

## The Flying Scotsman (B2)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you enjoy travelling by train? Why (not)?
2. Are there any railway museums in your country?
3. If so, where are they? Have you ever visited them?
4. Have any steam locomotives been preserved in your country?
5. If so, are they still working? Have you ever travelled on one?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. A daily 10am London to Edinburgh rail service began in  
a) 1923                      b) 1862                      c) 1823
2. Nigel Gresley was ... of a new steam locomotive called the *Flying Scotsman*.  
a) the driver                b) the owner                c) the designer
3. By 1928, the journey time from London to Edinburgh on the *Flying Scotsman* was  
a) 8 hours.                  b) 18 hours.                  c) 9 hours.
4. After being taken out of service, the *Flying Scotsman* became the first steam locomotive  
a) to be taken to the United States.                  b) to be restored.                  c) to tour the world.
5. Its home is now the National Railway Museum in  
a) London.                  b) York.                      c) Edinburgh.
6. At times, the locomotive still runs on mainline British tracks.  
a) True.                      b) False.                      c) The article doesn't say.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How was it possible for the the journey time to be reduced to eight hours by 1928?
2. What record did the *Flying Scotsman* achieve in 1934?
3. What special facilities were there for travellers in the years before World War II?
4. Why was the locomotive retired from service in 1963?
5. Why was it necessary for William Alpine to rescue the *Flying Scotsman*?
6. How was it possible to raise the £4.2 million needed to restore the locomotive?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. In some countries there are government \_\_\_\_\_ to help towards the cost of solar panels.
2. Kyle borrowed his father's car and \_\_\_\_\_ it when he crashed into a lamppost.
3. We need to do some shopping. We've \_\_\_\_\_ of fruit and vegetables.
4. A lot of people have stopped buying a \_\_\_\_\_ newspaper, as they read the news online.
5. If Uncle Fred continues to drink so much whisky, he'll \_\_\_\_\_ an alcoholic!
6. I chose these red cushions for the sofa because they \_\_\_\_\_ the curtains.

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)**

*Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.*

1. A new locomotive, the *Flying Scotsman*, was \_\_\_\_\_ (VEIL) on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1923.
2. It was designed by railway \_\_\_\_\_ (ENGINE) Sir Nigel Gresley.
3. The train featured in a 1929 film, in which a heroic \_\_\_\_\_ (FIRE) saved it from destruction.
4. After its removal from service, it went to the US with Alan Pegler, its new \_\_\_\_\_ (OWN).
5. A campaign to save the train received \_\_\_\_\_ (SIGNIFY) public support
6. The locomotive has received \_\_\_\_\_ (ENHANCE) so that it can operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
7. The restored locomotive was presented to \_\_\_\_\_ (ENTHUSE) crowds in 2016.
8. It is now the oldest mainline \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) locomotive on Britain's tracks.

**F – Write about it**

*Write about a memorable railway journey you once made. Mention:*

- when it took place;
- where you were travelling from/to;
- who you were travelling with;
- what (if any) services were available on the train;
- why the journey was memorable.

## **Answers**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a

### **C – Read and answer**

1. The train did the journey non-stop. 2. It became the first locomotive in the UK to reach 100 mph. 3. There was a cinema car, a cocktail bar and a hairdressing salon. 4. Because the age of steam was coming to an end. 5. Because it was stranded in the US. 6. A campaign led by the National Railway Museum obtained great public support. The campaign received a grant and entrepreneur Richard Branson made a donation.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. grants 2. wrecked 3. run out 4. daily 5. end up 6. match

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. unveiled 2. engineer 3. fireman 4. owner 5. significant 6. enhancements  
7. enthusiastic 8. working