The Uncounted Stop

C1 Advanced · Travel · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. Erase every _____ station from a regional railway map, and the line would still look reassuringly complete.
2. Commuters bound for the terminus might even arrive sooner, while the timetable acquired a pleasing _____.
3. But a rail network is not merely a device for _____ distance.
4. At a village platform, the last train may _____ whether a nurse can accept an evening shift.
5. A market _____ may reach the town market before dawn only because the local service stops where the express thunders past.
6. Eliminate these pauses, and the faster railway would quietly transfer its costs to people with fewer _____.
7. The loss would not appear in _____ tables, which measure motion more readily than access.
8. Nor would a blank platform reveal the errands, shifts, and _____ that no longer make sense.
9. The thought _____ exposes a misleading equation, since fewer stops do not always mean a better connection.
10. _____, what slows a train is precisely what allows a region to move together.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. intermediate 2. simplicity 3. covering 4. determine 5. gardener 6. alternatives 7. journey 8. deliveries 9. experiment 10. Sometimes

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Erase every intermediate station from a regional railway map, and the line would still look reassuringly complete.
2. Commuters bound for the terminus might even arrive sooner, while the timetable acquired a pleasing simplicity.
3. But a rail network is not merely a device for covering distance.
4. At a village platform, the last train may determine whether a nurse can accept an evening shift.
5. A market gardener may reach the town market before dawn only because the local service stops where the express thunders past.
6. Eliminate these pauses, and the faster railway would quietly transfer its costs to people with fewer alternatives.
7. The loss would not appear in journey tables, which measure motion more readily than access.
8. Nor would a blank platform reveal the errands, shifts, and deliveries that no longer make sense.
9. The thought experiment exposes a misleading equation, since fewer stops do not always mean a better connection.
10. Sometimes, what slows a train is precisely what allows a region to move together.

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