

COMMUNICATION

Mobility in a city

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2041X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can discuss urban mobility and express my viewpoint.
- I can name some alternative means of transportation and talk about their benefits.

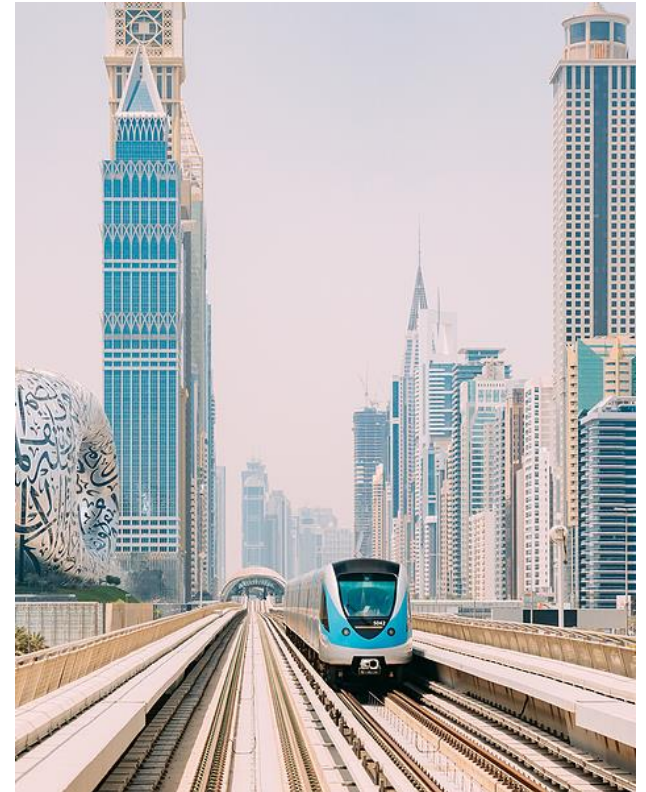




Warm-up

**Does your country have a
good public transport
system?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**



Rachel's car (1/2)

1. **Read** the first part of the text.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

Hi, my name is Rachel and I am an international student from New Mexico. Three months ago, I moved to Berlin and I bought a used car. I thought this would be a great way to travel around the city and its surrounding areas.

It turns out that I made the biggest mistake of my life...



Why did Rachel buy a car in Berlin?

Why do you think Rachel says that she made 'the biggest mistake' of her life?

Rachel's car (2/2)

1. **Read** the second part of the text.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

My flat is supposed to be only 20 minutes away from campus by car. However, that is when there is no traffic, no bicycles, and no obstacles on the road. I have to be at university by 9am and usually finish by 5pm. Driving at rush hour is such a hassle because it takes about an hour each way. The online GPS on my phone says it will only take 13 minutes if I ride a bicycle. My car still comes in handy when I go furniture shopping or take a road trip to neighbouring countries, but my new favourite means of transportation is biking. This lets me avoid traffic, create less pollution, save energy and, of course, save a lot of money!



Why was driving to university not a good idea?

What are some benefits of Rachel riding a bike?

Does Rachel still use her car in Berlin?



My car still **comes in handy** when I go furniture shopping...

How else might owning a car **come in handy**?



Discuss

Having your own car can enhance your quality of life by providing convenience.

1. **Read** the questions below.
2. **Ask** a classmate these questions in breakout rooms or in the main classroom. Are any of your answers **different**?

