

What are the most effective ways to get cars out of cities?

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes different ways of dealing with traffic congestion in different countries and assesses their effectiveness.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of traffic congestion and to encourage students to think about which places manage this problem the best. Ask students which factors determine whether a city is 'green' (e.g., control of air pollution, traffic management, public transport, etc.). You could also ask them to suggest the 'greenest' cities in their own country and those towns or cities where improvements need to be made. This will tie in with the theme of the article they are about to read.

Key:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Copenhagen | 4. New York City |
| 2. Chicago | 5. Auckland |
| 3. Dar es Salaam | 6. London |

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that *carpool* is normally used as a noun but is used as a verb in this case. The word *shuttle* can also be used in air travel for a short, frequent flight between two nearby cities. Labelling a bus or train journey a 'shuttle service' implies that the journey is made at regular intervals. The use of the word *whopping* indicates that the speaker or writer is surprised by the size or amount of something, e.g., 'a whopping pay rise'.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. reward | 7. switch |
| 2. reduction | 8. charge |
| 3. carpool | 9. collaborate |
| 4. promising | 10. congested |
| 5. shuttle | 11. bike lane |
| 6. discount | 12. whopping |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 4 they may say 'There is a shuttle bus service to the campus' or similar.

Key:

1. False. 73% of users of the app say this.
2. False. It has reduced the number of students travelling to school by car by 10.9%.
3. True
4. False. They can travel by shuttle bus.
5. True
6. True
7. False. It is only free to company employees.
8. True
9. True
10. False. Drivers have to pay.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to check their answers by referring back to the text to see the phrases in context.

Key:

1. one of Europe's most congested cities
2. alternative means of sustainable transport
3. a 24% decrease in the number of students
4. strategies to reduce car use
5. personal travel plans for individual residents
6. a scheme that charged employees to park outside their offices

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5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

6. In your own words

- a. This could also be done as a homework task. Students could also be asked to suggest how such schemes could be administered and how drivers who fail to comply with such regulations should be punished.