

## Some UK cities are planning to ban cars from city centres

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

These are some of the British cities in the text. Answer the questions using the names of the cities.

York

Brighton

Birmingham

Cardiff

Bristol

Oxford

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the second biggest city in the UK after London.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital of Wales.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is famous for its university, which is the second oldest in Europe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is on the south coast of England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is in the north of England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is in the west of England.

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

pollution

congestion

charge

scheme

ban

emissions

- If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you ask them to pay an amount of money for something. (para 1)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a plan that a government or a large organization develops. (para 1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is when there are so many vehicles that it is difficult to drive around. (para 1)
- Air \_\_\_\_\_ is when the air is dirty because there are chemicals in it. (para 1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ are gases that go into the air. (para 2)
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you say officially that people must not do or use it. (para 3)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

- Which was the first British city to charge drivers who bring their cars into the city centre?
- How much do drivers have to pay to drive into the centre of London at weekends?
- Which gas do diesel vehicles produce?
- How much does a driver of an old lorry have to pay to enter the Ultra Low Emission Zone?
- When will the ban on private car journeys in the centre of York begin?
- How much will drivers of older cars have to pay to enter the centre of Birmingham from July, 2020?

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6 February, 2020

- 1 In February, 2003, London became the first British city to charge drivers who bring their cars into the centre of the city. The scheme is called the 'congestion charge'. It was introduced to reduce the number of cars in the historic centre of London and also to reduce traffic jams and air pollution. At present, drivers have to pay £11.50 to drive into the centre between 07.00 am and 18.00 pm, Monday to Friday.
- 2 Emissions from cars, buses, lorries and other vehicles, especially diesel vehicles, produce a lot of nitrogen dioxide gas (NO<sub>2</sub>). Large amounts of this gas in the atmosphere can be dangerous for people's health. To improve air quality, in April, 2019, a new charge was introduced for older vehicles – the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Under this scheme, drivers of older cars have to pay an extra £12.50 to drive into the centre of London and drivers of older buses and lorries have to pay an extra £100.
- 3 Now, a number of other British cities have decided to take action to try and reduce pollution from cars and other vehicles. The city of Bristol, with a population of around 460,000, is planning to ban all private diesel cars from the centre of the city during the day because of NO<sub>2</sub> pollution. York, which has around seven million visitors a year, also has high levels of pollution and is planning to ban all private car journeys inside the historic city walls from 2023.
- 4 From July, 2020, Birmingham will charge diesel cars made before 2015 and petrol cars made before 2006 £8 to enter the city centre. There are several other UK cities with similar plans, including Brighton, Cambridge, Cardiff and Oxford.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. The congestion charge in London was introduced ...      | a. ... ultra low emission zone.                           |
| 2. Large amounts of nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere ... | b. ... visit the city of York each year.                  |
| 3. ULEZ stands for ...                                     | c. ... planning to introduce similar schemes.             |
| 4. Several other British cities have ...                   | d. ... to reduce traffic jams and air pollution.          |
| 5. Around seven million people ...                         | e. ... decided to try and reduce pollution from vehicles. |
| 6. Brighton, Cardiff and Oxford are also ...               | f. ... can be dangerous for people's health.              |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. air improve to quality
2. the reduce cars number to of
3. cities number of British a other
4. centre into drive London to the of

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#### 6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. traffic    | a. pollution |
| 2. air        | b. vehicle   |
| 3. diesel     | c. charge    |
| 4. congestion | d. jam       |

#### 7 Prepositions

Fill the gaps in the phrases using these prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

from

during

for

into

from

under

1. dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ people's health
2. \_\_\_\_\_ this scheme
3. ban all cars \_\_\_\_\_ the centre
4. pollution \_\_\_\_\_ cars and other vehicles
5. drive \_\_\_\_\_ the centre
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the day

#### 8 Discussion

- Should we ban all private cars from city centres? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Warmer

1. Birmingham
2. Cardiff
3. Oxford
4. Brighton
5. York
6. Bristol

#### 2 Key words

1. charge
2. scheme
3. congestion
4. pollution
5. emissions
6. ban

#### 3 Find the information

1. London
2. nothing
3. nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)
4. an extra £100
5. 2023
6. £8

#### 4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. c

#### 5 Chunks

1. to improve air quality
2. to reduce the number of cars
3. a number of other British cities
4. to drive into the centre of London

#### 6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

#### 7 Prepositions

1. for
2. under
3. from
4. from
5. into
6. during