

STORY 1: I just want to relax

Its 7:30am and Mike (Bernard) has just managed to make it onto his train to get to his lecture at university. Mike slept in past his alarm this morning and still feels quite groggy from the morning rush. He looks for an empty seat but the only ones available are next to people he doesn't know and Mike would much rather be by himself right now. He ponders whether or not it's worth just standing, but his legs are already struggling and the trip is from his station to university is an hour long. He decides to try the next carriage and tiredly walks over.

Mike is relieved to find a lone empty seat in the next carriage and slumps into it. As he settles he realises there are a group of high school kids sitting in front of him, chatting away quite loudly. Mike is annoyed, he usually tries to sit in the designated quiet carriages but this was the only place he could find a seat today.

Mike opens up Spotify on his iPhone and puts in his wireless earphones to try and drown out the annoying schoolchildren. He starts up his usual playlist, but the music just doesn't feel right as he skips through the fast EDM and loud rock that he would usually vibe with. Attempting to avoid a headache and too tired to go hunting for new music, Mike turns off his playlist and decides to scroll through the endless content of Instagram. His eyes get heavier and heavier as he scrolls through the roster of memes and reels. The children in front get louder and louder as Mike thinks to the long day he has ahead. His desperation to relax only adds to his stress as he exasperates and slumps further into his seat.

STORY 2: Boredom on the ride home

It is 4:20pm as Mike (Bernard) hops into the train at Central Station and is very much looking forward to heading home after a long day at university. He notices a pair of empty seats in the quiet carriage and rushes over. Mike feels glad as he thinks to himself that it's not every day that there are spare seats in the quiet carriage this late in the afternoon. Mike puts his bag on the empty seat next to him, hoping to deter strangers from choosing to sit with him, and gets his Surface Pro laptop out of his bag. He knows that there's a long ride ahead of him and figures this will be a good way to pass the time.

The train makes its first stop and Mike knows it's not his stop, it felt way too early to be his stop. He keeps working away, typing out a boring questionnaire he had to make for homework. Mike knows there's still a good 40 minutes before his stop and he can definitely finish the questionnaire before the ride stops, so he decides to check his socials. He opens up Facebook since his laptop is already out and starts scrolling through. Mike went to comment on a friends post when he hears an older woman asking if she could sit next to him. Mike quickly looks up with a smile and says sure, annoyed inside that his peace was disturbed. He begrudgingly moves his bag off the seat and under his legs so the lady can sit. She thanks him as Mike keeps up the happy pretence.

Mike returns back to his laptop and closes Facebook, he doesn't want a complete stranger looking through his feed. His questionnaire pops back into view as the tab closes. Mike wonders if he really has to do this. Surely it's not that important. The train makes another stop as Mike

realises he's still half an hour away from his destination. It's either the questionnaire or sleeping next to a stranger. Mike forces himself back towards the laptop as he wishes there was something else to alleviate his boredom.

Story 3: Jack Brown going to work

Jack Brown catches the usual 8 AM train as he always does for work. It was Winter, making morning commuting a little more bothersome than usual as Jack would always be groggy. It did not help that Jack stayed up late last night to prepare for the meeting he had today. Entering the train, Jack sat in one of the corners in one of the carriages. Jack planned to nap in the train until his stop. That plan, however, did not go so well as a group of high school students walked into the carriage and started conversing without a care in the world. "Great," thought Jack when they first entered.

With no chance to sleep now, Jack sat at his seat and looked around, it was crowded. With people standing around, if he chose to relocate to a quieter spot, Jack would most likely lose his seat. This would have forced him to stand, making it impossible to sleep then especially with his right leg pain.

Taking out his phone to see what he could do to occupy himself, Jack did not have any mobile data. He could not use the internet to search for anything or download any new apps. His phone did not have many apps, to begin with, so there was barely anything he could do. To make matters worse, the sun was making Jack struggle to see his screen. He did have music however, grabbing out his earphones, he listened to the music on his phone and tried to nap. Of course, there were several problems with that. One, most of his music was upbeat and the remaining few songs that was relaxing was overshadowed by the student's loud conversations.

Eventually, the train stopped at a station roughly halfway to Jack's destination where the obnoxious loud students left the train. "Finally," Jack thought, the noise dropped considerably. It was still noisy but it was tolerable, with relaxing music to listen to, Jack finally started to nap. That nap, however, would last past his destination. Waking up, Jack panicked. He missed his stop by two stations. Immediately leaving the train, Jack waited and boarded another train to return to his station. Jack knew he was late and with that in mind, he vowed to never nap in trains again or at least not fully nap.

Story 4: Jack Brown going back home

It had been a long and tiring day of work for Jack Brown as he boarded his 6:30 PM train to go back home. It was rather noisy due to students returning from tutoring lessons but Jack was not really affected, he was not sleepy. He did however have fear during this time of boarding, no seats. That fear was confirmed when Jack had to stand. There was a reason Jack did not want to stand. That reason was his right leg pain. Standing still for a prolonged period of time hurt his right leg and the pain was exponential.

Taking out his phone and opening his notes that he quickly jotted down from work, Jack started brainstorming ideas related to work. He often did this to pass the time and so that by the time he

got home, he would have good ideas planned for any upcoming projects at work. In doing this, he could temporarily forget the encroaching pain from his right leg. That brainstorming, however, was interrupted when a person in front of the carriage started to ask for everyone's attention. This person started with a tragic backstory, explaining their circumstances and started to ask for donations. It was not that Jack was heartless or apathetic to it, he had a right leg pain that was slowly hurting more and he was annoyed that his brainstorming was interrupted.

After the person had moved onto the next carriage, Jack could finally proceed with his brainstorming. And that was what Jack did for the next couple of stops before the pain in Jack's right leg was too much to ignore, luckily some seats had opened up. Jack chose a seat before they were all taken again. Again, the noise level was tolerable and Jack was able to focus on brainstorming again. At least that was what he hoped. He did not realise that he sat next to a conversation starter. This conversation starter was old and he started rambling to Jack about his life story. Not wanting to cut the conversation, Jack started to show signs that he was not interested in continuing the conversation. They did not notice, however. Eventually, Jack gave up and started to listen to the life story. This life story did not end until Jack reached his station. Upon leaving the train, he felt way more tired than usual returning home.