

Will other cities copy Paris decision to hike parking charges for SUVs?

Level 3: Advanced – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes how Paris plans to introduce higher charges for parking SUVs (sports utility vehicles) in the city and reports that the people of Paris have voted in favour of this increase in a referendum.

Time: 45–60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to activate students' general knowledge (in this case, about world capital cities). The activity could be extended by asking students which other capital cities they know (in neighbouring countries or elsewhere). It could also be a team game with points awarded for the most correct answers.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 5. f |
| 2. h | 6. a |
| 3. e | 7. c |
| 4. g | 8. b |

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that the verb *hail* in item 3 is a journalistic use of the word, meaning *praise* or *greet warmly*. Another word for *polarising* is *divisive*, which refers to something that divides people because of confronting opinions. Note that *hike* (used in the headline) is a journalistic word used to mean *increase* in this use and *win over* (also used in the headline) means *persuade people to support something*.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. SUV | 7. absurdity |
| 2. referendum | 8. demagoguery |
| 3. hail | 9. polarising |
| 4. ripple | 10. lobby |
| 5. apathy | 11. tabloid |
| 6. turnout | 12. infringement |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested, and students may correctly answer the questions differently. For example, in item 2, they may say, 'They are increasing a lot' or 'They are soaring.'

Key:

- three times
- They are rising rapidly to very high levels.
- They are more likely to kill people, they do more damage to people's lungs, and they emit more greenhouse gases.
- because of the low turnout, the result wasn't that decisive
- She worried the referendum would turn people against each other.
- because she thought it was polarising
- the culture war
- putting a speed limit on motorways
- to control the population
- She hopes to inspire other cities.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. The verb *lead* can also be used with *resistance*, but the solution given is the only one that uses all six verbs.

Key:

- face resistance
- send a signal
- make an effort
- reverse a trend
- take part
- lead the way

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- b. Students use the phrases from task A to complete the sentences.

Key:

1. *make an effort*
2. *lead the way*
3. *face resistance*
4. *take part*
5. *reverse a trend*

5. Discussion

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

6. In your own words

- a. The task could also be done as homework, and students could present their reports to the class.