



A2

A2 · UNIT 1 · EPISODE 5

Taking the Bus and Subway

How to check you're on the right bus or train, and what to say when you miss your stop.

KEY WORDS

Does this go to ...?	A question to check a bus or train goes to your place.	<i>Does this bus go downtown?</i>
the other side	The other platform, or across the street.	<i>This one goes the other way. You want the other side.</i>
stop	A place where a bus or train stops for people.	<i>Which stop is the library?</i>
I missed my stop	You did not get off at the right place.	<i>I missed my stop. Where should I get off?</i>
downtown	The center of a city.	<i>Excuse me, does this bus go downtown?</i>
get off	Leave a bus or train.	<i>Where should I get off?</i>

THE STORY

Nina Hi, I'm Nina.

Ray And I'm Ray.

Nina Ray, have you ever gone the wrong way?

Ray On the subway? Forty minutes.

Nina Forty!

Ray I was reading. I looked up and I was outside the city.

Nina And the whole thing was one question you didn't ask.

Ray Which question?

Nina Does this go to the airport?

Ray Does this go to. That's it?

Nina That's it. Four words and a place. You can say it to the driver or to anyone waiting.

Ray And they just say yes or no.

Nina Usually yes, no, or other side. Other side is the one that saves you.

Ray Other side means the other platform.

Nina The other platform, or across the street for a bus. Always listen for it.

Ray Okay. What if I'm already on?

Nina Then the second sentence. Which stop is the museum?

Ray Which stop is. And they tell me a name?

Nina A name or a number. And here's the useful part — ask the person next to you, not the driver.

Ray Why not the driver?

Nina The driver is driving. The person next to you is bored.

Ray That is very practical.

Nina And the third sentence is for when it's too late. I missed my stop.

Ray Which was my situation.

Nina Say it to anyone. Then ask, where should I get off? People will help you fast.

Ray Because everyone has done it.

Nina Everyone has done it. Let's practice. I'm waiting at the stop.

Ray Excuse me, does this bus go downtown?

Nina No, this one goes the other way. You want the other side.

Ray The other side. Thank you.

Nina Good. Now you're on the right bus. Ask me the next one.

Ray Which stop is the library?

Nina Three more stops. I'll tell you.

Ray People really say that?

Nina All the time. Ask one question, and people take care of you.

Ray That's the part I didn't know.

Nina So — does this go to, which stop is, and I missed my stop.

Ray And listen for other side.

Nina Always listen for other side. Thanks for the story, Ray.

Nina That's it for today. See you next time.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What does "the other side" mean?

- ☐ A The back of the bus
- ☐ B Another city
- ☐ C The other platform, or across the street

2. On the bus, who should you ask?

- ☐ A The person next to you
- ☐ B The driver
- ☐ C Nobody

3. Ray asks, "Does this bus go downtown?" What's the answer?

- ☐ A Yes, get on.
- ☐ B No, he needs the other side.
- ☐ C He needs a taxi.

4. How many more stops to the library?

- ☐ A Two
- ☐ B Three
- ☐ C Four

Shadowing tip. Pick three lines you like from the story. Say each one five times, faster each time, until it sounds natural.

ANSWER KEY

1. **C** Other side means the other platform, or across the street for a bus.
2. **A** The driver is driving. The person next to you can help.
3. **B** No, this one goes the other way. You want the other side.
4. **B** Three more stops. I'll tell you.

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