

## Coughing and sneezing most annoying behaviour on trains

30<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A recent study from the Japan Private Railway Association (JPRA) reveals that coughing and sneezing were the biggest annoyances on trains. A total of 5,314 train passengers responded to a JPRA survey on behaviour and manners on trains and at stations. "Coughing and sneezing without consideration for others" topped the list of passenger gripes. An association spokesperson attributed this to remaining effects of Covid-19. He said: "The coronavirus pandemic may have ingrained the importance of consideration for others as a norm." He added: "More people likely feel greater anxiety than before the pandemic when someone nearby coughs or sneezes without wearing a mask."

The JPRA has been conducting its polls since 1999 to gauge how people feel about their fellow passengers. It hopes to promote better behaviour in the future. It said 50.5 per cent of survey respondents cited coughing and sneezing as their top annoyance. Other sources of irritation on trains included people stretching their legs, people not moving over to make space for others wanting to sit down, and noisy conversations. The JPRA added that "strong scents from perfume or fabric softeners" and "poor manners during boarding and alighting such as blocking doors" were fourth and fifth on the list. The number of riders has increased on Japan's trains due to a rise in tourists visiting Japan.

Sources: [msn.com](https://www.msn.com) / [mainichi.jp](https://www.mainichi.jp) / [timeout.com](https://www.timeout.com)

### Writing

We all need to change our behaviour to be more considerate to others. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

study / railway / coughing / sneezing / behaviour / manners / passenger / masks / polls / the future / annoyance / space / scents / perfume / list / tourists / Japan

### True / False

- 1) The survey in the article is from a passengers' group. T / F
- 2) More than 5,000 participated in a survey on manners on trains. T / F
- 3) People on Japan's trains are still concerned about Covid-19. T / F
- 4) A rail association said everyone on trains should wear a mask. T / F
- 5) Over half of the survey's respondents disliked coughing and sneezing. T / F
- 6) Rail passengers were annoyed by people wearing strong perfume. T / F
- 7) Rail passengers were happy that people got on and off trains politely. T / F
- 8) The article said most bad behaviour on trains was from tourists. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>annoyances</b>    | a. assess      |
| 2. <b>responded</b>     | b. care        |
| 3. <b>consideration</b> | c. getting off |
| 4. <b>ingrained</b>     | d. worry       |
| 5. <b>anxiety</b>       | e. replied     |
| 6. <b>gauge</b>         | f. mentioned   |
| 7. <b>cited</b>         | g. roots       |
| 8. <b>sources</b>       | h. nuisances   |
| 9. <b>alighting</b>     | i. hike        |
| 10. <b>rise</b>         | j. fixed       |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Japan's trains?
- c) Do you ever want to tell people about their bad behaviour?
- d) What do you think of noisy conversations on trains?
- e) What do you think of strong scents from perfume on trains?
- f) What annoys you about people in shopping malls?
- g) Do you think people's behaviour is getting better or worse?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. coughing and sneezing were                | a. on the list             |
| 2. train passengers responded                | b. for others as a norm    |
| 3. topped the list of passenger              | c. anxiety                 |
| 4. ingrained the importance of consideration | d. to a JPRA survey        |
| 5. feel greater                              | e. how people feel         |
| 6. to gauge                                  | f. of irritation on trains |
| 7. Other sources                             | g. gripes                  |
| 8. strong scents from perfume                | h. rise in tourists        |
| 9. fourth and fifth                          | i. or fabric softeners     |
| 10. due to a                                 | j. the biggest annoyances  |

## Discussion – Student B

- How do you behave on trains?
- What do you think of people's behaviour on trains?
- What do you think of people who cough and sneeze on trains?
- What are your biggest annoyances on public transport?
- How much do you like train travel?
- How considerate are you to others?
- What makes you feel anxious?
- Do you think we should all be still wearing a mask?

## Spelling

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- A total of 5,314 train pegnrsessa
- sneezing without sniaioecdrotn for others
- An aaioscsitno spokesperson
- ttrduibeta this to remaining effects
- may have eingndria the importance
- uageg how people feel
- 50.5 per cent of survey tonnepersds
- Other sources of onttrriai
- strong cstesn from perfume
- fabric rtesonesf
- poor manners during boarding and gangiilth

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. a	7. f	8. g	9. c	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Coughing

You think coughing is the most annoying thing on trains. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): late trains, smells or overcrowding.

### Role B – Late Trains

You think late trains is the most annoying things about trains. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): coughing, smells or overcrowding.

### Role C – Smells

You think smells are the most annoying things on trains. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): late trains, coughing or overcrowding.

### Role D – Overcrowding

You think overcrowding is the most annoying thing on trains. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): late trains, smells or coughing.

## Speaking – Annoyances

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest annoyances on public transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Coughing      | • Smells         |
| • Loud music    | • Luggage        |
| • Late trains   | • Staring people |
| • Ticket prices | • Overcrowding   |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.