ~est / most..... doI want?	Why?
Internet		
My hobby		
Studying		
My country		
The world		
My personal life		

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

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

high	speed
-------------	--------------

- 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">• capital• half• 9• 20• 310• 138	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth• sign• track• 2015• shows• proud
---	---

TRAINS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

Write five GOOD questions about trains 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.

TRAINS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'train'?
- c) Do you like travelling by train?
- d) Would you like to go on China's new high-speed train?
- e) What are the trains like in your country?
- f) Is train the best way to travel?
- g) Why don't more countries build high-speed trains?
- h) What would you do on a train for eight hours?
- i) Which country do you think has the best railway network?
- j) Would you worry about being on a train travelling at 300 kph?

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TRAINS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Why are high-speed trains called "bullet" trains?
- c) Do you think China will become world leader in high-speed rail travel?
- d) What do you think of China's plans?
- e) What would it be like to be a train driver?
- f) Have you met any strange people on a train?
- g) How could trains be made better?
- h) What will trains of the future be like?
- i) Are you proud of the railway network in your country?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a driver of fast China's trains?

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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. The (1) _____ China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and (2) _____ across half of China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and (3) _____ in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an average speed of 300 kph and (4) _____ the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities along its route. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A one-way ticket for the (5) _____ costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's economy (6) _____ business people can now travel across the country a lot quicker.

Chinese media say the (7) _____ train service started on 26 December to commemorate the birth of (8) _____ Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway (9) _____, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to (10) _____ this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told reporters: "The opening of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has started to (11) _____ shape." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how (12) _____ she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has developed so quickly".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) joins | (b) joining | (c) joint | (d) join |
| 2. | (a) stretchers | (b) stretching | (c) stretches | (d) stretch |
| 3. | (a) berthed | (b) docked | (c) landed | (d) arrived |
| 4. | (a) butts | (b) cuts | (c) nuts | (d) ruts |
| 5. | (a) flight | (b) destination | (c) travel | (d) journey |
| 6. | (a) has | (b) was | (c) as | (d) ease |
| 7. | (a) gun | (b) bullet | (c) cannon | (d) rifle |
| 8. | (a) former | (b) firmer | (c) farmer | (d) framer |
| 9. | (a) track | (b) tack | (c) tackles | (d) tacky |
| 10. | (a) extension | (b) extent | (c) extend | (d) extending |
| 11. | (a) create | (b) give | (c) do | (d) take |
| 12. | (a) parade | (b) proud | (c) prude | (d) prod |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

Paragraph 1

1. the uenrthos Chinese city of Guangzhou
2. esthcetrs across half of China
3. an avgrae speed of 300 kph
4. the yrujneo time
5. along its orute
6. China's mnreoevgt

Paragraph 2

7. ulblte train
8. tcmmoeaermo the birth of former Chinese leader
9. It plans to xdntee this to 16,000 km
10. China Ministry of Railways psoemsnka
11. A negsapsre who travelled on the first train
12. China has eledpovde so quickly

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () route. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A one-way ticket for the
- () journey costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help
- () leader in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway track, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to
- () extend this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told
- () how proud she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has developed so quickly".
- () Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and stretches across half of China. The first train
- () reporters: "The opening of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has
- () Chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 December to commemorate
- () average speed of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities along its
- () started to take shape." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained
- () left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and arrived in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an
- () the birth of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's
- (**1**) The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. The line joins China's capital Beijing with the southern
- () the country's economy as business people can now travel across the country a lot quicker.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

1. the world opened on Wednesday The longest railway line in.

2. travels 300kph speed at fast The of an train super- average

3. the way A journey ticket one US\$138 costs for.

4. economy country's the help will train The.

5. travel across the country a lot quicker People can now.

6. world's the become to plan China's leader.

7. to to km 16,000 extend It by this plans 2015.

8. high has - started speed railway China's network.

9. train travelled on A the passenger first who.

10. It's quickly so developed has China amazing.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. The line *joins* / *joins* China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and *stretching* / *stretches* across half of China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and *arrived* / *arrival* in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an *overage* / *average* speed of 300 kph and cuts the *journey* / *journeys* time from 20 hours to just eight. It *stops* / *stopping* at 35 different cities along its *route* / *root*. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A *one-way* / *one-weigh* ticket for the journey costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's *economic* / *economy* as business people can now travel across the country a *lot* / *loads* quicker.

Chinese media say the *bullet* / *bulletin* train service started on 26 December to commemorate the *birth* / *born* of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a *sigh* / *sign* of China's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway *truck* / *track*, which is more than any other country in the world. It *plans* / *planning* to *extend* / *extension* this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li *said* / *told* reporters: "The *opening* / *opened* of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has started to *take* / *do* shape." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how *pride* / *proud* she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has developed so quickly".

