

## High-speed dreams

### Level

Intermediate

### Tasks

Ranking factors which students consider important for rail travel  
Reading an article on abandoning a high-speed train project  
Identifying some of the key language in the article from definitions  
Discussing points arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students how they would prefer to travel from an airport to the city centre: by fast train, underground or taxi. Why? Issue the worksheet. Give students a few minutes to discuss their ranking order with a partner. Monitor the discussion, then ask some students to report the justification of their order to the class.
- 2 Ask students to scan the text and note which factors are mentioned in the article.

#### *Answer*

*speed (paragraph 1)*

*speed / safety / reliability / price (all paragraph 4)*

Ask students to read the article again. Ask general comprehension questions: What is a Maglev train? Why was the Maglev abandoned?

- 3 Ask students to look back at the article and find words that match the definitions given.

#### *Answers*

*a commercial      b consortium      c bidding      d lucrative      e abandoned*  
*f innovative      g axed*

- 4 Ask students to work in groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class, then hold a class feedback session.

### Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://www.rtri.or.jp/rd/maglev/html/english/maglev\\_frame\\_E.html](http://www.rtri.or.jp/rd/maglev/html/english/maglev_frame_E.html)

<http://travel.howstuffworks.com/maglev-train.htm>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/uk/2003/concorde\\_retirement/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2003/concorde_retirement/default.stm)