

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

Un asiento junto a la ventana

An A2 story about a train journey, a polite conversation, and how listening can make strangers feel less alone.

TRAVEL

TALK

LISTEN

APRENDE GRATIS EN [EZINGLES.COM](https://ezingles.com)

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Amelia takes a train to visit her sister. The passenger beside her begins a conversation that changes the journey for both of them.

Before you begin

What is a polite question you can ask someone while traveling?

Reading goal

Notice polite questions, travel expressions, and ways to show interest in another person's story.

THE STORY · PART 1

Platform six

Amelia arrived at the train **station** twenty minutes early. She was traveling from Portland to Seattle for her sister's graduation.

Her ticket showed car four, seat 18A - a **window seat**.

She found her place, put her suitcase on the luggage rack, and watched people hurry along the **platform**.

Just before **departure**, an older man sat beside her.

'Excuse me,' he said. 'Is seat 18B here?'

'Yes, this is it,' Amelia answered, moving her bag.

The man introduced himself as Mr. Alvarez. He was carrying a small paper package and a worn brown notebook.

When the train began to move, he looked toward the window.

'Would you mind if I looked outside sometimes?' he asked.

Amelia smiled. 'Not at all. I can move a little so we both can see.'

At first, they sat quietly as the city disappeared behind them.

A conversation begins

After the conductor checked their **tickets**, Mr. Alvarez opened his notebook.

Amelia noticed a sketch of a mountain. 'Did you draw that?' she asked.

'Yes. I draw places I want to remember.'

He was traveling to visit an old friend he had not seen in fifteen years.

'We worked together when we were young,' he explained. 'Then our lives went in different directions.'

Amelia asked how they had reconnected. Mr. Alvarez said his granddaughter had found the friend online.

'Technology solved a problem that pride created,' he said. 'We both waited too long to call.'

The train followed a river, and distant mountains appeared between the clouds.

Mr. Alvarez offered Amelia the window for a photograph. She thanked him and asked about his drawings.

Instead of giving short answers, he shared stories about places he had visited and people he had met.

Amelia listened without checking her phone. The journey began to feel much **shorter**.

THE STORY · PART 3

Before the final stop

Near Seattle, Mr. Alvarez grew quiet. 'I am a little **nervous**,' he admitted. 'What if my friend is still angry?'

Amelia considered his question. 'You made the effort to come. That shows the friendship matters to you.'

He nodded. 'Sometimes the first sentence is the hardest.'

Together, they practiced a simple **greeting**: 'It has been a long time. I am glad to see you.'

When the train reached its final **destination**, a gray-haired man was waiting near the exit.

Mr. Alvarez stood, held the paper package, and took a deep breath.

The two men looked at each other. Then the friend smiled and opened his arms.

Before leaving, Mr. Alvarez gave Amelia a small drawing of the river.

'Thank you for the conversation,' he said. 'A good listener makes a difficult journey easier.'

Amelia placed the drawing inside her book. She had expected only transportation, but the seat beside her had brought a meaningful **connection**.

Every traveler carries a destination and a story.

Words for travel and conversation

Find each bold word in the story before checking its meaning.

station	estación
window seat	asiento junto a la ventana
platform	andén
departure	salida
tickets	boletos
shorter	más corto/a
nervous	nervioso/a
greeting	saludo
destination	destino
connection	conexión

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose

1. Why is Amelia traveling? a) A graduation b) A job c) A wedding
2. What is Mr. Alvarez carrying? a) Flowers b) A package and notebook c) A camera
3. How did he reconnect with his friend? a) A letter b) His granddaughter found him online c) At work
4. What does he give Amelia? a) A drawing b) His ticket c) The package

B. True or false

1. Amelia has an aisle seat. TRUE / FALSE
2. Mr. Alvarez draws places he remembers. TRUE / FALSE
3. His friend refuses to meet him. TRUE / FALSE

C. Write

Write three polite questions you could ask a fellow traveler. What makes someone a good listener?

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. 1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a

B. 1. False 2. True 3. False

Suggested answer

A good listener pays attention, asks respectful questions, and gives the other person time to speak without interruption.

KEEP GOING

Practice: Where are you traveling? Is this your first visit?