

Unit 1

Stepping into the Colorful Metro World

Unit Objectives

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- get a general idea of urban rail transit;
- learn how to travel by a metro system;
- write an invitation letter.



Warming-up

Look at the following pictures carefully. Try to find the different letters used in these logos and guess the full spelling.



Speaking

Task 1 Work in pairs. Read the following short dialogues and try to imitate by using the new words and expressions.

- A:** Do you know when the Beijing Subway was built?

B: It is said that it was built in 1965.

A: Wow, surely it has the longest history. What do you know about the Shanghai Metro Line 11?

B: Hmmm..., I think it has the longest running line.
- A:** Excuse me, where can I get a ticket?

B: You can buy it on the machine. It's over there.

A: Thanks. By the way, can I pay in US dollars?

B: I'm sorry, but we don't accept foreign currency.
- A:** Sorry for being late and keep you waiting, Madam.

B: That's all right. How did you get here?



A: By bus. That was really a terrible experience.

B: Next time you can try the metro instead. We have a subway station right near the office building.

New Words and Expressions

underground [ˌʌndə'graʊnd]	<i>n.</i>	地铁
It is said (that)		据说
running line		运行线路
foreign currency		外币
subway station		地铁站

Task 2 Work in pairs. Read aloud the following dialogue and answer the questions. Perform it with your partner.

A: Excuse me, Madam. Can I take the subway to go to Tianjin Normal University?

B: Yes. You have to get off at Daxuecheng Station.

A: Shall I take Line 6 or Line 3?

B: Take Line 3. It saves you a lot of time, or you will have to change the line during the journey.

A: How much is the fare?

B: 2—4 yuan, accordingly. You can get a ticket from the fare vending machines. They are right beside the entrance.

A: What should I do with the ticket?

B: It's like a coin. You can swipe it through the fare gate to get in.

A: I see. Thanks a lot.

Questions:

1. How can the passenger get to Tianjin Normal University?
2. Where are the fare vending machines?
3. How can the passenger make the fare gate open?

New Words and Expressions

fare [feə]	<i>n.</i>	费用
swipe [swaɪp]	<i>v.</i>	刷(卡)
fare vending machine		售票机
fare gate		检票闸机

Task 3 Work by yourself. Answer the following questions orally in your own words.

1. Can you introduce the metro in your own city?
2. Have you ever given directions to a stranger who asked you for help?
3. Can you list some of the characteristics of the subway?



Listening

Task 1 John Smith came across his old friend Lucy the other day. Listen to the conversation twice and decode the message by finding out the correct choices according to what you have heard.

John Smith and Lucy have known each other for a long time. In fact, they were classmates in **training center/high school/ college**. Lucy is now working as a station staff in a **railway station/subway station/bus terminal**. John happens to drop his **metro card/debit card/membership card**, which cannot be found anymore in the crowd. Lucy explains to John that the card is **non-resident/non-profit/non-registered** so that he has to apply for a new one. After paying for a 20 **yuan deposit/saving/payment** and a charge of 80 **yuan**, John solves his problem and invites Lucy to dinner.

Task 2 Listen to the conversation and fill in the blanks according to what you have heard.

John: Excuse me? I am wondering if I could ask for some help.

Lucy: Yes, of course. So what can I do for you?

John: Hey, Lucy! It's me, John Smith. We used to be 1 _____ three years ago.

Lucy: Oh, John! You've changed a lot so that 2 _____. How's everything? Did you go to college after finishing the training program?

John: No, actually I started a business after that. How about you?

Lucy: Well, 3 _____ and got a job here in this station as a staff after graduation.

John: That is wonderful. Oh, by the way, 4 _____. I tried to find it; however, there are so many people that I cannot find it anymore. What can I do?

Lucy: I'm sorry, but 5 _____. You have to apply for a new one.

John: OK. I want it right now.

Lucy: No problem. There should be 6 _____, and a 20 *yuan minimum* for the first charge.

John: Thank you. Here's 100 *yuan*. The 80 *yuan* left is for the charge.

Lucy: Here you are. 7 _____, John.

John: I will. Hmm..., I am thinking of asking you to dine out tonight. May I have such a pleasure?

Lucy: Wow, it's really 8 _____. Maybe we can exchange our phone numbers and talk about this later.

Task 3 Listen to a short broadcast twice and during the second listening, put back the missing words in the blanks.

Dear 1 _____, welcome to Tianjin Metro. You can take the train with 2 _____ tickets



or stored-value tickets. A single ticket can only be used on the day of 3 _____ and at the station where you buy it or it is 4 _____. Each stored-value ticket can only be used by one person each time. If you fail to exit the station 5 _____ minutes, an 6 _____ of the highest ticket price will be 7 _____ when you exit. If you have any questions about the ticket, please ask the ticket office or 8 _____ for help. Thank you.

