

All Aboard!

A Canonical Railroad Quiz by Dana Richards

Given at the March 13, 2021 meeting of the Red Circle of Washington

Trains are so commonly discussed in the Canon we get used to the terminology. Select one of the bolded words or phrases in each quotation. Admittedly, they are so similar you must rely on your sixth sense to recall each correct answer.

1. He was alone and took a single third-class **carriage / ticket**. The clerk was struck at the time by his excited and nervous manner. [BRUC]
2. Far away stretched a line of houses, with a light here and there in the upper windows. On the other side I saw the red **lanterns / signal-lamps** of a railway. [GREE]
3. Our coming was evidently a great event, for **station-master / clerk** and porters clustered round us to carry out our luggage. [HOUN]
4. Yes, sir, I fear that I am a little late, but the **trains / connections** were awkward. You wrote to me about a bust that is in my possession. [SIXN]
5. The next thing heard of him was when his dead body was discovered by a **linesman / plate-layer** named Mason, just outside Aldgate Station on the Underground system in London. [BRUC]
6. It was a single track railroad; but at every **siding / shunting** - and they were numerous - long lines of trucks piled with coal and iron ore told of the hidden wealth which had brought a rude population and a bustling life to this most desolate corner of the United States of America. [VALL]
7. We had the corner of a **Pullman / first-class** car to ourselves that evening as we whirled back to London, and I fancy that the journey was a short one to Colonel Ross as well as to myself as we listened to our companion's narrative ... [SILV]
8. The steam ploughs had, however, kept the **railway / railroad** open, and the evening train which connects the long line of coal-mining and iron-working settlements was slowly groaning its way up the steep gradients... [VALL]
9. The London **express / special** came roaring into the station, and a small wiry bulldog of a man had sprung from a first-class carriage. [HOUN]
10. It is as if you met a **trolley / tram-car** coming down a country lane. Mycroft has his rails and he runs on them. [BRUC]

11. At last by a sudden impulse, just as our train was crawling out of a suburban station, he sprang on to the **platform / ground** and pulled me out after him. [ABBE]
12. There he sat, with his tweed suit and his American accent, in the corner of a prosaic **country station / railway-carriage**, and yet as I looked ... [HOUN]
13. Moriarty will again do what I should do. He will get on to Paris, mark down our luggage, and wait for two days at the **station / depot**. [FINA]
14. It was twenty past three when we reached our **terminus / terminal**, and after a hasty luncheon at the buffet we pushed on at once to Scotland Yard. [NAVA]
15. "I suppose there are no great number of **switches / points** on a system such as this?" "No; there are very few." "And a curve, too. **Switches / Points**, and a curve. [BRUC]
16. There is a train at half-past nine," said I, glancing over my **Bradshaw / timetable**. "It is due at Winchester at 11:30. [COPP]
17. It was lying wide of the **rails / metals** upon the left hand of the track as one goes eastward, at a point close to the station, where the line emerges from the tunnel in which it runs. [BRUC]
18. To any of the great Chancelleries of Europe. It is probably speeding on its way thither at the present instant as fast as **engines / steam** can take it. [SECO]
19. I should like to see him clapped down in a third-class carriage on the **Underground / trains**, and asked to give the trades of all his fellow-travellers. [STUD]
20. I spent a few minutes in assisting a venerable Italian priest, who was endeavouring to make a **conductor / porter** understand, in his broken English, that his luggage was to be booked through to Paris. [FINA]

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ANSWERS

Correct answers in bold. Incorrect answers removed.

1. He was alone and took a single third-class **ticket**. The clerk was struck at the time by his excited and nervous manner. [BRUC]
2. Far away stretched a line of houses, with a light here and there in the upper windows. On the other side I saw the red **signal-lamps** of a railway. [GREE]
3. Our coming was evidently a great event, for **station-master** and porters clustered round us to carry out our luggage. [HOUN]
4. Yes, sir, I fear that I am a little late, but the **trains** were awkward. You wrote to me about a bust that is in my possession. [SIXN]
5. The next thing heard of him was when his dead body was discovered by a **plate-layer** named Mason, just outside Aldgate Station on the Underground system in London. [BRUC]
6. It was a single track railroad; but at every **siding** - and they were numerous - long lines of trucks piled with coal and iron ore told of the hidden wealth which had brought a rude population and a bustling life to this most desolate corner of the United States of America. [VALL]
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8. The steam ploughs had, however, kept the **railroad** open, and the evening train which connects the long line of coal-mining and iron-working settlements was slowly groaning its way up the steep gradients... [VALL]
9. The London **express** came roaring into the station, and a small wiry bulldog of a man had sprung from a first-class carriage. [HOUN]
10. It is as if you met a **tram-car** coming down a country lane. Mycroft has his rails and he runs on them. [BRUC]

11. At last by a sudden impulse, just as our train was crawling out of a suburban station, he sprang on to the **platform** and pulled me out after him. [ABBE]
12. There he sat, with his tweed suit and his American accent, in the corner of a prosaic **railway-carriage**, and yet as I looked ... [HOUN]
13. Moriarty will again do what I should do. He will get on to Paris, mark down our luggage, and wait for two days at the **depot**. [FINA]
14. It was twenty past three when we reached our **terminus**, and after a hasty luncheon at the buffet we pushed on at once to Scotland Yard. [NAVA]
15. "I suppose there are no great number of **points** on a system such as this?" "No; there are very few." "And a curve, too. **Points**, and a curve. [BRUC]
16. There is a train at half-past nine," said I, glancing over my **Bradshaw**. "It is due at Winchester at 11:30. [COPP]
17. It was lying wide of the **metals** upon the left hand of the track as one goes eastward, at a point close to the station, where the line emerges from the tunnel in which it runs. [BRUC]
18. To any of the great Chancelleries of Europe. It is probably speeding on its way thither at the present instant as fast as **steam** can take it. [SECO]
19. I should like to see him clapped down in a third-class carriage on the **Underground**, and asked to give the trades of all his fellow-travellers. [STUD]
20. I spent a few minutes in assisting a venerable Italian priest, who was endeavouring to make a **porter** understand, in his broken English, that his luggage was to be booked through to Paris. [FINA]