



lingoda

The future of transportation

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_4023R_EN

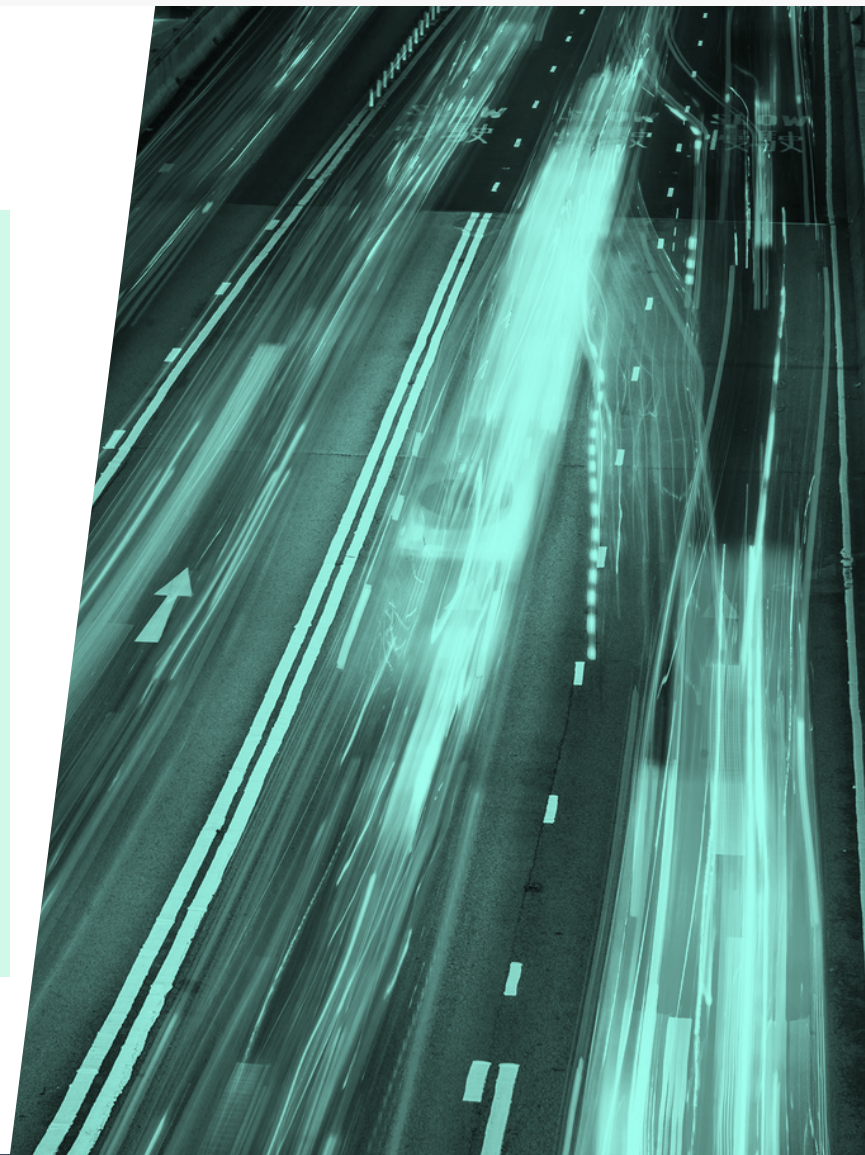
LANGUAGE
English

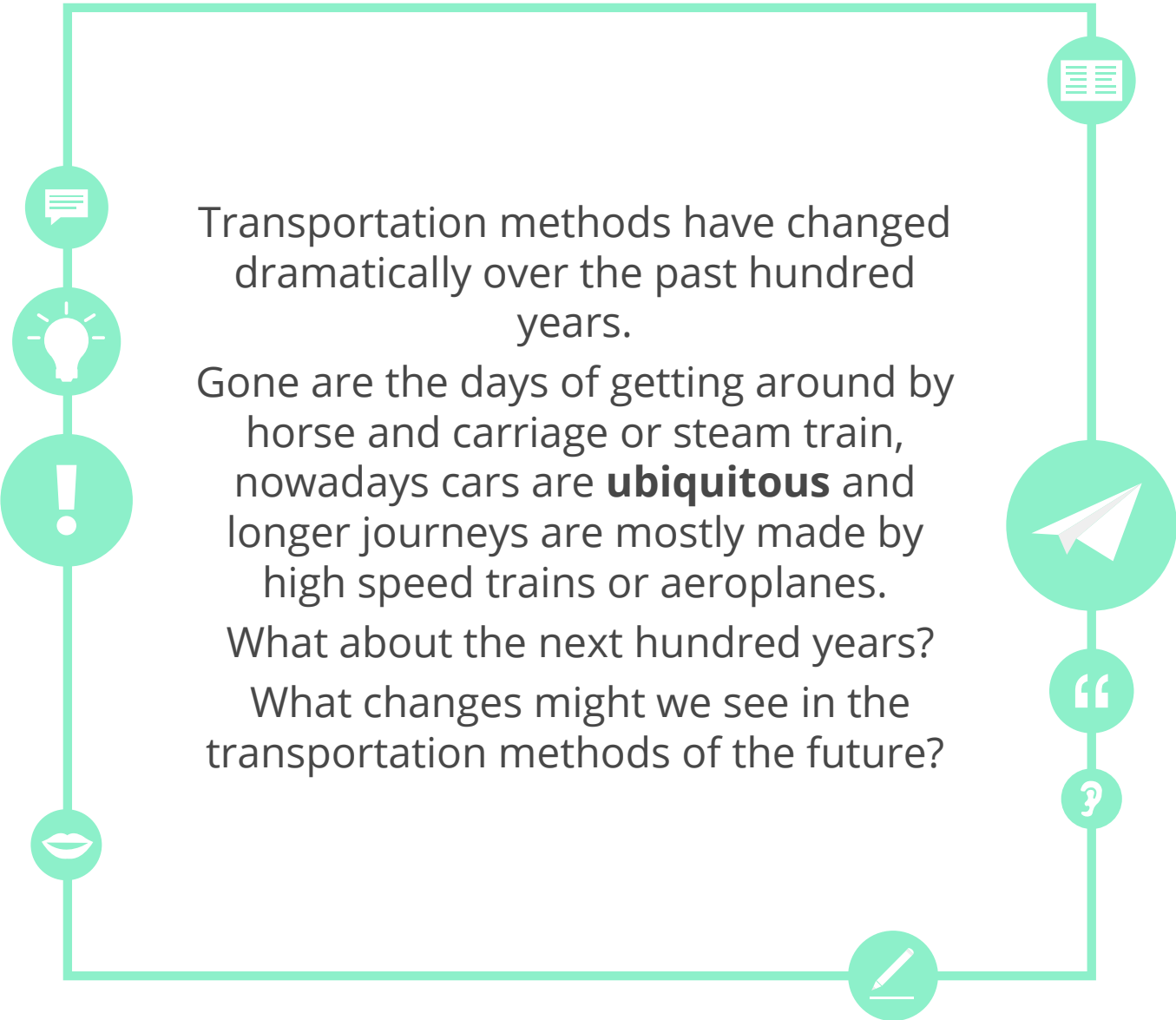




Goals

- Can read and understand a lengthy, technical text about the future of transportation.
- Can discuss the pros and cons of some forms of future transportation.





Transportation methods have changed dramatically over the past hundred years.

Gone are the days of getting around by horse and carriage or steam train, nowadays cars are **ubiquitous** and longer journeys are mostly made by high speed trains or aeroplanes.

What about the next hundred years?

What changes might we see in the transportation methods of the future?



Different methods of transportation

**Look at the different methods of transportation on the cards below.
Which belong to the past and which are modern methods of transportation? How many other methods of transportation from the past, and from the present day, can you think of?**





Transportation changes over time

Until the mid 20th century, steam trains were the main form of railway transportation in most of the western world. They were used to make journeys and to transport goods. Nowadays they are seldom used, except as tourist attractions. Think about the other methods of transport on the cards from the previous slide. In what ways has our usage of these methods of transport changed over time?