Task 4 Listen to five topic-related sentences and match them with their Chinese translation.

Then write down the sentences on the textbook.

1. _____ a. 请到售票处为您的卡充值。
2. _____ b. 请保存好单程票，我们在出站口回收。
3. _____ c. 地铁里随处可见中国传统文化的缩影。
4. _____ d. 打扰一下，请问到和平路站需要乘坐几号线？
5. _____ e. 请您站在黄色安全线以内排队候车。

Sentences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Intensive Reading

Task 1 Before reading the passage, try to think about the following questions.

1. What is urban rail transit?
2. What are the advantages of urban rail transit?

A Brief Introduction to the Development of Urban Rail Transit

Urban rail transit is a general term, which refers to electric-powered, wheel-rail public transportation with high capacity and speed. It usually includes subway (also known as metro or underground), light rail, maglev and monorail.

Urban rail transit has become the backbone of urban public transportation due to its low-energy consumption, high efficiency, great safety, high carrying capacity, less pollution and great convenience.

The first subway line in the world was built in London in the year of 1863, whereas the first line in China was put into operation in Beijing in 1969. Nowadays, the subway has become an essential means of transportation in more than 100 cities in over 20 countries, including the UK, the USA, Japan, France, Germany, etc.



In recent years, urban rail transit is **booming** in China, with a total 3649.88 km line **in service** in 30 cities and 6557.93 km under **construction**. The total length **is scheduled to** be 10207.81 km in 43 cities across the country in the near future.

The Tianjin Metro is the rapid transit system in the city of Tianjin, which was the second city (after Beijing) in China to **operate** a subway system. Opened in 1984, the system now has 5 operating lines and 112 stations spanning 166 km. The lines are jointly operated by two rapid transit companies, namely the Tianjin Metro Group Co. Ltd and the Binhai Mass Transit Development Co. Ltd. The **former** mainly operates lines in the **downtown**, while the **latter** operates lines that serve the Binhai New Area and Tianjin Economic and Technological Development Area (TEDA).

The following are brief introductions of the present lines.

Line 1 was built upon the old **surface**-level line, and was opened in 2006, **spanning** 26.2 km with 22 stations.

Line 2 was opened for trial operations on 1 July 2012. Due to a structural accident in Jianguodao Station, Line 2 was operated as two separate sections from July 2012 to 28 August 2013, when the affected station opened after being rebuilt. The line is 22.7 km long with 19 stations.

Line 3, running southeast-northwest, was opened on 1 October 2012. It is 22.3 km long with 21 stations. 20 km of track is underground, with 1.2 km at ground level and the rest on **elevated viaducts**. Of the 21 stations, one is elevated, one is at ground level and the other 19 are underground.

Line 5, north from Beichen Science Park North Station, south to Xiqing District Li qizhuang South Station, with a total length of 35km, 28 stations.

Line 6 runs from Xinwaihuandonglu to Xianshuigu. The full line is under construction and will be 50.1 km long with 38 stations. The first 8-station section of the line from Changhong Gongyuan to Nancuiping was opened in August 2016. The second section from Nansunzhuang to Changhong Gongyuan was opened on December 31, 2016. Line 6, together with Line 5 will form a **loop** around Tianjin.

Line 9 is an east-west line running just north of the Haihe River. It was opened in 2004, spanning 52.8 km with 19 stations. The line is operated by Tianjin Binhai Mass Transit Development Co. Ltd and provides **interchange** to the TEDA **Tram** line. Line 9 was **suspended** after damage from the August 2015 **explosions**, and **resumed** operation on December 16 from Tianjin Railway Station to Tianjin Pipe Corporation Station.

Line	Terminals (District)		Opened	Newest Extension	Length km	Stations	Operator ^[2]
1	Caijingdaxue (Jinnan)	Liuyuan (Beichen)	1984	2006	26.188	22	
2	Caozhuang (Xiqing)	Binhai International Airport (Dongli)	2012	2014	27.157	20	
3	Xiaodian (Beichen)	Nanzhan (Xiqing)	2012	2013	30.755	26	
6	Nansunzhuang (Dongli)	Nancuiping (Nankai)	2016	2016	26	24	
9	Tianjin Railway Station (Hebei)	Donghai Road (Binhai)	2004	2012	52.759	21	
Total					158.359	112	
TEDA	TEDA (Binhai)	North of College District (Binhai)	2007	—	7.860	14	



