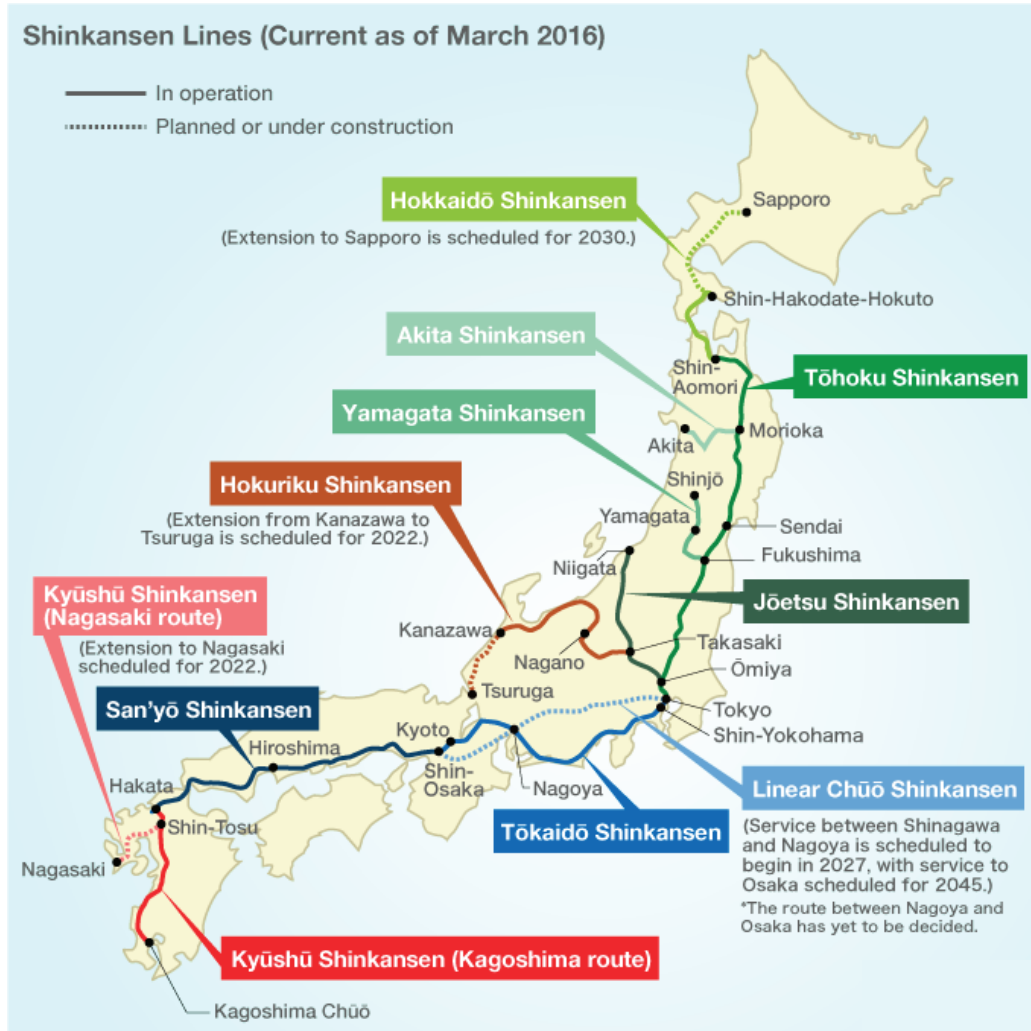


Shinkansen



● Warm-up Questions

1. How many times have you taken a bullet train?

2. What is your favorite kind of transportation in cities?

3. How often do you take a train?

4. What things do you do fast?

VOCABULARY

● WRITE THE CORRECT WORD IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

during, bullet, regular, enormous, opening ceremony, fired, connecting, scheduled to finish, special features, tracks, the reason, hammers, whole

1. The Sapporo shinkansen line is _____ in 2030.
2. Mt. Everest is _____.
3. Superman is not a _____ person. He can fly.
4. "Don't play on train _____," my mother used to say.
5. Children shouldn't play with _____.

