

The Trans-Siberian Railway crosses Russia from east to west. It's one of the longest railway lines in the world. It has connected Moscow with the Far East since 1912. Today it carries about 200 000 containers per year to Europe.

At first sight, when you see the train coming into the station, you won't be particularly impressed. The powerful engine, the green carriages, and the people at the window, all look a lot like the rolling stock and passengers of other trains. What is exceptional is the distance that the train covers: nine thousand kilometres in eight days, connecting Europe to the Pacific Ocean; from the city of Vladivostok, on the Sea of Japan.



Train entering a tunnel

The importance of the railway for communication in Siberia is shown by the fact that, even today, the only cities in Siberia are those which have been built along the railway line over the last hundred years.



Railway bridge near Perm

Punctuality is important, given the immense distances the train has to cover, and the heavy volume of traffic in goods and passengers that it carries. The line spans eight time zones. A trainload of containers can be taken from Beijing to Hamburg, via the Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian lines in 15 days.

**Chose and underline the appropriate expression:**

Moscow is the capital of **Germany / Russia**.

The Trans-Siberian Railway crosses Russia from **nord to south / east to west**.

It's a very **short / long** railway line.

The Trans-Siberian Railway is **less / more** than a hundred years old.

It **carries people and goods / is only for passengers**.

Vladivostok is **near / nine thousand kilometres away from** Moscow.

Vladivostok is located **on the Far East / in the West**.

Cities in Siberia have been built **far away from / along** the railway line.

Usually the trains are **rather / far from being** punctual.

You have to adjust your wristwatch **only once / seven times** during the trip.

Beijing is the capital of **China / Germany**.