

Train travels 11 kilometres backwards without an engine

Elementary

1 Warmer

These five countries have the longest railways in the world. Put them in order from 1 (the longest) to 5 (the shortest).

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. _____ | a. China |
| 2. _____ | b. Russia |
| 3. _____ | c. the USA |
| 4. _____ | d. Canada |
| 5. _____ | e. India |

2 Key words

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

locomotive

freight

brake

coach

backwards

network

1. If you move _____, you move in the direction that is behind you. (para 1)
2. A _____ is the engine that pulls a train. (para 1)
3. A _____ is one of the sections of a train. (para 1)
4. People use a _____ to stop a car, train or another vehicle. (para 1)
5. A _____ is a system of things such as lines, roads or railways that are connected to each other. (para 3)
6. _____ is goods that vehicles carry. (para 3)

3 Find the information

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

1. Where was the train travelling to?
2. What time did the accident happen?
3. How many coaches were there on the train?
4. How many passengers were there?
5. How many people work for Indian railways?
6. How many people travel by train in India each year?

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3 May, 2018

- 1 Recently, a train travelled backwards for 11 kilometres without an engine. It was going from Ahmedabad in the west of India to Puri in the east. The train stopped at a station at 10 o'clock in the evening to change the locomotive. It was the job of workers at the station to change the locomotive but, when the locomotive was no longer connected to the coaches, someone forgot to use the special brakes on the coaches and they began to move slowly backwards down a very long hill.
- 2 There were 22 carriages on the train and more than one thousand passengers. The train continued to move backwards down the hill for several minutes. The passengers on the train were very frightened. The train passed through several stations and people shouted at the

passengers on the train to use the emergency brakes. But the train didn't stop and continued until railway workers finally stopped it by putting some large stones on the track. Luckily, no one was injured in the accident. This was surprising because accidents happen quite often on Indian railways and people are often killed.

- 3 India has the fourth longest railway network in the world after the USA, China and Russia, with 67,368 kilometres of track. 1.3 million people work for Indian railways. Every day, more than 22 million people travel by train in India on 13,000 trains. Each year, Indian railways carry about 8.5 billion passengers and transport 1.2 billion tons of freight. The shortest railway network in the world is in the Vatican City (also the world's smallest country), where there are just 850 metres of railway track.

4 Comprehension check

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The train stopped at a station ... | a. ... down the hill for several minutes. |
| 2. Someone forgot to use the special brakes so ... | b. ... travel by train in India every day. |
| 3. The train continued to move backwards ... | c. ... one of the longest railway networks in the world. |
| 4. Finally, the train stopped ... | d. ... to change the locomotive. |
| 5. India has ... | e. ... after workers put some large stones on the track. |
| 6. More than 22 million people ... | f. ... the train started moving backwards. |

5 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

by

at

on

through

1. stop _____ a station
2. pass _____ a station
3. travel _____ train
4. passengers _____ the train

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6 Opposites

Complete the table using opposites from the text.

1.	forwards	
2.	up	
3.	unluckily	
4.	west	

7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their word stress.

engine network transport (v) began connect station

A o o	B o o

8 Discussion

- Do you like travelling by train? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. the USA
2. China
3. Russia
4. India
5. Canada

2 Key words

1. backwards
2. locomotive
3. coach
4. brake
5. network
6. freight

3 Find the information

1. Puri
2. 10pm
3. 22
4. more than one thousand
5. 1.3 million
6. 8.5 billion

4 Comprehension check

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

5 Prepositions

1. at
2. through
3. by
4. on

6 Opposites

1. backwards
2. down
3. luckily
4. east

7 Word stress

A 0 0	B 0 0
engine	transport
network	began
station	connect