

Parisians vote to ban rental e-scooters from French capital by huge margin

Level 1: Elementary

1 Warmer

a. Discuss these questions.

1. Do you like riding e-bikes or e-scooters?
2. Where do you ride? Is it safe there?
3. Where can you rent bikes or e-scooters in your town or city?

2 Key words

a. Write the correct words from the wordpool next to the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

accident
including

against
popular

agree
rent

capital
station

happen
worry

1. pay money to use something that belongs to someone else, such as a flat, bicycle, or car _____
2. the city where a country or region has its government _____
3. someone or something that many people like _____
4. a crash involving a car, train, aeroplane, or other vehicle _____
5. a building or place where a service or activity happens _____
6. not agreeing with someone or something _____
7. think the same thing as someone else _____
8. feel nervous and upset because you keep thinking about a problem _____
9. say that someone or something is part of a group _____
10. take place, usually without being planned _____

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b. Use some of the key words from task A to complete these sentences. You may have to change the form of the word.

1. Mums always _____ when their children are out late at night.
2. There was an _____ this morning. A car hit a cyclist!
3. I don't understand why that TV program is so _____. I don't think it's funny.
4. How many _____ cities around the world can you name?
5. The police _____ is on the corner.
6. There are so many people over there. What's _____?

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- 1 Parisians don't want rented electric scooters on the streets of the French capital. Ninety per cent of voters said 'yes' to the ban.
- 2 Paris was one of the first cities to have e-scooters. In 2018, the city wanted non-polluting types of city transport available.
- 3 But as they became popular, especially among young people, e-scooter accidents increased. In 2022, three people died, and 459 were hurt in Paris.
- 4 There were twenty-one voting stations open until 7 pm local time. 1.6 million people can vote on the ban.
- 5 85.77% and 91.77% of the votes were against e-scooters for rent. The vote did not become law immediately, but the city agreed to do what the people wanted.
- 6 Paris's Mayor, Anne Hidalgo, likes cycling and bike-sharing but also wants to end e-scooters for rent. She said that these scooters worry Parisians a lot.
- 7 Paris has almost 15,000 e-scooters from companies including Lime, Dott, and Tier. People against e-scooters say that riders don't follow the road rules and ride on pavements. E-scooters are often parked badly or even thrown into the River Seine.
- 8 In June 2021, a 31-year-old Italian woman was walking along the Seine when she was hit by an e-scooter and killed.
- 9 "I'm scared of e-scooters," said Suzon Lambert, a 50-year-old teacher from Paris.
- 10 Another Parisian said, "It's dangerous, and people use them badly."
- 11 Linda Joëlle, 35, feels the opposite. "Now that I have found an excellent way to get to work, and one that is better for the environment, they are trying to ban it," she said.
- 12 One student said, "Where I live, it's better than going on foot."
- 13 The French Transport Minister, Clement Beaune, said that he thinks the ban will happen. He also thinks many other towns in France and other countries will be interested in what happens in Paris. He said that e-scooters are an excellent transport choice because they don't use petrol.
- 14 E-scooter companies think a ban may make other cities do the same. Hadi Karam, the manager for France at Lime, said that Paris needs to do what is popular. He said that in Washington, Madrid, and London, the number of e-scooters is increasing.

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3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. How many voters want the e-scooter ban?
2. When did Paris first get e-scooters?
3. Why are they a problem?
4. How many people were hurt by e-scooters in 2022?
5. How many voting stations were there?
6. How many people could vote?
7. Who is the Mayor of Paris?
8. How many e-scooters are there in Paris?
9. Why do people dislike e-scooters?
10. Does Clement Beaune, the Transport Minister, think there will be an e-scooter ban?

4 Key language

a. Add the suffix **-er** to the verbs to make words from the article.

1. scoot _____
2. vote _____
3. ride _____
4. teach _____
5. manage _____

b. Complete each sentence with the words from task A.

1. There's a problem with my order. Can I please speak to the _____?
2. My favourite _____ was Mr Taylor, Year 5.
3. Two million _____ came to today's election.
4. Where can I park my _____?
5. Bike _____ in the street need to be careful.

c. Choose two of the words above and write personalised sentences using them.

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5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “It is helpful to have e-scooters for rent.”
- “There should not be bans on city transport.”
- “It is important to vote.”

6 In your own words

a. Use an internet search engine to find more information about e-scooters for rent worldwide.

- Which cities have them?
- Which don't?
- How much does a ride cost?
- How popular are they?
- Do you want to try one?

b. Report your findings to the class.