Transportation and social issues

Look at the picture below of an old fashioned carriage. This would have belonged to someone wealthy, but someone poorer would have travelled in a much more basic cart, or even on foot. Think about transportation today. In what ways do social class and income level still influence the way we use transportation?



social class

wealth and
income

leisure and
luxury

commuting



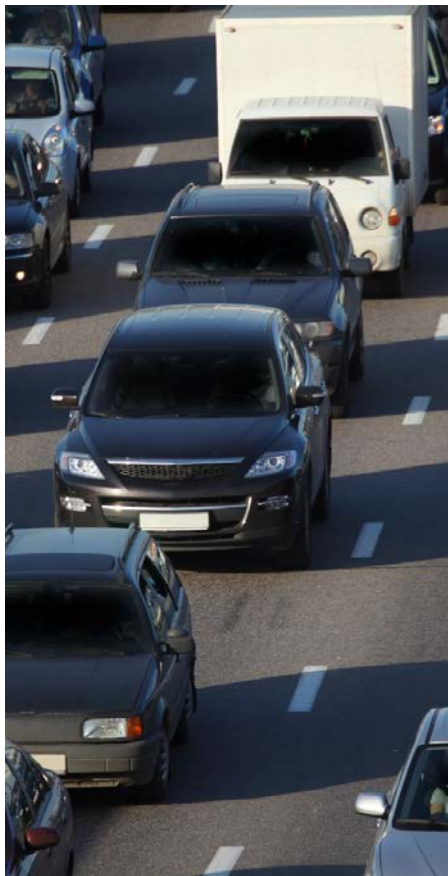
The future of transportation

In 1886, when Karl Benz, a German man, invented the first motor car, no one could have predicted the enormous influence this invention would have on the world. Although it wasn't until the early 20th century that cars became commonplace in the western world, Benz's invention marked the beginning of an enormous period of change in terms of transportation.

The invention of the motor car had a significant impact on the way people lived, and how they were able to spend their time. Up until the early 1900s, most people spent the majority of their lives living in areas close to where they were born. Before the car was invented, travelling for longer distances involved long, arduous and frequently expensive journeys by boat or by horse and carriage. However, the invention of the car, coupled with the growth and development of trains and railway systems, meant that travelling longer distances for work, to live, or even just for fun, became possible for everyone.



The future of transportation



Nowadays, cars are **ubiquitous** and all major towns and cities have train stations, bus stations, and even airports too. We live in a society where ease of movement is often **taken for granted**. These days, a 30-kilometre journey can easily represent someone's daily commute, whilst in the past this would have been a journey that required significant planning and cost. Urban planners of the 21st century now try to take into account the fact that most people these days own at least one car per household – if not more – when making their plans. Any new urban developments must **incorporate** sufficient parking facilities, and adequate infrastructure to allow vehicles to **circulate** freely.



Look at the words and phrases from the text below. Based on their context in the text, can you guess their meaning?

ubiquitous

to circulate

to incorporate

to take sth for granted



Are you a commuter?

Do you commute to work or school? What is your daily commute like? In your home country what different ways to people normally commute to work or school and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each method of transport?



speed

reliability

cost

stress



What would you do?

If you were mayor of a large city such as London, what changes would you implement to improve people's daily commute? How would these changes improve the quality of life in the city? Look at the prompts on the cards below for inspiration.

coping with the
rush hour -
flexible working
times?

environmentally
friendly
transport?

accessible
transport
methods – how to
reduce cost?

traffic rules and
regulations?



The future of transportation

This transport revolution has given the individual an enormous amount of freedom; we can now live where we want since travelling to work or to visit family is much simpler, faster, and cheaper. **We can travel further afield** for holidays, too – we can fly across oceans and continents to a wider variety of places faster **than ever before**.

However, the transport revolution is not without its **downsides**. Most towns and cities were constructed before cars became so **commonplace**, therefore roads are not always able to cope with the increased volumes of traffic that **soaring** car ownership has led to. Urban **dwellers** frequently have to battle high levels of congestion on roads, especially at peak travel times such as the morning rush hour. While those living in more rural areas might experience a lower volume of traffic on the roads, infrastructure outside urban areas is not always so well developed. Certainly, a lack of adequate or frequent public transport is a common complaint of those living in rural locations.