New Words and Expressions

urban ['ɜ:bən]	adj.	都市的；市内
capacity [kə'pæsəti]	n.	容量；才能
maglev ['mæglev]	n.	磁力悬浮火车
monorail ['mɒnəʊreɪl]	n.	单轨；单轨铁路
backbone ['bækbəʊn]	n.	脊梁骨，脊椎；支柱
consumption [kən'sʌmpʃn]	n.	消费；耗尽
efficiency [ɪ'fɪʃnsi]	n.	效率，效能
essential [ɪ'senʃl]	adj.	基本的；必要的
boom [bu:m]	v.	发出隆隆声；快速发展
construction [kən'strʌkʃn]	n.	建筑物；建造
operate ['ɒpəreɪt]	v.	运转；操作；经营；管理
former ['fɔ:mə(r)]	adj.	前者的；前任的
downtown [daʊn'taʊn]	n.	市中心区；(市中)商业区
latter ['lætə(r)]	adj.	后者的
surface ['sɜ:fɪs]	n.	表面；外表；地面
span [spæn]	n.	跨度；一段时间
	v.	跨越时间或空间
trial ['traɪəl]	n.	试验
structural ['strʌktʃərəl]	adj.	结构(上)的，建筑的
elevate ['elɪveɪt]	v.	举起；提升
viaduct ['vaɪədʌkt]	n.	高架桥(通常有多孔)
loop [lu:p]	n.	圈，环
interchange ['ɪntətʃeɪndʒ]	n.	交换，交替；互通式立体交叉
tram [træm]	n.	有轨电车轨道
suspend [sə'spend]	v.	暂停；延缓
explosion [ɪk'spləʊʒn]	n.	爆炸，炸裂
resume [rɪ'zju:m]	v.	重新开始；继续
urban rail transit		城市轨道交通
refer to		涉及；指的是
due to		由于
put into operation		投入运行
in service		在使用中；运行中
be scheduled to		预定，预期，计划做



Task 2 Answer the following questions according to the passage.

1. What is urban rail transit?
2. What are the advantages of urban rail transit?
3. When and where was the first subway line built in the world?
4. When was the Line 3 of Tianjin subway opened?
5. How long will the total length of urban rail lines be in China?

Task 3 Translate the following Chinese into English.

1. 城市轨道交通 _____
2. 磁悬浮列车 _____
3. 单轨列车 _____
4. 轻轨 _____
5. 地铁 _____
6. 低能耗 _____
7. 高效 _____
8. 高架桥 _____
9. 试运行 _____
10. 恢复通车 _____

Task 4 Fill in the blanks with the proper words given below and change the form if necessary.

maglev	elevate	interchange	structure	consume
capacity	efficient	monorail	loop	essential

1. Passengers can _____ to Line 2, 3 and 9 at Tianjin Railway Station.
2. We should _____ the quality in order to enlarge the sales amount.
3. The explosion caused little _____ damage to the office towers themselves.
4. The region is valued for its coal and vast electricity-generating _____.
5. The road went in a huge _____ around the lake.
6. Chongqing _____ system is one of the key projects in the development of west China.
7. It was achieved with minimum fuss and maximum _____.
8. The meat was condemned as unfit for human _____.
9. You can take the _____ train at Pudong Airport.
10. The authorities have said they will attempt to maintain _____ services.

**Task 5** Translate the following passage into Chinese.

The Tianjin Metro is the rapid transit system in the city of Tianjin, which was the second city (after Beijing) in China to operate a subway system. Opened in 1984, the system now has 6 operating lines and 139 stations spanning 201 km. The lines are jointly operated by two rapid transit companies, namely the Tianjin Metro Group Co. Ltd and the Binhai Mass Transit Development Co. Ltd. The former mainly operates lines in the downtown, while the latter operates lines that serve the Binhai New Area and Tianjin Economic and Technological Development Area (TEDA).

Project

This project aims to go through the process of a job interview. The whole task is carried out by two parties. One party plays the role of the interviewers, including two or three persons, while the other is the interviewee. Please follow the Task Description to complete the project.

Task Description**Step 1**

- Organize a small group of 4 students in your class;
- Divide the people into different roles, namely HR manager, staff A, staff B and an interviewee.

Step 2

- Discuss with group members about what kind of questions should be asked in the interview;
- Discuss how to answer questions in a job interview.

Step 3

- Act out the interview;
- Summarize tips about how to survive an interview.

Extensive Reading**The London Underground**

The London Underground (also known simply as the Underground, or by its nickname the Tube) is a public rapid transit system serving London and some parts of the adjacent counties of Buckinghamshire, Essex and Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom.

The world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan Railway, which opened in 1863, is now part of the Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines; the first line to operate underground electric traction trains, the City & South London Railway in 1890, is now part of the Northern line. The network has expanded to 11 lines, and in 2015—2016 carried 1.34 billion passengers, making it the world's 11th busiest metro system. The 11 lines collectively handle approximately 4.8 million



passengers a day.

