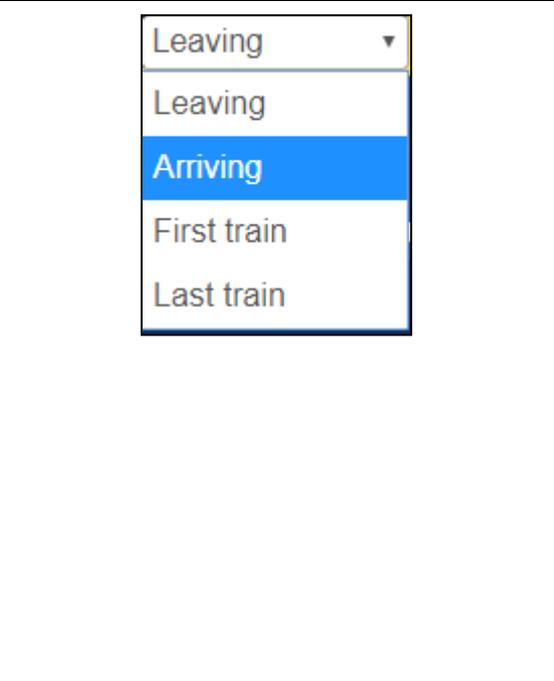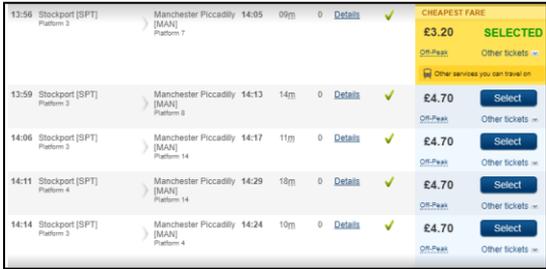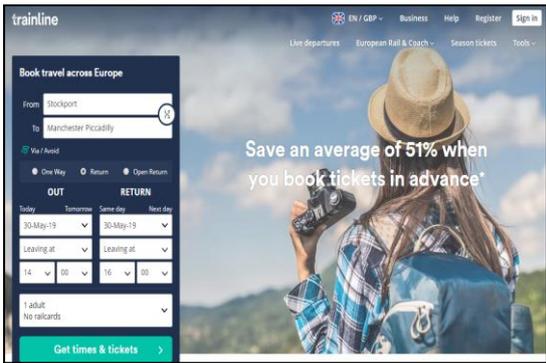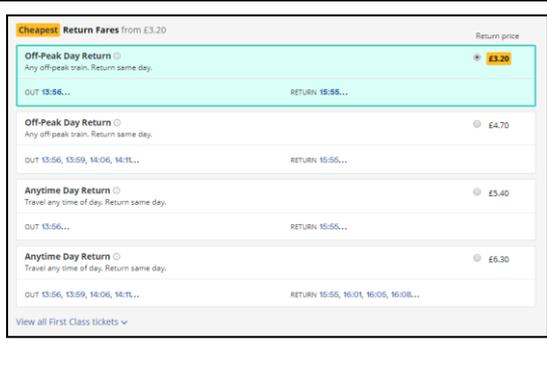# Travelling by Train

In this session we are going to take a look at 2 websites you can use to book train tickets on and look at potential ways to save yourself money when booking train tickets online.

1	The first website we are going to use is National Rail. To get on their website you need to enter www.nationalrail.co.uk into the address bar in your web browser.	
2	You'll notice there is a request to 'Create Account' or 'Sign-in' to National Rail. You don't need to do this to look at train timetables or to look at potential ticket prices. We are looking for a specific train leaving at a specific time. In the 'From' field we need to type Stockport. As you begin to type, you'll notice lists of stations appearing underneath. Click on Stockport when you see it. In to 'To' field, we need to type Manchester Piccadilly.	
3	There are different options that will filter what times you receive. These are found under the 'When' drop-down menu and is set as 'Leaving' by default. You could change this to 'Arriving', 'First Train' or 'Last Train' depending on the search you were doing. We will keep it on 'Leaving'. We want to travel a week today at 2pm or as close to as possible. Select the calendar icon next to the date and click on the date 1 week from now and using the drop-down box, change the departure time to 14.00 – 2pm in the 24-hour clock format.	

![DigiKnow logo]
Helping Stockport get online

4	We also want to add a return time. Click in the check box next to 'Return' and select 16.00 – 4pm in the 24-hour clock format. We now need to click on 'Go' for National Rail to search train tickets that match our criteria.	Return
5	Details will now be shown about the journey including the price, the duration and any changes you may need to make if they are applicable to the journey you've searched for.	
6	We now want to return to the homepage. We can do this by clicking on the National Rail logo at the top of the web page.

