

STOP
LOOK
LISTEN

To take the mystery out of railroading and to add a bit more enjoyment to your train ride today, all you have to do is STOP, LOOK, & LISTEN to how a railroad works. Our railroad follows all the rules for train movements which are used by other railroads in North America.

If you STOP and LOOK, you will see the hand signals used by railroaders to give instructions to each other. Signals are very important on a railroad as a radio was not available in the early days of railroading. Our railroad however, although equipped with 2-way radios, still relies on visual and oral signals to communicate between operating personnel. Radio is not always reliable, so every railroader must be able to give and to understand signals.

Your conductor, after he says "all aboard" will move his hand in an up and down motion. This signal means to proceed forward. The engineer will know that he is to proceed. The conductor is in charge of the train, and without his signal, the train cannot leave the station. Another hand signal you may see while riding our trains or walking about the Essex depot will be a signal which looks like a circle; this means to back up. When the hand is held horizontal, it means to slow down or apply brakes. To stop a train or engine, a horizontal back and forth signal will be given. At night, an oil lamp may be used, although for convenience, flashlights or electric hand lanterns might be substituted.

If you STOP and LISTEN, you will hear signals given by the engineer with the locomotive whistle. When the engineer sees the conductor's signal to proceed, he will whistle two long blasts (--). To any railroader within hearing distance, this means that a train or engine is to proceed forward. When an engine is to move backwards, you will hear three short blasts (***) of the whistle. As you ride along our track today, you will also hear the engineer whistle for public crossings over which automobile traffic crosses the tracks. The engineer will whistle at a whistle post (white with a black "W") which is about one quarter mile before the crossing and then he will whistle two long, one short and one long (--*-) just before he reaches the crossing. These signals warn oncoming traffic of the train's approach and are required by state law.

The locomotive bell is also a signal device which means that a train or engine is in action. A train or engine moving at slow speed is almost silent and the bell is rung to warn railroaders that there is something moving on the rail and to keep a careful lookout. The bell is also rung when approaching a public crossing.

It is said that each engineer can be identified by his "whistling style" and one does not have to see the engineer to know which one is on duty. This is even true at our railroad. Even though all the elements of a signal are given, the style is that of the engineer and makes for a uniqueness which is railroading's alone.

So, if you take time to STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN, you will be sure to get the full flavor of our railroad and all railroads just like it. We are proud of our skills and knowledge as well as being part of the lore and adventure that is railroading.

Enjoy your ride today as much as we enjoy bringing this unique opportunity to you!

RAILROAD GLOSSARY

coaches.....pieces of equipment in which you will be riding

conductor.....person who supervises the train's operation and assists the trainmen in their duties; he calls "all aboard"; he can be identified by the gold badge he wears on his cap

engineer.....person who operates the locomotive and is responsible for its condition

fireman.....person who shovels coal into the firebox on the locomotive, keeping the fire hot to make steam

grade crossing.....location where a road crosses a railroad track at the same level

locomotive.....piece of equipment at the front of the train that supplies power for movement; it is also called an engine; today, most trains are pulled by electric or diesel-electric engines

markers.....lanterns hung on the end of the train for protection against following trains, similar to tail lights on a car

passengers.....people who ride the train

platform.....area between the station building and the track where you wait for the train

punch.....tool used by the trainman, on each portion of your trip, to make a hole in your ticket to show that it has been used

station.....building located where trains make regular stops

steam.....mist of boiling water

tender.....car used only with steam engines, which carries supplies of coal and water which the engine uses to make steam; sometimes incorrectly called the coal car

tickets.....paper which allows you on the train

ticket agent.....person who collects the money for your ride and gives you a ticket

track.....structure on which the train runs; it is made of steel rails resting on wooden beams called ties which rest on stones and sand called ballasts

trainmen.....people who work in the cars helping passengers on and off the trains and who punch tickets; they wear silver badges on their caps

LANDMARKS ALONG THE EXCURSION ROUTE

⇒ VALLEY RAILROAD

opened in 1871 to carry freight and passengers between Old Saybrook and Hartford; passenger service abandoned in 1933 and freight service in 1967; it is one of the top tourist attractions in Connecticut

⇒ E. E. DICKINSON COMPANY

established in 1866; distillers of the age-old remedy, witch hazel; notice the weathervane

⇒ SELDEN'S ISLAND

largest island on the Connecticut River; 410 acres; a preserve for wildlife

⇒ MOUNT SAINT JOHN

built in 1907; established as a Catholic home and school for boys

⇒ CHESTER-HADLYME FERRY

first operated in 1769; the oldest continuously running ferry service

⇒ GILLETTE CASTLE

built between 1914 and 1919; modeled after a medieval castle on the Rhine River in Germany; it was built by and was once the home of William Gillette, one of the great figures of the American stage, who was most famous for playing the part of Sherlock Holmes.

