



“Bicycling is a big part of the future. It has to be. There's something wrong with a society that drives a car to work out in a gym.”

Bill Nye, American scientist

1. Commuting Discussion

1. How do you travel to work? How is the journey?
2. How far away from work do you live? Would you prefer to live closer?
3. How long do you spend each day travelling to and from work? Is this too much?
4. Do you take the commute to work into consideration when deciding where to live?
5. Do you spend a lot of money commuting? How could you reduce this cost?
6. What are some alternative ways you could get to work? What are the advantages and disadvantages of these?
7. What are the main traffic and public transport problems in your city?
8. How does commuting affect your work-life balance?

2. Commuting Vocabulary

- **(to) commute** (verb) – *to travel to work; the journey from one's home to one's place of work.*
- **commuter belt** (noun) – *the area surrounding a town or city from which many people travel to work.*
- **traffic jam** (noun) – *a line of stationary or very slow moving cars on the roads.*
- **congestion** (noun) – *too many things crowded in one place resulting in blockages.*
- **park and ride** (noun, adjective) – *facilities, usually located outside of the city centre or business district, that offer a place to park a car as well as public transport connections from the parking space to the place of work.*
- **rush hour** (noun, adjective) – *the time in the morning or afternoon when most people are travelling or using public transport.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Commuters can avoid the busy city centre by using the _____ located next to the motorway and taking the tram into the city centre.
2. I hate using the metro in _____; you have to wait ages to get on and then it's so crowded once you're inside.
3. Sorry I'm going to be late; I'm stuck in a _____.
4. My _____ to work is a lot shorter now I moved house closer to my office.
5. The local government has planned to build two new metro lines to reduce _____ in the city centre.
6. House prices in this area are a bit higher than average as they're in the London _____.

Commuting vocabulary comprehension questions

1. How long or how far would you consider a commute to be unacceptable?
2. Where is the commuter belt for your city?
3. Are there many traffic jams on your commute? How long do you think you spend in traffic jams each day?
4. How could your government or local government reduce congestion on the roads?
5. Does your city have a park and ride? If not, would this be a good idea? Where should it be located?
6. How is the traffic or public transport during rush hour? Do you try to avoid rush hour?

3. Video: The Future of Commuting

You are going to watch a TEDx Talk by Sally Simms called "Why the Future of Commuting is Friendly".

Watch the video here: <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-commuting/>

Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions

1. Do you get stressed travelling to and from work? How could this stress be reduced?
2. How is the public transport system in your city? Is it safe? Is it reliable and comfortable?
3. Does your company offer commuter benefits, like public transport season tickets, to help with travelling to work? If not, would you be interested in this?
4. Do you have the opportunity to car share at work? Is this something you use or would consider using? Why or why not?
5. How will technology and big data change commuting in the near future?
6. How will people's commutes be different in the future?

4. Commuting Conversation Questions

1. Do many people ride their bike to work where you live? Is this safe? Are there enough bike lanes?
2. Would you consider cycling to work to save time, money and help the environment? Why or why not?
3. Does your company offer any incentives to cycle to work? If not, would this be a good idea?
4. Is it easy to find parking near where you work?
5. Does your company offer company cars to its employees? If so, which employees?
6. Should businesses provide private transport for all their employees? How could this work?
7. Should all companies offer the option to work from home to avoid the stress of commuting? Why or why not?
8. Would you ever accept work in another city if you received a substantial pay-rise but had to commute there every day? Why or why not?

5. Commuting Writing Task

Write report for new employees on how to get to work. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- How the roads are if driving and where to park.
- What public transport options there are for travelling to work.
- How bike friendly the city is.

6. Commuting Answers

2. Vocabulary

1. park and ride
2. rush hour
3. traffic jam
4. commute
5. congestion
6. commuter belt