We are now going to repeat the journey mentioned above but we are going to change passenger details by selecting 'Add railcard' and then select a senior railcard from the drop-down menu. We now need to select 'Check Fares', to see how the price changes.

How much of a price change was there? | National Rail Enquiries |
| 7 | We are now going to use a different website – www.thetrainline.com.

Use the details from the above journey, minus the senior railcard, and use the Trainline website to look at ticket information for a journey from Stockport to Manchester Piccadilly, 1 week from today, at as close to 2pm as possible. | |

Created as part of the **DigiKnow Movement** by Starting Point Community Learning Partnership working with The Good Things Foundation, Stockport Home & The Target Prevention Alliance. Funded by Stockport Council.
https://www.onlinecentresnetwork.org/stockport

8	When you are using www.thetrainline.com, make sure to scroll down the webpage on the journey results webpage and look at the various ticket options and their prices. These include off-peak returns and anytime returns.	
9	We are now going to use either the National Rail or the Trainline website to find out information about various rail journeys.	
10	Can I get a direct train from Adlington, Lancashire to Stockport?	
11	If I went to Exeter St. David's from Stockport, how many times would I need to change and where?	
12	If I needed to travel to Buxton, would it be quicker to go from Bredbury train station or Woodley train station?	
13	What is the cheapest ticket option if I was travelling to London in 1 month, return, and I have a senior railcard?	

F. A. Q's

1. **What's the difference between creating an account and signing in?**
   You only create an account the first time you use a service. After the first use, you just log-in/sign-in to the account you've created. You'll need an e-mail address and a password, that was set when you created the account itself.

2. **What does the exclamation mark mean next to certain rail journeys?**
   The exclamation mark means there are issues with the rail journey. This may result in potential delays and/or changes to your proposed journey.

3. **What do the 3 letter codes mean next to the names of the railway stations?**
   The 3 letter codes such as SPT refer to the name of the train station itself – Stockport. This makes it easier to identify particular stations when you are planning your journey.

4. **What is a web browser?**
   A web browser is the piece of software you use on your laptop/tablet/smartphone to access the internet. There are many different services such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari and Mozilla Firefox. They all offer a similar service but with slight differences.

5. **What is an address bar?**
   The address bar runs along the top of the web page once you've opened your web browser. Once you've clicked inside the address bar, you typically enter the website address, or you can use the address bar to search for information.

6. **What is a drop-down menu?**
   A drop-down menu is a list of options that are nested within a field. You can click on the arrow next to the drop-down menu and various options appear. Here you can select the option you are looking for.

7. **What is a check box?**
   A check box is a square that you click in/on to select and decide an option. You may have checked on when agreeing to terms and conditions when signing up for a website.

8. **Why do you click on a website's logo?**
   By clicking on a website's logo, we are returning to the home page of the website. A handy tip for if you ever get lost when searching the web.

Tips & Tricks for travelling by train

- Get a railcard.
  There are many different railcards available for train passengers. There are young person's railcards for those aged between 16 – 30, Family & Friends and Two together railcards for families or friends that travel together to use, senior railcards for those aged 60+ and disabled person's railcards for those in receipt of certain benefits or suffering from hearing and/or visual impairments or epilepsy. All of these offer the chance to save up to 33% of your travel.

- Book advanced fares.
  Advanced fares are often cheaper and can be booked up to 12 weeks prior to your journey.

- Season Pass.
  Season Pass' can save you money if you travel a certain journey repeatedly. For example, if a week's pass was worth £44.10 per week, it would cost you £176.40 per month. A monthly season pass for that same route would cost you £169.40 per month, resulting in a saving of £7 per month, totalling £84 per year.

- Fare finder
  The journey planner on both National Rail and the Trainline allows you to look at various ticket options to find the cheapest available ticket.

- Avoid off-peak, travel midweek and avoid holidays.
  Avoid traveling between 7-9am and 5-7pm, avoid Monday's and Friday's where possible and also avoid busy times of the year. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings are often the cheapest time to travel.

- Split your ticket.
  Often travelling from one destination straight to another can be more expensive than splitting your ticket and travelling between 3 places, that all fall on the same route. An example of this is when travelling from Stockport to Wembley Stadium, it is cheaper to travel from Stockport to Leamington Spa and then from Leamington Spa on to Wembley Stadium. You don't get off the train. The train goes through Leamington Spa, so you don't even have to leave your seat.

- Use singles
  Sometimes booking your travel as 2 singles can save you money. An example of this is where a standard return from Birmingham to Edinburgh costs £123.80 but 2 advanced singles from Birmingham to Edinburgh and from Edinburgh to Birmingham cost £43.30 and £38 respectively. This totals £81.30 and a saving of £42.50 on your journey.