

## A Pink Train with a Twist

### VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **futuristic** (adjective) /ˌfjuːtʃəˈrɪs.tɪk/ – Looking or seeming like it belongs to the future.  
*Example:* The café's futuristic design amazed the visitors.
2. **immersive** (adjective) /ɪˈmɜːsɪv/ – Making you feel fully surrounded or involved.  
*Example:* The immersive light show made me feel like I was in another world.
3. **installation** (noun) /ˌɪn.stəˈleɪ.ʃən/ – Artwork or equipment arranged in a space for people to experience.  
*Example:* The museum had a new light installation.
4. **booth** (noun) /buːθ/ – A small, enclosed space for seating or working.  
*Example:* We sat in a booth at the restaurant.
5. **dessert** (noun) /dɪˈzɜːt/ – Sweet food eaten at the end of a meal.  
*Example:* We shared a chocolate cake for dessert.
6. **pagoda** (noun) /pəˈɡoʊ.də/ – A tall, tower-like structure often found in Asia, used as a temple or landmark.  
*Example:* The five-story pagoda is famous in Kyoto.
7. **exclusive** (adjective) /ɪkˈskluːsɪv/ – Limited only to certain people; special or costly.  
*Example:* The hotel is very exclusive and expensive.



A short walk from Umekoji-Kyotonishi Station in Kyoto, visitors can find a bright pink train waiting at the platform. But this is not a normal train—it is the Future Train Kyoto Diner & Café, a place where guests can eat and relax while feeling like they are traveling into the future.

The café is inside the old Thunderbird Express, a train that once carried passengers around Japan. Now, instead of traveling, the train has been transformed into a restaurant offering a futuristic dining experience.

The restaurant spreads across three cars. The first, called the *Future Bird*, has immersive light

and sound installations. The second looks like a classic dining car but with pink booths. The third car has private seating and a stylish Future Bar for drinks.

The menu includes pink omurice, pink pasta carbonara, and a bento box with nine dishes. For dessert, there is a Pagoda Parfait that stands more than 30 centimeters tall. These playful choices connect Kyoto's history with futuristic design.

The restaurant also offers a seven-course menu called the Future Imagination Course. This includes both fine dining and a 20-minute immersive ride in the Future Bird car. Guests enjoy food and entertainment at the same time.

Guests must pay 700 yen (about \$4.75) just to enter the train, and everyone must order at least one item. These rules make the café feel exclusive, attracting people who want a rare and special experience.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. Would you like to eat in a train that is also a restaurant? Why or why not?
2. The Future Train combines history and the future. Can you think of a place in your city that mixes old and new?
3. The Pagoda Parfait is very tall and unusual. What is the most unique or surprising food you have ever tried?
4. If you could design your own themed restaurant, what would it look like and what food would it serve?
5. The restaurant charges a small entrance fee. Do you think this is fair if the place also offers an experience, not just food?
6. Eating on the Future Train is about more than food—it's about an experience. Do you think experiences are more valuable than things? Why or why not?