1 At what age does the average person obtain a driving licence in your country?

2 Do you own a car?

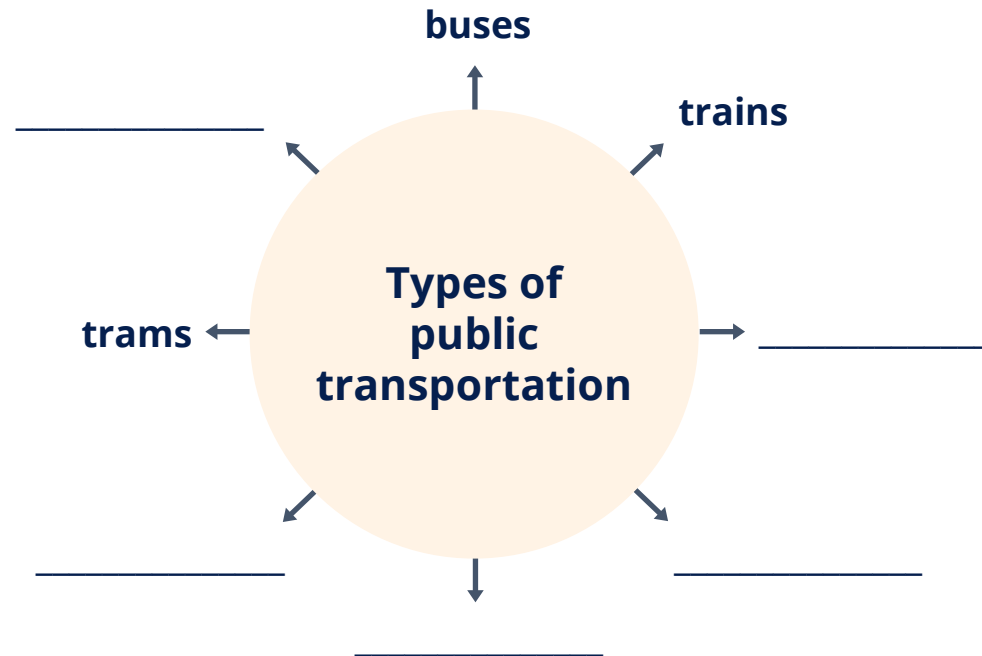
3 Can you get by without a car?





Brainstorm

Brainstorm types of public transport.



Types of public transport

1. **Complete** the statements with the correct word.
2. Do you **agree** or **disagree**?

- 1 I prefer taking a _____ over the underground railway when travelling around a new city. I especially like it if it's a double-decker—I always try to find a seat up top.
- 2 Taking a _____ is more comfortable than flying. There's even a dining car where I can grab a bite to eat.
- 3 I often take the _____ to work. It runs along a track on the streets.
- 4 I like using a _____ because I can choose where I get picked up and dropped off. Sometimes, I even meet interesting strangers along the way.
- 5 Taking a _____ across a body of water is always interesting, as long as the water isn't too rough!

train
ferry
shared taxi
tram
bus

Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What type of public transportation is popular in your country?



Is there a public transportation discount for students or tourists in your country?



What's your opinion?

Which of the aspects of public transport listed below do you think are **most important**? **Why**?

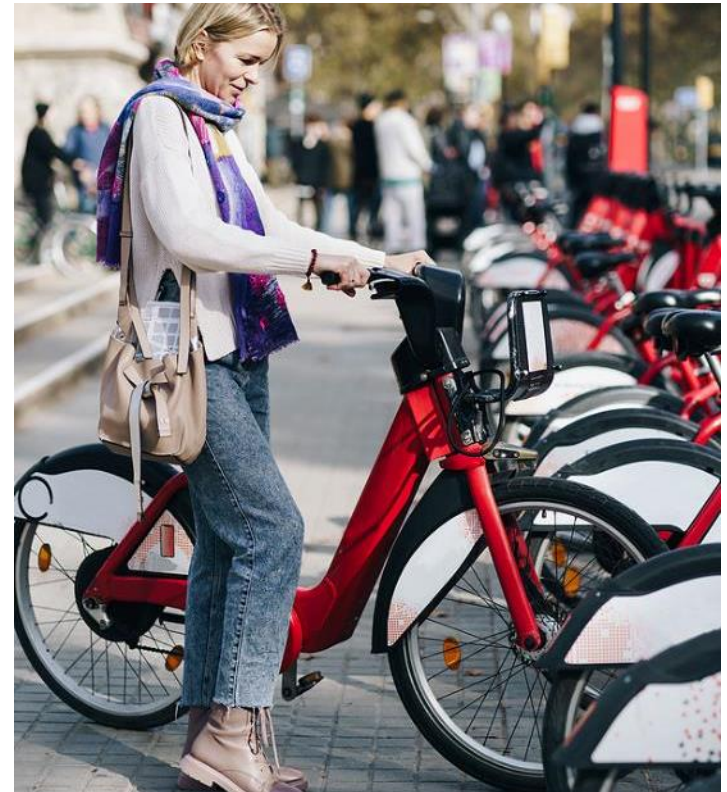
1 Environmental impact

2 Traffic management

3 Energy efficiency

4 Safety

5 Prices





End of the lesson

Idiom

to make a beeline (for someone or something)