The system's first tunnels were built just below the surface, using the cut-and-cover method; later, smaller and roughly circular tunnels—which gave rise to its nickname, the Tube—were dug through at a deeper level. The system has 270 stations and 250 miles (400 km) of track. Despite its name, only 45% of the system is actually underground in tunnels, with much of the network in the outer environs of London being on the surface. In addition, the Underground does not cover most southern parts of Greater London, with less than 10% of the stations located south of the River Thames.

The early tube lines, originally owned by several private companies, were brought together under the “Underground” brand in the early 20th century and eventually merged along with the sub-surface lines and bus services in 1933 to form London Transport under the control of the London Passenger Transport Board (LPTB). The current operator, London Underground Limited (LUL), is a wholly owned subsidiary of Transport for London (TfL), the statutory corporation responsible for the transport network in Greater London. As of 2015, 92% of operational expenditure is covered by passenger fares. The Travelcard ticket was introduced in 1983 and Oyster, a contactless ticketing system, in 2003. Contactless card payments were introduced in 2014.



Task 1 Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- () 1. The London Underground provides service only in the city of London.
- () 2. The London Underground system is the busiest in the world.
- () 3. The system's first tunnels used the cut-and-cover method and later circular ones.
- () 4. The current operator of the London Underground is London Underground Limited (LUL).
- () 5. Only a small amount of the operational expenditure is covered by passenger fares as the most is sponsored by the government.



Task 2

1. Try to search for more information of the London Underground and give a detailed description to the class.
2. Try to search for more information about the underground systems all over the world and discuss their history and development.

Writing

Invitation

Invitations are mostly written to invite people to attend certain events, such as a dinner party, a graduation ceremony or an opening ceremony, etc. It should include at least five parts:

1. inviter—people or organization who send the invitation
2. place—where the event will happen
3. time—when the event will take place
4. invitee—people who are invited
5. event—what the occasion is about

Sometimes, if a reply is needed, RSVP (means reply please) is necessary at the end of the letter.

Task 1 Read the following samples of invitation letters and learn to write your own.

Sample 1

Dear Sam,

We would be very glad if you could come to dinner with us at our apartment at about 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22nd. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours,
Linda and Bob

Sample 2

March 1st

Dear Prof. Smith

There will be a meeting of our drama group at 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon, March 6 in our classroom, Room 302 in the teaching building to discuss which play to put on for the English Evening. We would like to hear your suggestions and comments and hope you would come if you possibly could.

Class monitor
Song Ping



Task 2 Translate the following invitation letter into English.

敬爱的史密斯先生：

很荣幸邀请您参加我们的年会。今年的会议将于 12 月 20 日到 24 日在维多利亚大酒店举行。随信寄去会议的详细内容、住宿安排及业务活动计划。

如果方便，请尽快告知我们您是否参会，我们将不胜感激。

您真挚的

玛丽

2020 年 11 月 1 日

Task 3 Suppose you are going to graduate in June. Try to write an invitation letter to invite your friend Bob to join your graduation ceremony in the college auditorium at 3:00 p.m. on June 25th.

Leisure Time

A Voice Never Dying Away

A widow's wish to hear her late husband's voice again has prompted London's subway system to restore a 40-year-old recording of the subway's famous "mind the gap" announcement. The Underground, also known as the Tube, tracked down the voice recording by Oswald Lawrence after his widow, Margaret McCollum, approached its staff and told them what it meant to her.

McCollum, 65, said she used to frequently visit Embankment station or plan her journeys around the stop to listen to Lawrence's voice, even before his death in 2007. She was taken aback in November when she noticed it had been replaced by a different voice.

"Lawrence was a drama school graduate when he auditioned for the Tube recording," she said. "He went on to become a theater actor and then worked for a tour and cruise company. After he died, I would stay on the platform, just sit and listen to it again," she added. "It was a huge comfort. It was very special."

When McCollum approached a Tube worker, she was told the station had a new broadcast system and it could not use the old recording anymore.

But Nigel Holness, director of London Underground, said its staff has been so moved by McCollum's story that they dug up the recording and gave the widow a copy of the announcement on



a CD for her to keep. Tube staff is also working to restore Lawrence's announcement at the station.

The Tube's automated "mind the gap" messages, voiced by various actors, have accompanied countless London commuter journeys since the 1960s. Train drivers and staff made the warnings themselves before that.

McCollum said she has been overwhelmed by the media attention to her story, and hoped that she could hear Lawrence's voice in the Tube again soon.

"I'm very pleased in Oswald's memory that people are interested," she said. "He was a great London transport user all his life. He would be amused and touched and delighted to know he's back where he belonged."