

- MS. SCHLAU:** Hello and welcome to today's lecture, dear students. Today we are going to look at something that might be familiar to you from traffic.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Traffic? Ha. My particular area of expertise.
Oh yes. Did you know that in the more than 40 years that I've been driving I've never had a single accident?
- MS. SCHLAU:** Very impressive, Professor Einstein, but today we're looking at how station platform signs function.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Not only am I I've very adept at using the steering wheel - I even know very rare traffic signs. For example... JOWO, could you please display image XT 283. So, Ms. Schlau. What does this one mean?
- MS. SCHLAU:** Uh... I have no idea.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** "Geniuses Have Right of Way". Ha! Next one, JOWO. And? Do you have an idea? Well?
- MS. SCHLAU:** I uh... uh... I'll have to pass.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** "Caution - Nobel Prize Winner at Work". Hahahaha. This is the rarest traffic sign in the world. There's only one of them, and it's on the street in front of my house. So, Ms. Schlau, not exactly a traffic expert, are you?
- MS. SCHLAU:** That's why I want to educate myself further, and will enjoy your lecture. JOWO, are you ready?
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Precisely. Start the film, please.
Oh! Christoph is running. Unfortunately not fast enough - he just misses the tram. How annoying, he thinks. Missing the tram. But here he sees that another tram will arrive in just 8 minutes. Alright, that's not too long. But how does the display know that?
- MS. SCHLAU:** Every morning when Ms. Poetenluedtke goes to the **tram (STRABENBAHN)**, the first thing she does is turn the tram on. Then the screens turn on and she extends the **electricity (STROM)** collector. It connects the tram with the overhead electric line. And the rear-view mirrors are folded out.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Then Mrs. Poetenluedtke has to enter the **line (LINIE)** that she'll be conducting today. Line 41. That's the one Christoph wants to take. The **information (INFORMATION)** goes to the on-board computer behind the driver's seat. When the tram departs, a signal with the tram's location is transmitted via the **antenna (ANTENNE)** on the roof, which is then captured by this antenna. It is connected to the computer that transfers the **signal (SIGNAL)** to Mr. Frueh, who sits in the control room.

- MS. SCHLAU:** On his screen, Mr. Frueh can see where his tram currently is. Green means **on time (PÜNKTLICH)**. Yellow means slightly delayed, and the red very delayed. Everything looks pretty good, Mr. Frueh thinks. Our train, number 604, is underway and you can see it in the lower right.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Seven minutes. It's making progress. The route is **clear (FREI)**. Mr. Frueh is satisfied. Only six minutes remaining. Moving right along. Brilliant!
- MS. SCHLAU:** Ms. Poetenluedtke also thinks that it's proceeding great. There's the next **stop (HALTESTELLE)**. All looks well. Only five minutes remaining. Great! It's working, Christoph thinks. But then it suddenly stops moving. A traffic signal. Completely normal.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** This is how a tram signal looks. A horizontal bar means "Stop". A vertical bar means "The train can proceed". And now it's going again. Off to the next stop. Four more minutes. Time really flies, eh, Christoph?
- MS. SCHLAU:** But there, there's a car **parked (PARKEN)** so oddly that the tram can't get by. It runs on tracks and can't go around. Ms. Poetenluedtke rings a bell. No one to be seen. Mr. Frueh also notices: The 604 turns yellow. The display remains at 4 minutes because it only shows how long it would take the train to arrive at the stop without a disruption.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Finally the car's driver is coming. Now the route is clear once again and Mrs. Poetenluedtke can hit the gas - or more precisely: the electric. The display also updates: Three more minutes.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Now it's proceeding more slowly because many people are getting on and off.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Two minutes remaining. Just a little longer, Christoph.
- MS. SCHLAU:** The tram is almost at Christoph's stop. Just one more minute.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Mr. Frueh sees that, too, and he knows that Christoph is waiting. He sends him a message - "Hello Christoph the tram is almost there." - directly to the display board. Brilliant!
- MS. SCHLAU:** Now that's what I call customer service. And it's already there - the tram. It didn't take long at all. And somehow with a display board, the waiting is easier. Enjoy your trip, Christoph.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Well, what do you say, Ms. Schlau? Am I not a distinguished traffic expert?
- MS. SCHLAU:** - Yes, yes, alright.... I admit, I enjoyed the lecture.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Oh! What's that?

MS. SCHLAU: Uh, I think it's the mailman. I'll be right back, OK?

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Oh, how kind. But be careful, I do receive a huge amount of fan mail. Don't strain yourself. Oh, Ms. Schlau. Once again, I've received an enormous amount of mail from my fans and admirers.

MS. SCHLAU: Unfortunately, I have to disappoint you, Professor. From what I can see, these are all traffic tickets. Look: Incorrect parking, driving way too fast, ignoring traffic signs.