

READING TIMETABLES

Teacher Notes

The first activity could be used as a starter. It should be accessible to students of any ability.

The second page is a more complicated timetable that you would find online. Some students might need some explanation initially – especially when services are split across columns.

Answers are at the end.

Reading a Timetable

This is a timetable for a train that goes from Ipswich to London Liverpool Street:

LOCATION			
	Arrival	Departure	Plt
IPSWICH		09:23:00	3B
IPSWHJN		09:25:00	
MANNGTR	09:32:00	09:33:00	2
CLCHSTR	09:41:30	09:50:00	4
MRKSTEY	09:55:30	09:56:00	1
KELVEDN	10:01:00	10:01:30	1
WITHAME	10:06:30	10:07:30	2
CHLMSFD	10:15:30	10:16:30	1
INGTSTN	10:22:30	10:23:00	1
SHENFLD	10:28:00	10:28:30	2
GIDEAPK		10:34:30	1
ILFORD		10:39:00	1
FRSTGTJ		10:40:30	
STFD		10:43:00	9
BOWJ		10:45:00	
BTHNLGR		10:47:00	
LIVST	10:51:00		9



This is a working timetable so looks slightly different to the published timetable that you'll find online or at a station. It is accurate to the nearest 30 seconds and also includes platform information and the time a train is due to be at junctions.

The names of the locations might look a bit strange.

ILFORD
FRSTGTJ
STFD
BOWJ
BTHNLGR
LIVST

In the railway we use what are known as **TIPLOCS** (Timing Point Locations) which are a maximum of 7 characters long to describe places.

So, for example:

LIVST is the TIPLOC for Liverpool Street.

Q

Can you guess where these places are from their TIPLOC name?

1. DRBY
2. BRGHTN
3. NTNG
4. IVRNESS
5. MNCRPIC

Looking at the timetable:

Q

1. What platform does the train go into at Liverpool Street?
2. How long is it due to wait at Shenfield (SHENFLD)?
3. If the train leaves Stratford (STFD) 3 minutes late, what time would you expect it to arrive at Liverpool Street?



This is the online published timetable for the same journey:

Ipswich	d							0857		0923		0945
Manningtree	d							0907		0933		0954
Clacton-on-Sea	d			0811						0905		
Walton-on-the-Naze	d	0801						0900				
Frinton on Sea	d	0804						0903				
Kirby Cross	d	0807						0906				
Thorpe-le-Soken	a	0812		0819				0912	0913			0912
Thorpe-le-Soken	d	0813		0819				0917	0913			0917
Weeley	d			0823								0921
Great Bentley	d			0826								0924
Alresford	d			0830								0928
Wivenhoe	d	0823		0834					0923			0932
Hythe	d	0827		0838								0936
Colchester Town	a			0821								0940
Colchester Town	d			0830						0935		0944
Colchester	a	0833	0827	0838	0844	0902	0907	0916	0931	0942	0943	0942
Colchester	d	0835	0838		0849	0903	0912	0916	0933	0950		0950
Marks Tey	d				0855			0922				0956
Kelvedon	d				0900			0928				1001
Braintree	d					0900						
Braintree Freeport	d					0902						
Cressing	d					0905						
White Notley	d					0908						
Witham	d	0848	0858		0906		0916	0926	0934	0945		1007
Hatfield Peverel	d		0902					0930				
Chelmsford	d	0857	0909		0915	0921	0926	0937	0943	0954		1016
Ingatestone	d		0916				0932			1001		1023
Shenfield	a	0907	0920		0924		0938		0953	1007		1028
Romford	a											
Stratford DLR	a	0928s	0938s		0942s	0948s	0954	1002	1009	1027		1046s
London Liverpool St	a	0939	0949		0954	1000	1003	1010	1017	1035		1051
												1055

Q

- 1.If you get the 0844 from Ipswich, what time will you get to London Liverpool Street?
- 2.If you get to Colchester at 0933, how long will you have to wait for the next train to Chelmsford?
- 3.If you get the 0857 from Ipswich, how long will it take to get to Liverpool Street?
- 4.If you get the 0900 from Walton-on-the-Naze, what time will you get into Colchester?
- 5.How long does the 0849 from Colchester take to get to Liverpool Street?



Answers

DRBY = Derby

BRGHTN = Brighton

NTNG = Nottingham

IVRNESS = Inverness

MNCRPIC = Manchester Piccadilly

What platform does the train go into at Liverpool Street? 9

How long is it due to wait at Shenfield (SHENFLD)? 30 seconds

If the train leaves Stratford (STFD) 3 minutes late, what time would you expect it to arrive at Liverpool Street? 1054

If you get the 0844 from Ipswich, what time will you get to London Liverpool Street? 1000

If you get to Colchester at 0933, how long will you have to wait for the next train to Chelmsford? 9 minutes

If you get the 0857 from Ipswich, how long will it take to get to Liverpool Street? 1 hr 20 minutes (80 minutes)

If you get the 0900 from Walton-on-the-Naze, what time will you get into Colchester? 0952

How long does the 0849 from Colchester take to get to Liverpool Street? 1 hr 5 minutes (65 minutes)

