

## China opens world's longest high-speed railway

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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: Xinhua / China Daily

### Writing

*High-speed trains are too dangerous.* Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

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

### True / False

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

### Synonym Match

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 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-        |

### Discussion – Student A

- Do you think China will become world leader in high-speed rail travel?
- What do you think of China's plans?
- What would it be like to be a train driver?
- Have you met any strange people on a train?
- How could trains be made better?
- What will trains of the future be like?
- Are you proud of the railway network in your country?
- What questions would you like to ask a driver of fast China's trains?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 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           |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do you like travelling by train?
- Would you like to go on China's new high-speed train?
- What are the trains like in your country?
- Is train the best way to travel?
- Why don't more countries build high-speed trains?
- What would you do on a train for eight hours?
- Which country do you think has the best railway network?
- Would you worry about being on a train travelling at 300 kph?

## Spelling

- the uenrthos Chinese city of Guangzhou
- esthcetrs across half of China
- an avgrae speed of 300 kph
- the yrujne time
- along its orute
- China's mnreoevgt
- ulblte train
- tcmmoeaermo the birth of former Chinese leader
- It plans to xdntee this to 16,000 km
- China Ministry of Railways psoemsnka
- A negsapsre who travelled on the first train
- China has eledpovde so quickly

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. a	4. h	5. d
6. g	7. j	8. b	9. f	10. i

## What speed do you want?

	Speed?	Why?
English listening		
Shop cashiers		
Internet		
Transport		
Drying hair		
Your work		

## Speaking – Best 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

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.