⇒ SHIP'S STERN

natural rock formation resembling the stern of a Spanish galleon

⇒ GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE

built in 1876; Victorian architecture; in use as a theater for musical plays; tallest wooden structure on the Connecticut River

⇒ EAST HADDAM BRIDGE

Built in 1913 to replace ferry service; longest swinging drawbridge in the United States

WORD GAME

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1.) ABOARD | A Y O W E T N O R H O |
| 2.) COACH | U X V H T S R B L A N |
| 3.) COAL | E N G I N E E R C L M |
| 4.) CONDUCTOR | S E S S B C B C O A L |
| 5.) DOCK | S W A T E R T S N R K |
| 6.) ENGINEER | E R O L E E R T D B C |
| 7.) ESSEX | X H T E K C I T U J O |
| 8.) FLAGMAN | O B R T S U V C C N D |
| 9.) RIVERBOAT | D T A R B E E X T O N |
| 10.) STEAM | F D C G O O R T O R H |
| 11.) TICKET | S R K K L U B A R B C |
| 12.) TRACK | T A P H C A O C B N U |
| 13.) TRAINMAN | U O N A M G A L F L H |
| 14.) WATER | V B O A O S T E A M R |
| 15.) WHISTLE | W A T N A M N I A R T |

The 15 words listed on the left can be found in the letter grouping on the right. Words can be found going downwards, upwards, from left to right, and right to left. Circle each word as you find it!

Unscramble the words below. All of them are related to your trip!

1. DAABOR
2. HCCAO
3. ALOC
4. RCOOTNDCU
5. KCDO
6. REEGNNIE
7. XEESS
8. NFAMLGA
9. TRAIIOVBRE
10. MSAET
11. NTIAR
12. TTEIKC
13. TCKRA
14. NTARAMNI
15. RWAET
16. EWLHTSI
17. LSANGI

ANSWERS: 1) aboard; 2) coach; 3) coal; 4) conductor; 5) dock; 6) engineer; 7) Essex; 8) flagman; 9) riverboat; 10) steam; 11) train; 12) ticket; 13) track; 14) trainman; 15) water; 16) whistle; 17) signal

MULTIPLE CHOICE TRIVIA QUIZ
ANSWERS

- 1.) The man who drives the train is the c) engineer. He may also be called the engineman.
- 2.) The steam locomotive burns b) coal. This coal is shoveled into the firebox by the fireman.
- 3.) The railroad track is made of c) wood and steel. The ties are wood and the rail is steel. The ties are rail held together with metal spikes.
- 4.) The river you will travel is the b) Connecticut. The Connecticut River actually starts in Canada.
- 5.) The man who drives the boat is the c) captain. He may also be called the skipper or the master.
- 6.) The Connecticut River is the longest river in a) New England. It is 410 miles long, the longest river east of the Mississippi.
- 7.) A cormorant is a a) bird. In Japan, it is used to catch fish. It is sometimes called a "shag". Its feathers are black.
- 8.) An island in the Connecticut River is b) Selden's Island. It is the largest island in the river and is a preserve for birds and wildlife. People do not live on it.
- 9.) You can cross the Connecticut River by c) bridge or ferry. You will see the East Haddam Bridge and the Selden III ferry boat on your trip.
- 10.) Gillette Castle is made of a) rock. This particular kind of rock is called granite. The castle took five years to build.
- 11.) Gillette Castle was built by c) an actor. William Gillette was a stage actor who played the part of Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective.
- 12.) The famous theater on the Connecticut River is the b) Goodspeed Opera House. It is the home of the American musical theater. Several of its productions have gone to Broadway in New York City.