

## ***PROBLEM SOLUTION ESSAY EXAMPLE***

### **Traffic Jams**

Traffic jams are a big problem in many big cities. This happens because there are too many cars on the roads. One way to fix this is to have more park-and-ride programs.

More and more people are buying cars every year. Most families have more than one car now. People like driving themselves because they can go whenever they want. They do not have to wait for a bus or train. But sometimes, they get stuck in traffic when they go into the city. When I have a meeting in the city, I always drive because then I can leave whenever I want. I do not have to worry about catching the train on time.

**One solution** that works well is park-and-ride. You park your car for free in a big parking lot outside the city. Then, you take a bus for the rest of your trip. The bus fare is usually very cheap, and the buses come often, like every ten minutes. In Istanbul, when they started a park-and-ride program outside the city, traffic during busy times went down by 10%. Then, when they started another program on the other side of the city, traffic went down another 10%.

**To sum up**, traffic jams caused by too many cars in cities can be made better by having park-and-ride programs. If they had one near me, I would definitely use it.

**NOTE to my Students:** *Check the next page to understand what a “park-and-ride program” is.*



A **park-and-ride program**, also known as incentive parking or a commuter lot, is a parking lot with public transport connections. It allows commuters and other people heading to city centers to leave their vehicles and transfer to a bus, rail system (such as rapid transit, light rail, or commuter rail), or carpool for the remainder of their journey<sup>1</sup>. Here are some key points about park-and-ride programs:

**Purpose:** Park-and-ride facilities aim to:

**Reduce Congestion:** By encouraging commuters to use public transport, they help reduce traffic congestion in congested urban areas.

**Provide Convenient Parking:** Commuters can avoid stressful drives along congested roads and the search for scarce, expensive city-center parking.

**Serve Beyond Walking Distance:** They benefit commuters who live beyond practical walking distance from railway stations or bus stops.

**Support Carpooling:** They serve as fixed meeting places for carpooling or carsharing.

**Promote Efficient Driving Practices:** Some operators reserve parking spaces for low-emission vehicles, high-occupancy vehicles, or carsharing<sup>1</sup>.

**Location:** Park-and-rides are generally located in the suburbs of metropolitan areas or on the outer edges of large cities.

**Usage:** Commuters leave their vehicles in the parking lot during the day and retrieve them when they return. The program encourages a shift from single-occupancy vehicles to more sustainable transportation options.

**Abbreviation:** On road signs, park and ride is often abbreviated as “P+R” in some countries and styled as “Park & Ride” in marketing<sup>1</sup>.

**In summary, park-and-ride programs provide a convenient way for commuters to combine driving with public transport, contributing to more efficient and less congested urban transportation systems.**