Shinkansen

In 1925, Hideo Shima started work at Japanese National Railways (JR). During this time, he invented the shinkansen, or bullet train.

Shima invented a new type of train that had an electric motor in each car. This makes them move faster than regular trains that have just 1 engine in the front.

Later, Shima became the chief engineer at JR. His boss liked his idea, and JR began to build the shinkansen for the Tokyo Olympics.

But there was a problem. It cost over 1 trillion (兆) ¥ to build everything for the shinkansen. This was double the cost Shima had planned.

The first shinkansen line was between Tokyo and Osaka. This line is 515km long, and JR had to build 3,000 bridges and 67 tunnels for the shinkansen. The cost was enormous.

When they began, shinkansen trains were a huge hit. Japanese people, especially businessmen, fell in love with these fast trains. It took 3 hours and 10 minutes from Tokyo to Osaka, and there were 60 trains running every day. In 1964, the price of a ticket was ¥2,480.

Today, the Tokyo-Osaka ride takes 2 hours and 10 minutes and costs over 14,000¥.

The first shinkansen started on October 1, 1964, just before the start of the Tokyo

Olympics, but Mr. Shima did not go to the opening ceremony. He and the president of JR were fired because of the high costs to build the shinkansen rail system.

There are now many shinkansen lines connecting most of Japan's large cities. The line from Hakodate to Sapporo is scheduled to finish by 2030.

One of the special features of shinkansen is that the rail tracks are straight. There are no curves in the tracks. This helps the trains go at very fast speeds. Here are a few other special features about trains in Japan:

- The shinkansen are famously never late. On average, these trains are under 1 minute late. If the trains are over 1 minute late, the train driver must announce the reason.
- Japan has the top 5 busiest train stations in the world. Shinjuku in Tokyo is #1, and it is used by over 3 million people every day.
- There have been no fatal (致命的な) accidents on shinkansen since it started in 1964.
- The noses of the shinkansen are made by hand. Workers use hammers to make the front part of the shinkansen, and it takes about 1 week to make 1 piece.
- Workers can clean the whole shinkansen train in 7 minutes. They are also very fast.

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1. Does anything bother you about taking trains?
 2. Do you think regular trains will disappear in the future?
 3. What is one good and one bad thing about bullet trains?
 4. How is the train system where you live?
 5. Do you think Mr. Shima should have been fired?
 6. Do you feel safe taking public transportation?
 7. What do you think is a smart travel invention?
 8. Have you ever had a strange experience on a train or subway?

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Fix the sentences below. All of them have around 3 mistakes.

1. If I trip to abroad, I almost take a airplane.

2. I was took a bullet train for first time when I sightseeing in Spain.

3. First bullet train invented from Hideo Shima in mid-1960s.

4. A bullet train travel 3 times more faster than regular trains.

5. During you ride a bullet train, it is wise to not put your hand out window.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks: out, off, around, of, in, with, on, outside, to, under, at, by, for, from, like

Write a proper preposition for each sentence. Sometimes, there is more than one answer.

1. If I took a trip _____ the world, I'd bring much money _____ me.
2. I would go on this trip _____ myself, and it might get lonely _____ times.
3. The front part _____ a shinkansen is made _____ hand.
4. It is made _____ aluminum _____ the Kogyosho Company.
5. I wish I could run fast _____ a cheetah.
6. The price _____ a one-way ticket _____ adults _____ Tokyo _____ Hakodate _____ a shinkansen is _____ 23,000 yen (22,690).
7. It must be hard to look _____ windows traveling _____ fast speeds.
8. One time, I took a train that went _____ the English Channel called The Chunnel.
9. I thought that I could look _____ fish _____ the train. I was wrong.
10. I got _____ the train in France, and got _____ the train in England.
11. _____ total, that train ride took 35 minutes. It was dark _____ the tunnel.

WRITING SENTENCES

1. Invented: _____
2. Double: _____
3. Busiest: _____
4. Just before: _____
5. Fired: _____
6. Cost: _____