

5A | High-speed trains

SPEAKING

- 1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.
 - What is more common in your country: to travel by train or travel by car?
 - Do you travel by train? How often? Where do you go?
 - What do you think of the trains in your country?

READING

- 1 Look at the photos of different popular trains. Check you understand the words in the box and underline the ones you think you will find in the article.

fast slow comfortable noisy
convenient cheap horrible tall

- 2 Read the article to check your answers.
- 3 Read the article again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Why do many people like high-speed trains more than planes? Find three reasons.
 - 2 Which train has a name that means bird?
 - 3 Which train is called a bullet train?
 - 4 Which train has a big network of cities?
 - 5 Which train is the fastest?
- 4 Does your country have a high-speed train? Would you like to travel on one? Why or why not?



High-speed trains

The trains of the 21st century are here, and they are safe and comfortable. And they are fast. Super fast.

Today's high-speed trains can go up to three or four hundred km per hour. They can't fly, but in many ways they are more convenient than airplanes. Airports are usually outside city centres. With high-speed trains people can go from city centre to city centre. Many people like high-speed trains more than airplanes. Passengers on a high-speed train have more space than in an airplane. They can work on a computer and go for a walk. They can see the world go by – at 300 km per hour. In airplanes, you can't see anything.

These are some of the world's fastest trains:

The CRH (China)

China Rail High-Speed, the Chinese Rail system, uses many different trains. They have names like CRH1, CRH2, CRH3, etc. The CRH3 can travel at 350km per hour and travels between Beijing and Tianjin.

The TGV (France)

The TGV is French for *Train de Grande Vitesse*. It is France's famous high-speed train. The TGV has a big network. It can go to 150 different cities. The TGV's top speed is 320km per hour.

The AVE (Spain)

The AVE stands for *Alta Velocidad España*, but is also the Spanish word for *bird*. It is Spain's high-speed train. It can travel at 300 km per hour and has routes between the capital, Madrid, and other important cities in Spain.

Shinkansen (Japan)

The Shinkansen high-speed train network covers all of Japan. This Japanese train is called a *bullet train* and it can go up to 360 km per hour.

