

Lost in the City

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

Lost in the City: A Reading Lesson for CEFR A1

Have you ever been in a new place and not known where to go? It is a scary feeling! In this lesson, you will read a short text message conversation between two friends. One friend is lost in a big city. Before you read, think about these two questions: **1. What do you do when you are lost?** **2. How do you ask for help?**

Reading Passage: Where Are You?!

Kwame is visiting his friend Rosa in Madrid for the first time. He arrives at the train station, but Rosa is not there. He has his phone, so he sends her a message.

Kwame: Rosa! I am at the train station, but I can't find you. There are so many people here! I can see a big café and a bookshop next to it. Where are you?

Rosa: Oh no! Sorry, Kwame! I am at the WRONG station! You are at Atocha, but I am at Chamartín. Don't move! Can you see a red sign? It says "Metro". Go there and take Line 1. Get off at Nuevos Ministerios. I meet you there in 15 minutes!

Kwame: OK! I can see the red sign. But how do I buy a ticket? I don't have euros!

Rosa: You can pay with your card at the machine. It is easy! Don't worry. I am so sorry. See you soon!

Kwame: No problem! I am not angry. This is a big adventure! 😊

Kwame finds the metro machine. He buys a ticket with his card and gets on Line 1. Twenty minutes later, he sees Rosa on the platform at Nuevos Ministerios. She is very happy to see him. They laugh about the mix-up and go for coffee.

Key Vocabulary in Context

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Definition	Example Sentence
station	noun	A place where trains or buses stop for passengers	The train arrives at the station at 9 o'clock.
can't find	verb phrase	Not able to see or locate something or someone	I can't find my keys. Do you see them?
sign	noun	A board or notice with words or pictures that gives information	The red sign says "Exit" — go that way!

metro	noun	An underground train system in a city	We take the metro to get to the city centre fast.
get off	phrasal verb	To leave a bus, train, or metro at a stop	Get off at the third stop and turn left.
machine	noun	An electronic device that does a job, like selling tickets	You can buy tickets from the machine near the door.
mix-up	noun	A mistake or a confused situation	There was a mix-up with our hotel booking.
platform	noun	The flat area beside the tracks where you wait for a train	Wait on platform 3 for the next train.

Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

Scanning for Specific Information

This text is a message conversation. You do not need to read every word slowly. **Scan** for names, places, and numbers. For example, if a question asks "Which metro line does Kwame take?", look quickly for the word *Line* in the messages. You will find "Line 1" very fast.

Understanding Who Says What

In a conversation text, always check **who is speaking** before you read the message. The names **Kwame** and **Rosa** appear before each message. This helps you understand whose problem it is and who gives the instructions.

Using Context to Understand New Words

If you see a word you don't know, look at the words around it. For example, you may not know the word *platform*. But the sentence says "he sees Rosa on the platform at Nuevos Ministerios." You know it is a place inside a metro station. That is enough to answer most questions!

Skimming for the Main Idea

Read the first and last paragraph quickly. You can see: Kwame is lost → he gets help → he finds Rosa. That is the main story. Skimming first helps you understand the whole text before you answer detailed questions.

Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

Trap 1: Confusing the Two Stations

The text mentions **two different stations**: Atocha and Chamartín. A common mistake is to mix them up. Remember: **Kwame is at Atocha**. Rosa is at Chamartín by mistake. If a question asks "Where is Kwame?", the answer is Atocha — not Chamartín.

Trap 2: The Word "Wrong"

Rosa says "I am at the WRONG station." Some students think this means Kwame is at the wrong station. Read carefully! Rosa uses *I am* — so **Rosa** is in the wrong place, not Kwame.

Trap 3: How Kwame Pays

Kwame says he has **no euros**. Some students think he cannot buy a ticket. But Rosa tells him he can pay **with his card**. The answer to "How does Kwame buy his ticket?" is *by card* — not cash, and not with Rosa's help.

Trap 4: Feelings at the End

Kwame uses the word *adventure* and a smiley face 😊. He is **not angry or sad**. Some students choose "worried" as the answer because he was lost. But the final messages show he is happy and relaxed. Always read to the **end** of a text before choosing an answer about feelings.

Quick Summary

In this lesson, you read a text message conversation about Kwame, who gets lost at a train station in Madrid. His friend Rosa helps him find the right metro line and station. The text uses simple, everyday language about transport, directions, and feelings. You practised scanning for names and numbers, understanding who is speaking, and avoiding common reading traps like confusing two similar details.

Now read the passage carefully and complete **Exercise 1 (Multiple Choice)** and **Exercise 2 (Fill-in-the-gap dropdown)** below.

Lost in the City – Practice Test

A1 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Why is Kwame at the train station alone?

- ☐ A Rosa forgot about the visit.
- ☐ B Rosa is at a different station.
- ☐ C Rosa is stuck in traffic.
- ☐ D Rosa missed her train.

2 What does Kwame see near the café at the train station?

- ☐ A A metro entrance
- ☐ B A bookshop
- ☐ C A red sign
- ☐ D A ticket machine

3 Which metro line does Rosa tell Kwame to take?

- ☐ A Line 3
- ☐ B Line 5
- ☐ C Line 1
- ☐ D Line 2

4 Where does Rosa tell Kwame to get off the metro?

- ☐ A Chamartín
- ☐ B Atocha
- ☐ C Nuevos Ministerios
- ☐ D Madrid Centro

5 Why can't Kwame buy a metro ticket at first?

- ☐ A The machine is broken.
- ☐ B He doesn't have euros.
- ☐ C He can't find the machine.
- ☐ D He doesn't know the price.

