



## THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

In 1802, Albert Mathieu had an idea for a tunnel connecting England and France. He proposed an underground highway for horse-drawn carriages<sup>1</sup> with an island in the middle where people could change their horse. Eurotunnel however was not finished until 1994. It had taken five years to complete and more than 13,000 workers from England and France collaborated on the tunnel. By the time the tunnel was finished it was 50.5 km in length and had an average depth of 50 metres. People could travel on the high-speed Eurostar passenger trains or use the Eurotunnel Shuttle for road vehicles. Queen Elizabeth II and President Mitterand, a former French president, opened the completed project on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1994. The tunnel has been a great success for British trade allowing British businesses to take goods and services to Europe.

## THE EUROTUNNEL SHUTTLE

This is a shuttle service between Calais Cocquelles in France and Folkstone in Britain. Each shuttle is 775 metres long, which is about the same length as eight football pitches. When a shuttle comes out of the tunnel it goes round a loop<sup>2</sup> and stops at a loading/unloading platform<sup>3</sup>. Passengers and road vehicles are in separate shuttles.

### GLOSSARY

- 1** *horse-drawn carriage*  
carrozza trainata dai cavalli
- 2** *loop*  
anello
- 3** *loading/unloading platform*  
piattaforma di carico/scarico
- 4** *fleet*  
flotta

### 1 Leggi il testo e rispondi alle domande.

- 1 Who had the first idea for a tunnel connecting England and France?
- 2 How long had Eurotunnel taken to complete?
- 3 How has the tunnel been good for British trade?
- 4 How long is each Eurotunnel Shuttle?
- 5 What is Eurostar?
- 6 Where does the Eurostar leave from in the UK?
- 7 How long do passengers have to check in before a trip?
- 8 How many trains regularly run between the cities?

### TRAVEL DICTIONARY

#### 2 Abbina i vocaboli (1-6) tratti dal testo alle definizioni (a-f).

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> shuttle service  | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> buffet car |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Business Premier | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> legroom    |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Standard class   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> city break |
- a a passenger car of a train where snacks and beverages can be bought and consumed
  - b special offer including train travel and hotel
  - c expensive business class ticket
  - d space where you are sitting for your legs
  - e regularly travelling between two places
  - f affordable ticket





## EUROSTAR

Eurostar is a high-speed rail link between the UK and continental Europe. Trains travel from St Pancras Station in London to Paris in just over two hours, to Brussels, Lille and Amsterdam. Check-in times are just thirty minutes before departure. Passengers arrive, check-in and step onto a train. The trains offer three classes. Standard class has comfortable seats and a buffet car. Waiters serve Business Premier class passengers a light meal in their seats. Business Premier passengers have more legroom. Waiters serve them a three-course meal in their seats. There is a fleet<sup>4</sup> of 27 trains that run regularly between these cities. Travellers can check out Rail Europe for some great city breaks. The Channel Tunnel has been named one of the seven wonders of the modern world alongside the Golden Gate Bridge and the Panama Canal.



### BLOG IT!

- 3 Ora scrivi tu la tua pagina di blog seguendo le indicazioni date.

### TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

Write about a train journey:

- where you left from and where you were going.
- how long the journey took.
- what kind of lunch you had.
- if anything unusual happened on the journey.
- what you enjoyed most/disliked about travelling by train.

## TRAVEL LANGUAGE



- 4 29 Completa il dialogo tra un passeggero (P, passenger) e un'impiegata (C, clerk) con le parole date. Poi ascolta e controlla.

travel • child's • long • leave • platform • return • direct • ticket

- C Can I help you?
- P Yes, I need to <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to Birmingham.  
How much is a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ticket?
- C A return ticket to Birmingham is £25.
- P Is there a discount for students?
- C It's half price with a student railcard.
- P Here you are. How much is it for children?
- C A <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ticket is £11.
- P Do we need to change trains?
- C No, you don't. There's a <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ train to Birmingham.
- P How <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is the journey?
- C The direct train takes 30 minutes.
- P Oh, that's great. Can I have two return tickets – one student and one child?
- C Certainly.
- P What time does the next train <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?
- C There's one in ten minutes. It leaves from <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Here's your <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.
- P Thank you so much.

- 5 Sei in una città. Formula frasi per dire/chiedere:

- 1 qual è il binario per Lille.
- 2 che vorresti viaggiare in classe economica.
- 3 che vorresti due biglietti per adulti e due per bambini.
- 4 se i bambini sotto i quattro anni viaggiano gratis.
- 5 dove puoi trovare il vagone ristorante.