day 20 getting around

Say how you get somewhere: by taxi, train, car or plane, and when you arrive.

Taxis, trains and planes are how you see China, and now you can talk about every trip.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
车	chē	vehicle; car	"Chuh-chuh": the sound of an old engine starting.
开	kāi	to open; to drive	Open the door and drive away: kāi!
开车	kāichē	to drive (a car)	开 to open, to operate + 车 vehicle
火车	huǒchē	train	火 fire + 车 vehicle
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station	火 fire + 车 vehicle + 站 to stand; station
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi	出 to go out + 租 to rent + 车 vehicle
飞机	fēijī	plane	飞 to fly + 机 machine
坐	zuò	to sit; travel by	Two friends sitting on the ground: have a seat!
回	huí	to return; go back	A small box inside a big one: you always come back inside.
到	dào	to arrive; to reach	"Dow!" The doors open: you've arrived.

pattern how you go, then where: 坐飞机去北京

who | 坐 / 开 | vehicle | 去 · 来 · 回 | place

Chinese lines actions up in the order they happen: first get on the plane, then go to Beijing. 坐 is for riding (taxi, train, plane), 开 for driving. Then 去 go, 来 come (towards you) or 回 go back.

我坐飞机去北京。 **Wǒ zuò fēijī qù Běijīng.** I'm flying to Beijing.

李先生开车去医院。 **Lǐ xiānsheng kāichē qù yīyuàn.** Mr Li drives to the hospital.

我坐出租车回家。 **Wǒ zuò chūzūchē huí jiā.** I'm taking a taxi home.

dialogue a day out by train

xiaoming 安娜，明天我们坐火车去玩吧！
Ānnà, míngtiān wǒmen zuò huǒchē qù wán ba! · Anna, let's take the train for a day out tomorrow!

anna 好！我们几点去火车站？
Hǎo! Wǒmen jǐ diǎn qù huǒchēzhàn? · Great! What time do we go to the station?

xiaoming 早上八点。我们坐出租车去吧。
Zǎoshang bā diǎn. Wǒmen zuò chūzūchē qù ba. · Eight in the morning. Let's take a taxi there.

anna 好。火车几点开？
Hǎo. Huǒchē jǐ diǎn kāi? · OK. What time does the train leave?

xiaoming 九点半开。
Jiǔ diǎn bàn kāi. · It leaves at half past nine.

anna 我们几点回北京？
Wǒmen jǐ diǎn huí Běijīng? · What time do we head back to Beijing?

xiaoming 下午五点回，晚上七点到北京。
Xiàwǔ wǔ diǎn huí, wǎnshang qī diǎn dào Běijīng. · We head back at five and get to Beijing at seven in the evening.

anna 好！我非常想坐火车！
Hǎo! Wǒ fēicháng xiǎng zuò huǒchē! · Great! I really want to ride the train!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

车
chē
vehicle; car

出
chū
to go out

good to know · Use 开 for trains and buses leaving: 火车几点开？ What time does the train leave? In China you "sit" on transport: 坐出租车, 坐火车, 坐飞机. You only 开 what you drive yourself.

Taxi, train or plane: you can now plan a trip, ask when it leaves and say when you'll be back.
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