6 How does Kwame pay for his metro ticket?

- A** Rosa pays for him online.
- B** He uses cash from a friend.
- C** He pays with his card at the machine.
- D** He gets a free ticket.

7 How does Kwame feel about the mix-up?

- A** He is very angry.
- B** He thinks it is an adventure.
- C** He is sad and worried.
- D** He wants to go home.

8 How long does Rosa say it will take her to reach Kwame?

- A** 10 minutes
- B** 20 minutes
- C** 30 minutes
- D** 15 minutes

9 Where does Kwame finally meet Rosa?

- A** At Atocha station
- B** At a café near the bookshop
- C** On the platform at Nuevos Ministerios
- D** At the metro machine

10 What do Kwame and Rosa do after they meet?

- A** They go back to Atocha station.
- B** They laugh and go for coffee.
- C** They take the metro again.
- D** They call Rosa's family.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap Dropdown (Questions 11–20)

11 Kwame is visiting his friend Rosa in Madrid for the ____ time.

- A** first
- B** second
- C** last

12 Kwame arrives at the train station, but Rosa is ____ there.

- A** not
- B** always
- C** also

13 Kwame can see a big café and a ____ next to it.

- A** bookshop
- B** pharmacy
- C** hotel

14 Rosa tells Kwame to take ____ 1 on the metro.

- A** Line
- B** Bus
- C** Road

15 Rosa tells Kwame to get ____ at Nuevos Ministerios.

- A** off
- B** up
- C** in

16 Kwame says he doesn't have ____.

- A** euros
- B** dollars
- C** tickets

17 Rosa says Kwame can pay with his ____ at the machine.

- A** card
- B** phone
- C** passport

18 Kwame says he is ____ angry.

- A** not
- B** very
- C** always

19 Kwame buys a ticket with his card and gets on ____ 1.

- A** Line
- B** Track
- C** Platform

20 They ____ about the mix-up and go for coffee.

- A** laugh
- B** cry
- C** argue

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: Rosa is at a different station.**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa tells Kwame, "*I am at the WRONG station!*" She went to **Chamartín**, but Kwame arrived at **Atocha**. They are not at the same place.
2. **B** **Correct Answer: A bookshop**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame says, "*I can see a big café and a bookshop next to it.*" The **bookshop** is beside the café. This is what he describes to help Rosa find him.
3. **C** **Correct Answer: Line 1**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa tells Kwame, "*Go there and take Line 1.*" She gives him clear directions to use **Line 1** of the metro to reach her.
4. **C** **Correct Answer: Nuevos Ministerios**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa says, "*Get off at Nuevos Ministerios.*" This is the station where Rosa plans to wait and meet Kwame.
5. **B** **Correct Answer: He doesn't have euros.**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame asks, "*But how do I buy a ticket? I don't have euros!*" He does not have the local **currency**, so he is worried about paying.
6. **C** **Correct Answer: He pays with his card at the machine.**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa tells Kwame, "*You can pay with your card at the machine.*" The text also confirms he **buys a ticket with his card** at the metro machine.
7. **B** **Correct Answer: He thinks it is an adventure.**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame says, "*I am not angry. This is a big adventure!*" He has a positive attitude and is not upset about the situation.
8. **D** **Correct Answer: 15 minutes**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa tells Kwame, "*I meet you there in 15 minutes!*" She uses this time to tell him she will arrive quickly after he takes the metro.
9. **C** **Correct Answer: On the platform at Nuevos Ministerios**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says, "*he sees Rosa on the platform at Nuevos Ministerios.*" This is where they finally see each other after the mix-up.
10. **B** **Correct Answer: They laugh and go for coffee.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says, "*They laugh about the mix-up and go for coffee.*" After the stressful start, they relax and enjoy their time together.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: first**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Kwame is in Madrid **for the first time**, meaning he has never been there before. *This is my first time in London.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: not**
✓ **Explanation:** The word **not** shows that Rosa is absent — she is at the wrong station. *She is not here right now.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: bookshop**
✓ **Explanation:** In his message, Kwame describes seeing a **bookshop** next to the café at the station. *There is a bookshop near the café.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: Line**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa says **Line 1** is the metro route Kwame must use. *Take Line 1 and get off at the third stop.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: off**
✓ **Explanation:** We say **get off** a train or metro when we leave it at a stop. *Get off at the next station.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: euros**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame cannot buy a ticket because he has no **euros**, the currency used in Spain. *I don't have euros, but I have a card.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: card**
✓ **Explanation:** Rosa tells Kwame he can use his **card** to pay at the ticket machine. *You can pay by card at the machine.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: not**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame says **I am not angry** to show he is calm and does not have a problem with the situation. *Don't worry, I am not angry.*
19. **A** **Correct Answer: Line**
✓ **Explanation:** Kwame follows Rosa's instructions and boards **Line 1** of the Madrid metro. *He gets on Line 1 at the station.*
20. **A** **Correct Answer: laugh**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Kwame and Rosa **laugh** about the mix-up, showing they are happy and relaxed about the mistake. *We laugh about funny mistakes.*

Score Guide

18–20 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
15–17 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
12–14 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–11 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.