

British Designers Give Shinkansen a New Look

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **Designer** (noun) /dɪˈzaɪnər/: A person who plans the look or function of something.
Example: The designer created a new logo for the company.
2. **Modern** (adjective) /ˈmɒdən/: New and up to date.
Example: This is a modern train with Wi-Fi and fast speed.
3. **Comfort** (noun) /ˈkʌmfət/: A feeling of ease and relaxation.
Example: This chair gives me great comfort.
4. **Upgrade** (verb) /ʌˈɡreɪd/: To make something better.
Example: They upgraded the train seats for more comfort.
5. **Transport** (noun) /ˈtrænsˌpɔːt/: A system or method of moving people or goods.
Example: The city has good public transport.



The famous Japanese bullet train, also called the *shinkansen*, is getting a brand-new look. The train is known around the world for its speed and cleanliness. Now, the company wants to make it even better for passengers. They decided to invite British designers to help with the interior design. This is the first time international designers are working on the shinkansen.

The new design will focus on making passengers feel more relaxed. There will be bigger windows so riders can enjoy the view. Seats will be wider and more comfortable than before. Lighting will also be softer and more modern. These changes aim to make long rides more enjoyable.

In addition to comfort, the train will also become more convenient. There will be more space for luggage, which is helpful for travelers. Quiet zones will be added for people who want to read or rest. Charging stations will be available at every seat. These features will make the shinkansen more friendly for both tourists and business people.

Many people in Japan use the shinkansen every day. It is one of the fastest and most reliable ways to travel across the country. The upgrades are designed to keep passengers happy and encourage more people to use public transport. The company hopes the new look will attract even more travelers. It is also part of a bigger plan to modernize Japan's transport system.

The upgraded trains will begin running in 2026. They will be tested before being fully launched to the public. Japan is already famous for its trains, but now it will add style and comfort to its image. The mix of Japanese technology and British design could set a new trend. Passengers are looking forward to the new ride experience.

DISCUSSION

1. If the shinkansen could talk, what would it say about its "makeover"?
2. Imagine you get to design your own train seat. What funny or cool features would it have?
3. If British and Japanese designers made a toy train together, what fun name would it have?
4. What would a bullet train race look like? Who would be the train's biggest fans?
5. Imagine you have to ride the shinkansen with your pet giraffe. What surprises would happen?