TRANSPORT

"An advanced city is not one in which even the poor have a car, but one in which even the rich use public transport."

Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogota, Colombia

1. Transport Discussion

1. What kind of transport do you use most often? Which method of transport do you prefer?
2. How do most people in your city travel around?
3. Which are the safest and most dangerous methods of transport?
4. Do you own a car? If so, can you describe it? When did you get your driver's licence?
5. How is the traffic in your city? How is the state of the roads?
6. Are people from your country good drivers? Do you feel safe on the roads? Why or why not? Are there many road accidents where you live? What are the main causes of traffic accidents?
7. Is it easy to get around your city and country if you don't have a car? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of taking a taxi or an Uber?
8. Do you think fewer people should drive cars? If not, why? If yes, how could people be convinced to leave their car at home?

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2. Transport Vocabulary

- **self-driving (car)** (adjective, noun) – *a car that uses automation to drive without the need of a human driver.*
- **congestion charge** (noun) – *a tax on vehicles that enter a certain area in order to reduce congestion.*
- **road rage** (noun) – *extreme anger or violence provoked by the actions of another driver.*
- **rush hour** (noun) – *the busiest time(s) of day on the roads or on public transport.*
- **traffic jam** (noun) – *a line of stationary or slow-moving vehicles on a road caused by congestion.*
- **(to) commute** (verb, noun), **commuter** (noun – person) – *to travel from home to work; the journey between home and work; someone who travels from their home to their place of work.*

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. An accident on the M1 has resulted in a **traffic jam** stretching back three miles.
2. In the future, nobody will drive because all cars will be **self-driving**.
3. My **commute** is much more relaxing now I ride my bike to work.
4. One year after introducing a **congestion charge** in London, there had been a 30% reduction in the number of cars in the centre and a large increase in the number of bikes.
5. Police are calling for witnesses to a **road rage** incident that occurred yesterday on the High Street. A man got out of his vehicle and smashed the window of the car behind for being too close to him.
6. **Rush hour** is terrible on the Tube. Everybody is pushing and fighting to get on the train, and nobody lets you get off.

Transport vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What do you think about self-driving cars? Would you trust them to drive you around? Are they safer or less safe than a normal car?
2. Do you think congestion charges are a good way to reduce road traffic in busy city centres?
3. Have you ever experienced road rage?
4. How is the traffic on the roads during rush hours? How is the public transport?
5. What can you do to feel calm in a traffic jam?
6. How is your commute to work?

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3. Video: The Problem with Public Transport in the USA

You are going to watch a video by Vox called "Why American public transit is so bad."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-transport/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How long would Nina have to walk if she took the bus to work?

   a) 25 minutes *b) 35 minutes* ***c) 45 minutes***

2. What do most Americans need to own in order to work?

   a) a car *b) a bus pass* *c) sturdy walking boots*

3. What made it impossible to travel from suburb to suburb without a car in many American cities?

   a) a lack of public transport ***b) the expansion of highways*** *c) crime*

4. What type of neighbourhood flourished as cities expanded outwards?

   a) isolated *b) upper-class* ***c) residential***

Sentence completion

5. 7.3 miles is a nearly impossible **distance** to walk in a reasonable amount of time.
6. People who live in a transit-oriented development are less likely to **drive**.
7. Jonathan English found that public transport was centred around **downtown** in the four cities he analysed.
8. Buses pass suburban neighbourhoods in Toronto every **five** minutes.

Short answer

9. Which elections are most important for public transit? **State and local**
10. Joe Biden made an election pledge to invest in what? **Public transportation**
11. In the United States, which party usually supports investing in new roads? **Republicans**
12. Most Americans live in places that were built for what? **Cars**

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4. Transport Conversation Questions

1. Have you ever ridden a motorbike? If not, would you like to? Do you think they are safe?
2. Do you own a bicycle? How is your city for riding a bike?
3. What is the public transport like in your city? Do you use it often? Do you avoid it for any reason? Is it safe? How could it be improved?
4. Which cities have you been to that have good public transport? What made it so good?
5. Should public transport be free? Why or why not? Would you use it more if it were free?
6. What are the advantages of taking a train? What's the best train journey you have been on?
7. What is the most environmentally friendly form of transport? What is the worst for the environment?
8. How have the methods of transport changed since you were a child? What will the transport of the future be like?

5. Transport Writing Task

Write about your opinion of transport. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Which method of transport you prefer to use.
- How the public transport in your city is.
- How you think transport will be different in the future.

Alternative exam practice question:

In order to protect the environment and make life easier for people, taxes should be increased on cars in order to fund free public transport for all. Do you agree or disagree with this?

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