

Only 24 people a year use Britain's quietest railway station

Elementary

1 Warmer

Put these ways of travelling in the order you like them from 1 (the best) to 6 (the worst).

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. _____ | a. train |
| 2. _____ | b. bus |
| 3. _____ | c. car |
| 4. _____ | d. plane |
| 5. _____ | e. ship |
| 6. _____ | f. bicycle |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

journey

busy

billion

quiet

passenger

mile

1. If a place is _____, there are not many people there. (para 1)
2. A _____ is someone who travels in a train, plane or ship. (para 2)
3. If a place is _____, it is full of people. (para 3)
4. A _____ is 1.6 kilometres. (para 3)
5. A _____ is when you travel from one place to another. (para 4)
6. A _____ is one thousand million (1,000,000,000). (para 5)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where is Barry Links railway station?
2. How many people used the station from 1 April, 2016 to 31 March, 2017?
3. How many people used Teesside Airport railway station in the same year?
4. Which is the busiest station in the UK?
5. In which country is the busiest station in Europe?
6. How many people used Shinjuku Station in 2016–2017?

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4 January, 2018

- 1 Barry Links is a railway station on the east coast of Scotland. It is between Dundee and Carnoustie, a town famous for its golf course. Barry Links is the quietest railway station in the United Kingdom. Only 24 people used the station between 1 April, 2016 and 31 March, 2017.
- 2 The station has no ticket office or ticket machine so it is not possible to buy a ticket there – passengers have to buy their ticket on the train. Another problem is that only one train a day stops at the station from Monday to Saturday and there are no trains on Sundays.
- 3 The second quietest railway station in Britain is Teesside Airport. Only 30 people used this station in 2016–2017. This might seem strange because airports are very busy places but there are two problems with this station. The first is that it is more than one mile (1.6km) from the airport so passengers have to walk from the station to the airport (there is no bus service from the station to the airport). The second is that only two trains a week stop at this station – both on Sundays.
- 4 The busiest station in the UK is London Waterloo. There were 99 million journeys to and from this station in 2016–2017. The second busiest station is London Victoria, with 75 million journeys. But these London stations are not the busiest in Europe. Two hundred and fourteen million passengers used the Gare du Nord in Paris in 2016–2017.
- 5 The busiest railway station in the world is in Japan. It is Shinjuku Station in Tokyo. In 2016–2017, 1.26 billion people used this station. This is very different from Barry Links station.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Passengers can't buy a ticket at Barry Links station because ... | a. ... to and from London Waterloo station in 2016–2017. |
| 2. Only one train a day ... | b. ... to the airport. |
| 3. Another problem is ... | c. ... there is no ticket office or ticket machine. |
| 4. There were 99 million journeys ... | d. ... is in Japan. |
| 5. The busiest railway station in the world ... | e. ... that there are no trains on Sundays. |
| 6. There is no bus service from Teesside Airport railway station ... | f. ... stops at Barry Links station. |

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5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. Scotland the on coast east of
2. trains week only a two
3. railway the station busiest the world in
4. a train one day only
5. on there Sundays are no trains
6. the more airport mile one than from

6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. railway | a. office |
| 2. ticket | b. course |
| 3. golf | c. service |
| 4. bus | d. station |

7 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

in

for

at

on

1. buy a ticket _____ the train
2. the busiest station _____ the world
3. famous _____ its golf course
4. only one train a day stops _____ this station

8 Discussion

- Do you like travelling by train? Why? Why not?
- How do you travel to work or school?
- What is your favourite method of transport? Why?
- What is the cheapest method of transport in your country? Is it also the most popular?

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KEY

2 Key words

1. quiet
2. passenger
3. busy
4. mile
5. journey
6. billion

3 Find the information

1. on the east coast of Scotland (between Dundee and Carnoustie)
2. twenty-four
3. thirty
4. London Waterloo
5. France
6. 1.26 billion

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. e
4. a
5. d
6. b

5 Chunks

1. on the east coast of Scotland
2. only two trains a week
3. the busiest railway station in the world
4. only one train a day
5. there are no trains on Sundays
6. more than one mile from the airport

6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

7 Prepositions

1. on
2. in
3. for
4. at