

---

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Lingohack

### Lighting up the railway for Christmas

---



#### The story...

Lighting up the railway for Christmas

#### Learn language related to...

sentimentality

#### Need-to-know language...

**spectacular** – impressive to look at

**wonder** – surprise and amazement

**Christmassy** – having the exciting feeling of Christmas

**touching** – (here) having an emotional effect

**magical** – special, magic-like quality

#### Answer this...

How many weeks did it take to put the lights on this train?

**Watch the video online:** <https://bbc.in/3nuWP36>

#### Transcript

This is where steam meets electricity - and where heritage meets wattage.

It's the Watercress Line in Hampshire (UK) - now lit up in a **spectacular** Christmas mix of light and **wonder**.

There are almost too many colours to count. It took eight weeks to design and two weeks to rig the lights on a train run by a not-for-profit group of steam enthusiasts.

### **Passenger 1**

Oh, it's amazing, my boys are so happy; it's really made them... made their day.

### **Passenger 2**

The kids are loving it - it's a really good experience. Nice to do something **Christmassy!**

This isn't the only heritage line to put Christmas lights on trains. This one is designed by Simon Horn, who usually creates concert lighting for the likes of Westlife and Olly Murs.

### **Simon Horn, Lighting designer**

You're lighting a pop star and you've got the band, the pop star, you've got the sound system, and you're just painting a picture around them. But this was all about the lights - so like "this can't go wrong" – so, I don't think I've ever been as proud as I am of this. It's really **touching** my heart.

The train is 120 metres long and cabling LED lights has not been easy. There is one more nagging question.

### **Duncan Kennedy, BBC Reporter**

How many lights are there on this train?

### **Simon Horn, Lighting designer**

There's 14,000 individual LEDs on this train.

Trains are COVID-safe in an operation kept going by around 500 volunteers.

### **Alison Horton – volunteer, Watercress Line**

You have steam trains - we have the magic of Christmas and we have these wonderful lights, so it's just simply **magical**.

Magic that now runs all the way to Christmas and beyond - light amid the darkness of 2020.

### **Did you get it?**

How many weeks did it take to put the lights on this train?

It took two weeks to rig (attach) the lights on the train.