



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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## **Banta Learning Prepositions 5 by K S Sandhu**

### **Banta's Unexpected Journey Home**

Banta had just finished a wonderful holiday in France. He had spent two weeks in Paris at the beginning of July, visiting museums and eating delicious croissants in the mornings. Then he travelled to the south by train, staying in a small village near the coast for a few days. Everything went smoothly until the last part of his trip home.

He decided to return to the UK via Brussels, planning to take the Eurostar train to London. He hadn't booked his ticket in advance because he thought there would always be seats available. "There are so many trains every day," he told himself. But he regretted that decision later.

He arrived at Brussels station at about six in the evening. While walking through the busy terminal, he met an old university friend by chance. They hadn't seen each other for years, so they went to a café for a coffee and chatted happily for over an hour. It was a pleasant surprise, but it made him late.

When Banta finally went to buy a ticket, the machine was out of order. He joined the queue at the sales desk. The assistant explained that all evening trains were fully booked because many flights had been cancelled due to bad weather. "There are no seats left for tonight," she said. Banta asked to speak to the manager in charge of sales. The manager confirmed it was true but suggested checking online.

Banta rushed to an Internet café nearby and searched for tickets. He found one seat left on the last train of the day, but it was in first class and expensive. He bought it anyway. The train left at 11.45 p.m. and arrived in London at around 3.00 a.m. Banta was exhausted when he finally got home in the early hours.

In the end, the journey home took much longer than expected. He had to wait at the station for hours and pay more than usual. Next time, he promised himself, he would book all tickets in advance before leaving on holiday.

The next Monday, Banta returned to the office. He told his colleague about the adventure. "It was great apart from the last part," he laughed. "I learned an important lesson: always plan ahead when travelling by train across countries!"

Even though the end was stressful, Banta still loved his trip. The memories of beautiful Paris, sunny beaches, and meeting his old friend made it unforgettable. He started planning his next holiday for the following summer – this time with everything booked well in advance!

**Questions:**

Question 1: Why didn't Banta book his Eurostar ticket in advance?

Question 2: Who did Banta meet by chance at Brussels station?

Question 3: Why were there no tickets left for the evening trains?

Question 4: What kind of ticket did Banta finally buy online?

Question 5: What time did Banta arrive home in London?

**Answers:**

Answer 1: He didn't book in advance because he thought there would always be many trains available (so many seats every day).

Answer 2: He met an old university friend (by chance while walking through the terminal).

Answer 3: There were no tickets left because many flights had been cancelled due to bad weather.

Answer 4: He bought a first-class ticket for the last train of the day.

Answer 5: He arrived home at around 3.00 a.m. (in the early hours / very late).

# 18 Common prepositional phrases

PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<i>by chance</i> <i>by mistake</i>	not planned do something wrong, but not on purpose	<i>Julie and I met in the shopping centre <b>by chance</b>.</i> <i>This letter is for you – sorry, I opened it <b>by mistake</b>.</i>
<i>at last</i> <i>at least</i> <i>at the end (of)/</i> <i>beginning (of)</i>	after a long time not less than the last thing/the first thing	<i>Dave is here <b>at last</b> – late as usual!</i> <i>It will take you <b>at least</b> an hour to get here.</i> <i>I always check homework <b>at the beginning of</b> the lesson. / The team collected the cup <b>at the end of</b> the match.</i>
<i>at the latest</i> <i>at work (home,</i> <i>school)</i>	no later than (place)	<i>We have to pay this bill by 1 June <b>at the latest</b>.</i> <i>Justin's <b>at work</b> now – why don't you call him there?</i>
<i>for ever (positive)</i> <i>for good (negative)</i> <i>for sale</i>	always, starting from now you can buy it	<i>This place is beautiful. I want to stay here <b>for ever</b>.</i> <i>I'm leaving this job <b>for good</b>. I hate it!</i> <i>Is all this furniture <b>for sale</b>?</i>
<i>in advance</i> <i>in charge (of)</i> <i>in love (with)</i> <i>in public/private</i> <i>in the end</i> <i>in time</i>	before responsible for have romantic feelings for so everyone can see/so people can't see finally (after time and effort) early enough for an event	<i>We don't need to pay for the hotel <b>in advance</b>.</i> <i>Terry is <b>in charge of</b> ten people in his new job.</i> <i>Erica fell <b>in love with</b> Stefan and they got married.</i> <i>I was very nervous the first time I spoke <b>in public</b>.</i> <i>I practised my speech for hours <b>in private</b>.</i> <i>It took a long time, but the technician found the fault <b>in the end</b>.</i> <i>Please arrive at the studio <b>in time</b> for the rehearsal.</i>
<i>on business</i> <i>on fire</i> <i>on holiday</i> <i>on purpose</i> <i>on time</i>	for work burning away (for pleasure) intentionally at the correct time	<i>Do you often travel <b>on business</b>?</i> <i>Help! The chip pan's <b>on fire</b>!</i> <i>Adrian's <b>on holiday</b> this week so he's not in the office.</i> <i>I didn't break the glass <b>on purpose</b>. It was an accident.</i> <i>The last bus always leaves (right) <b>on time</b>.</i>
<i>out of date</i> <i>out of order</i> <i>out of the question</i>	old-fashioned not working not possible	<i>Those flared trousers look really <b>out of date</b>!</i> <i>The coffee machine is <b>out of order</b> again.</i> <i>No, you can't go on holiday on your own. It's <b>out of the question</b>.</i>

## Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the email with prepositions. There is one more place where no preposition is needed. **2.35** Listen and check.

Subject: I'm back!

Hi Charlie

This is just to let you know I'm back from my trip and I'll be in the office on Monday. It was all great, apart from the last part of the journey home. You know, I hadn't bothered to book a Eurostar ticket (0) ..... home from Brussels (1) ..... advance – there are always so many trains, but I really regretted it. I arrived at the station at about six in the evening and then met an old friend (2) ..... chance – I hadn't seen him for years, so of course we had a coffee and chatted for a while. Then I tried to book a ticket at the machine but it was (3) ..... order, so I went to the sales desk. The girl behind the desk told me they had no tickets left for the trains that evening. I couldn't believe that so I asked to speak to the person (4) ..... charge of sales. She told me that it was true, because of problems with flights, but said I might find tickets (5) ..... sale on the Internet. So I went to an Internet café and got a ticket, but it was first class and it was for the last train. (6) ..... the end, I got (7) ..... home at about 3.00 a.m! Next time I go (8) ..... holiday, I'll make sure I book all my tickets before I leave!

- 2 Match the underlined phrases with their meanings A–I.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 0 Alice's new hairstyle looks really <u>old-fashioned</u> .     | A in charge of     |
| 1 Sonia made a good impression <u>at first</u> .                | B out of date      |
| 2 Julie didn't do it <u>deliberately</u> .                      | C in the beginning |
| 3 Teresa dismissed her PA <u>in front of everyone</u> .         | D in public        |
| 4 Gina finished the job <u>with days to spare</u> .             | E in the end       |
| 5 Maggie <u>finally</u> threw out the old sofa.                 | F in time          |
| 6 Fiona broke her leg when she was travelling <u>for work</u> . | G on business      |
| 7 Bryony is <u>responsible for</u> about twenty people.         | H on purpose       |
| 8 Jodie reached the coach <u>at exactly the right time</u> .    | I on time          |

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find six more mistakes with prepositional phrases and correct them. **2.36** Listen and check.

- TANYA Hi, Cal. How are things?
- CAL Fine, though I seem to spend about eighty hours a week ~~work~~ <sup>at work</sup> these days!
- TANYA Poor you!
- CAL Have you and Ines finished that project you were working on?
- TANYA Yes, we finished it at the end. It took such a long time. We had to finish it by last Friday in the latest, and we sent it on Wednesday. Talking of Ines, have you heard the news?
- CAL No, what news?
- TANYA She's going back to the Spanish office. She says she's leaving London to good.
- CAL No! I know she came here in business at the beginning of her stay, but I thought she loved London. How long has she been here?
- TANYA At last three years – maybe longer.
- CAL So why's she going back?
- TANYA Well, she thinks it's too expensive here, and she misses her family. But it isn't off the question that she might come back for short visits.

## Answers

### UNIT 18

1 1 in 2 by 3 out of 4 in 5 for 6 In 7 –  
8 on

2 1 C 2 H 3 D 4 F 5 E 6 G 7 A 8 I

3 CAL Have you and Ines finished that project you were working on?

TANYA Yes, we finished it ~~at the end~~ in the end. It took such a long time. We had to finish it by last Friday ~~in the latest~~ at the latest, and we sent it on Wednesday. Talking of Ines, have you heard the news?

CAL No, what news?

TANYA She's going back to the Spanish office. She says she's leaving London ~~to good~~ for good.

CAL No! I know she came here ~~in business~~ on business at the beginning of her stay, but I thought she loved London. How long has she been here?

TANYA ~~At last~~ At least three years – maybe longer.

CAL So why's she going back?

TANYA Well, she thinks it's too expensive here, and she misses her family. But it isn't ~~off the question~~ out of the question that she might come back for short visits.



## Answers