Meaning: to go towards someone or something in the quickest, most direct, way possible.

Example: They made a beeline for the snacks during the break.



Additional practice

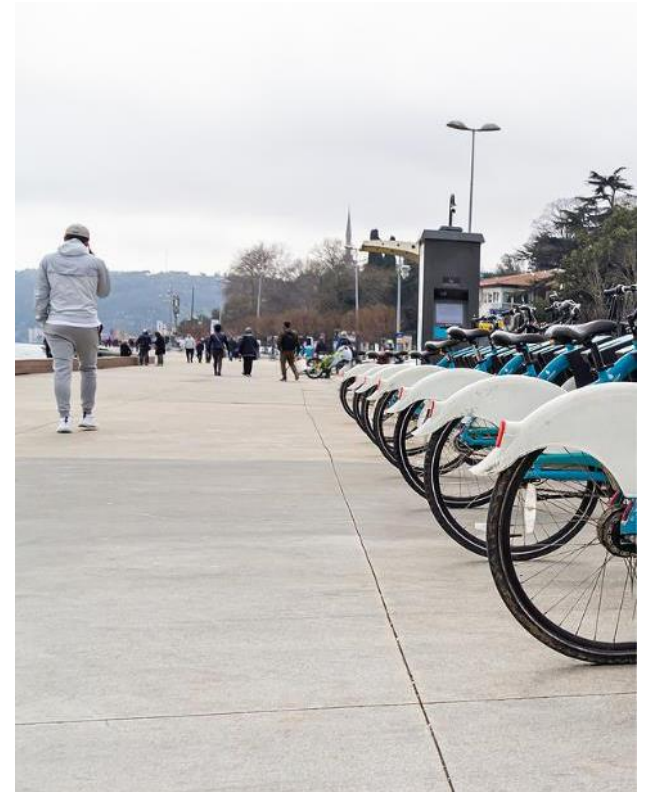


Discuss

Answer the questions below.

**Why do you think
your town is/isn't bike
friendly?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class.**





What's your preference?

Explain which mode of public transportation you prefer and why.

I prefer... because...

trains

buses

underground
passenger railway
(subway, the Tube)





You are the boss!

1. **Read** the information below.
2. **Answer** the question.

You are a boss of a very successful business with hundreds of employees...



In order to ease problems linked to urban mobility, you encourage your employees to take alternative transportation.

How would you reward your employees for taking alternative transportation, and not driving to work?



Answer key

P.4: Rachel bought a car because she thought it would be a great way to travel around the city and its surrounding areas.

P.5:

- Driving to university took too long.
- By riding her bike, Rachel avoids traffic, creates less pollution, saves energy and money.
- Rachel still uses her car for furniture shopping and road trips to neighbouring countries.

P.8: *Suggested answers:* ferry, shared taxi, underground/subway, cable cars, streetcars/trolleys

P.9: 1.) bus 2.) train 3.) tram 4.) shared taxi 5.) ferry



Summary

Transportation and mobility

- *bus; train; tram; ferry; shared taxi; obstacle, rush hour, hassle; to come in handy*
- *Driving during **rush hour** is such a **hassle** because it takes about an hour each way.*
- *My car still **comes in handy** when I go furniture shopping.*

Discussing public transport

- *Using public transport can have a positive **environmental impact** and ease **traffic management**.*
- *Passengers may also be concerned about the **energy efficiency**, **safety** and **price** of public transport.*



Vocabulary

urban mobility

obstacle

rush hour

hassle

to come in handy