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 http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

Th_ l_n_g_s_t r__l_w_y l_n_ _n th_ w_rld _p_n_d _n
W_dn_sd_y. Th_ l_n_ j__ns Ch_n_'s c_p_t_l B__j_ng
w_th th_ s__th_rn Ch_n_s_ c_ty _f G__ngzh__ . Th_
l_n_ _s 2,298 k_l_m_t_rs l_n_g _nd str_tch_s _cr_ss
h_lf _f Ch_n_ . Th_ f_rst tr__n l_ft B__j_ng st_t__n _t 9
_m. _nd _rr_v_d _n G__ngzh__ _ght h__rs l_t_r. Th_
s_p_r-f_st tr__n tr_v_ls _t _n _v_r_g_ sp__d _f 300
kph _nd c_ts th_ j__rn_y t_m_ fr_m 20 h__rs t_ j_st
__ght. _t st_ps _t 35 d_ff_r_nt c_t__s l_n_g ts_r__t_ .
_t_t_l _f 310 tr__ns w_ll r_n b_tw__n th_ tw_ c_t__s
__ch_d_y. _ _n_w_y t_ck_t_f_r th_ j__rn_y c_sts
_S\$138. Ch_n_'s g_v_rnm_nt h_p_s th_ tr__n w_ll h_lp
th_ c__ntry's _c_n_my _s b_s_n_ss p__pl_ c_n n_w
tr_v_l_cr_ss th_ c__ntry _l_t q__ck_r.

Ch_n_s_ m_d__s_y th_ b_ll_t tr__n s_rv_c_ st_rt_d _n
26 D_c_mb_r t_ c_mm_m_r_t_ th_ b_rth _f f_r_m_r
Ch_n_s_ l__d_r M__Z_d_ng. Th_ tr__n_s_ls__ _s gn
_f Ch_n_'s pl_n_t_ b_c_m_ th_ w_rld's l__d_r_n h_gh-
sp__d r__l tr_v_l. _t _lr__dy h_s 8,600 km _f h_gh-
sp__d r__l_w_y tr_ck, wh_ch _s m_r_ th_n _ny _th_r
c__ntry _n th_ w_rld. _t pl_ns t_ _xt_nd th_s t_ 16,000
km by 2015 _nd 50,000 km by 2020. Ch_n_ M_n_stry _f
R__l_w_ys sp_k_sm_n Zh__L__t_ld_r_p_r_t_rs: "Th_
_p_n_ng _f th_ B__j_ng-G__ngzh__ h_gh-sp__d l_n_
sh_ws Ch_n_'s h_gh-sp__d r__l_w_y n_tw_rk h_s st_rt_d
t_t_k_sh_p_." _p_ss_ng_r wh_ tr_v_ll_d _n th_ f_rst
tr__n _xpl__nd h_w pr__d sh_ w_s _f th_ tr__n,
s_y_ng: " _t's _m_z_ng Ch_n_ h_s d_v_l_p_d s_
q__ckly".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

the longest railway line in the world opened on wednesday the line joins china's capital beijing with the southern chinese city of guangzhou the line is 2298 kilometers long and stretches across half of china the first train left beijing station at 9 am and arrived in guangzhou eight hours later the super-fast train travels at an average speed of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight it stops at 35 different cities along its route a total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day a one-way ticket for the journey costs us\$138 china's government hopes the train will help the country's economy as business people can now travel across the country a lot quicker

chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 december to commemorate the birth of former chinese leader mao zedong the train is also a sign of china's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel it already has 8600 km of high-speed railway track which is more than any other country in the world it plans to extend this to 16000 km by 2015 and 50000 km by 2020 china ministry of railways spokesman zhou li told reporters "the opening of the beijing-guangzhou high-speed line shows china's high-speed railway network has started to take shape" a passenger who travelled on the first train explained how proud she was of the train saying "it's amazing china has developed so quickly"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121227-china_railway.html

The longest railway line in the world opened on Wednesday. The line joins China's capital Beijing with the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. The line is 2,298 kilometers long and stretches across half of China. The first train left Beijing station at 9 a.m. and arrived in Guangzhou eight hours later. The super-fast train travels at an average speed of 300 kph and cuts the journey time from 20 hours to just eight. It stops at 35 different cities along its route. A total of 310 trains will run between the two cities each day. A one-way ticket for the journey costs US\$138. China's government hopes the train will help the country's economy as business people can now travel across the country a lot quicker. Chinese media say the bullet train service started on 26 December to commemorate the birth of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The train is also a sign of China's plan to become the world's leader in high-speed rail travel. It already has 8,600 km of high-speed railway track, which is more than any other country in the world. It plans to extend this to 16,000 km by 2015 and 50,000 km by 2020. China Ministry of Railways spokesman Zhou Li told reporters: "The opening of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed line shows China's high-speed railway network has started to take shape." A passenger who travelled on the first train explained how proud she was of the train, saying: "It's amazing China has developed so quickly".

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 China's new high-speed trains. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. HIGH-SPEED: Write a magazine article about the new train line. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against 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 the railway boss of the new trains. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. joins | a. links |
| 2. stretches | b. extends |
| 3. left | c. departed |
| 4. cuts | d. reduces |
| 5. quicker | e. faster |
| 6. commemorate | f. celebrate |
| 7. former | g. ex- |
| 8. started | h. begun |
| 9. proud | i. pleased |
| 10. developed | j. progressed |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Beijing and Guangzhou
2. 2,298 kilometers
3. 8 hours
4. 12 hours
5. Business people
6. Mao Zedong
7. 8,600 km
8. 50,000 km
9. It has started to take shape
10. Pride

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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