

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## Level 4

### Apology after Japanese train leaves 20 seconds early

18th November, 2017

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

## Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

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

Japan's trains are famous for their punctuality. Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. You can set your watch by Japanese trains. Most rail companies apologize when trains are delayed or cancelled. However, the operators of a Tokyo train apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early. The high-speed train left a station earlier than scheduled because staff did not check the departure timetable. There were no complaints from passengers.

The Tsukuba Express company said its crew failed to accurately perform the departure operations. It "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused, even though the next train was just four minutes later. A Twitter user wrote the apology was, "one of the best things about Japan". A UK commuter tweeted about British trains being late. He said: "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-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Japan's trains are famous for    | a. scheduled         |
| 2. Japan's rail network is the envy | b. Tokyo train       |
| 3. set your                         | c. from passengers   |
| 4. when trains are delayed          | d. of the world      |
| 5. the operators of a               | e. or cancelled      |
| 6. left a station earlier than      | f. timetable         |
| 7. check the departure              | g. their punctuality |
| 8. There were no complaints         | h. watch             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

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

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

Japan's trains are famous (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. You can (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by Japanese trains. Most rail companies apologize when trains are (3) \_\_\_\_\_. However, the operators of a Tokyo train apologized for one of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 seconds too early. The high-speed train left (5) \_\_\_\_\_ than scheduled because staff did not check the departure timetable. There were (6) \_\_\_\_\_ passengers.

The Tsukuba Express company said its crew (7) \_\_\_\_\_ perform the departure operations. It (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the "severe inconvenience" (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the next train was just four minutes later. A Twitter user (10) \_\_\_\_\_ was, "one of the best things about Japan". (11) \_\_\_\_\_ tweeted about British trains being late. He said: "You don't (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 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-4.html>

Japan's trains are famous for their punctuality. Japan's rail network is the envy of the world. You can set your watch by Japanese trains. Most rail companies apologize when trains are delayed or cancelled. However, the operator of a Tokyo train apologized for one of its trains leaving 20 seconds too early. The high-speed train left a station earlier than scheduled because staff did not check the departure timetable. There were no complaints from passengers. The Tsukuba Express company said it screwed up and to accurately perform the departure operations. It "deeply" apologized for the "severe inconvenience" caused, even though the next train was just four minutes later. A Twitter user wrote the apology was, "one of the best things about Japan". A UK commuter tweeted about British trains being late. He said: "You don't get an apology from any major UK train company until they're over 2 hours late."

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Apology after Japanese train leaves 20 seconds early – 18th November, 2017*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

