

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ASSIGNMENT

Bus Trip

By the end of your second week of language learning, you should take a trip on the local bus system. Get assistance and instructions concerning prices, waiting in line, stopping the bus, routes, destination, bus number, connections and other specifics. As part of the assignment you should spend some time becoming familiar with the area you visit, eat lunch there and fulfill any other interests, then return to your learning site or to your residence on an afternoon bus. This should help you enter into the local perspective on time, travel and community contacts of ordinary people.

Goals: To introduce you to the cultural experience of bus travel in the local setting.

To help you appreciate the time required for travel by public transport, and its value (price in reference to local economy).

To help you gain practical skill for travel by learning:
What bus to take from your location to some other area of town and back;
What factors must be taken into account when travelling by bus;
How much you can do in town in a specific period of time when walking (after arriving at your destination by bus).
How different the city or countryside looks from the bus stop, on back streets and on foot!

To introduce you to the people on the bus and in town as language learning resources, for community-oriented learning and practice.

To help you gain pleasure and confidence from "insider" (normal) networks in the society. (You won't be isolated in a car, in the tourist or foreigner part of town).

In non-Western countries, to expand your awareness of the less European side of life and give you some time for exploration and adventure.

Instructions: Get assistance from your language helper in planning your experience. Get information on your assigned destination and any special activities or observations for the trip. Travel to your destination, eat lunch and look around, making some general observations on the area. (You will want to mention them in the de-briefing time!) Return in the afternoon either to your learning site, or to your residence.

1. Get information on bus numbers, confer with various resource persons concerning routes, connections, etc.
 - a. Remember you should walk from the language centre (or home) to the bus stop. Gauge your walking time by asking some local friends how long it takes. **THIS IS PART OF YOUR LEARNING IN THIS EXPERIENCE.**

b. Bring appropriate amounts and denominations of notes and coins for fare and incidental expenses. Get information on fares so you will be prepared. Find out if you need to bring a basket to carry purchases you may make. Do some of your regular shopping on this trip.

c. Find out about pickpockets or other public hazards at the bus stop or station.

d. Find out about seating arrangements. Rules on this vary.

2. Talk to the people around you, use the amount of local language you know. Learn as you converse.

3. Upon arrival, you are free to roam. You might want to take an area map with you. Take in the local sights and sounds. Eat lunch in a local restaurant. (Please, not the Hilton on this trip.) Be ready to tell, in the target language, where you went, what you saw, what you did, when you report to your language helper or fellow learners.

5. Debrief the experience with your language helper in your next session. Try to tell a little about your trip **in the target language**: Use what you **know** to say what you **can**. Ask about any strange experiences or words you need, or any observations you have made.