The Hidden Cost of Transfers

C1 Advanced · Travel · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. The quickest journey on a timetable can be the slowest one in a _____ actual day.
2. A route promising ten minutes less may demand two platform changes, each turning ordinary delay into a private _____.
3. When the first train arrives late, the second connection becomes less a _____ than a wager against unfamiliar corridors.
4. Admittedly, direct services can cost more, and a leisurely itinerary is no use to someone facing a fixed _____.
5. Yet transfer costs are rarely measured in minutes alone, because they consume attention that might otherwise make the journey _____.
6. A parent counts stairs, a visitor studies signs, and a tired commuter keeps checking the clock instead of noticing the _____.
7. By contrast, one _____ ride creates a small pocket of unclaimed time, even when the seats are cramped and the scenery plain.
8. That time need not be romanticized, since a few _____ pages or a quiet meal can leave a person less frayed.
9. The apparent saving of a transfer often vanishes when a missed _____ adds an hour, a taxi fare, or needless anxiety.
10. Choosing the slower direct train, then, is not _____ but a way of buying back attention from the timetable.
11. The better route is _____ not always the one that moves fastest, but the one that leaves the traveller available on arrival.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. traveller's 2. calculation 3. convenience 4. appointment 5. restorative 6. landscape 7. continuous 8. uninterrupted 9. connection 10. indulgence 11. therefore

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. The quickest journey on a timetable can be the slowest one in a traveller's actual day.
2. A route promising ten minutes less may demand two platform changes, each turning ordinary delay into a private calculation.
3. When the first train arrives late, the second connection becomes less a convenience than a wager against unfamiliar corridors.
4. Admittedly, direct services can cost more, and a leisurely itinerary is no use to someone facing a fixed appointment.
5. Yet transfer costs are rarely measured in minutes alone, because they consume attention that might otherwise make the journey restorative.
6. A parent counts stairs, a visitor studies signs, and a tired commuter keeps checking the clock instead of noticing the landscape.
7. By contrast, one continuous ride creates a small pocket of unclaimed time, even when the seats are cramped and the scenery plain.
8. That time need not be romanticized, since a few uninterrupted pages or a quiet meal can leave a person less frayed.
9. The apparent saving of a transfer often vanishes when a missed connection adds an hour, a taxi fare, or needless anxiety.
10. Choosing the slower direct train, then, is not indulgence but a way of buying back attention from the timetable.
11. The better route is therefore not always the one that moves fastest, but the one that leaves the traveller available on arrival.

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