Look at these words and phrases from the text. Can you give a brief definition of 6 words or less?

commonplace

faster than ever
before

soaring

to travel further afield

downside

dweller



All about cars

**The text refers to the soaring levels of car ownership in recent years.
Discuss the questions below thinking about this.**



1

How many people do you know have a car? Or more than one car? What about you personally? Could you live without a car?

2

Do you think the increasing number of cars on the road is a problem? Why (not)?

3

Can you think of any ways to solve this problem? Can you think of any way to discourage widespread car ownership?



Urban and rural life

The text talks about differences between urban and rural transport. Do you know how to drive? When did you learn? Do you think growing up in the countryside versus the city has a significant impact on what young people learn and when?





The future of transportation



Another problem needing to be **addressed** is that of the increased levels of pollution that modern transportation produces. In recent years many government health officials have warned that several major European cities, such as Paris and London, now suffer from dangerous levels of air pollution as a result of **fumes** produced by road traffic. Furthermore, the gases **emitted** by road vehicles are also a major cause of global warming.



The future of transportation

These are the issues that transportation methods of the future must tackle. In fact, designers, engineers, urban planners and technology experts around the world are already working to resolve these problems. For example, connective technology in vehicles of the future may help ease poor road circulation and congestion, as well as **ostensibly** making our roads safer.



The future of transportation



Wireless communication between vehicles could lead to fewer **collisions**, as well as allowing for optimal road space usage as vehicles could communicate information, such as speed and direction to one another. It is hoped that such advanced technology could ultimately lead to driverless cars which would one day completely release humans from the responsibility of driving.

As far as environmental concerns go, electric cars have already appeared on the market in recent years. At present these vehicles remain out of the price range of most normal people, but as this technology is further developed and becomes more affordable, perhaps such vehicles will become **the norm**.



Look at the vocabulary from the text. Take four of the words or phrases and build a short story using them as inspiration.

ostensibly

to address a
problem

collision

to emit

fumes

the norm



Transport problems and concerns

What is your gut reaction to the current ideas for transportation development?

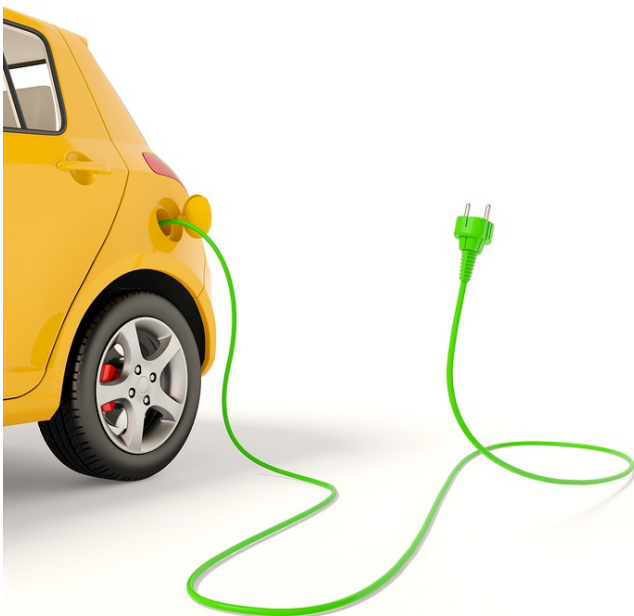
Do they sound like they could effectively tackle some of our current transportation problems?





Going electric

The text talks about how electric cars have appeared on the market in recent years. Discuss the questions below.



1

Have you ever driven an electric car? Would you like to own an electric car? Why (not)?

2

Can you think of any advantages to driving an electric car?

3

Would you be sad to leave a traditional petrol or diesel-run car behind? Why (not)?



Driverless cars

How do you feel about driverless cars? Would something like this be safe? What about taking it a step further to driverless buses and trains? Is driverless public transport a good idea?



big responsibility
in the hands of a
computer?

quick reaction
time?
avoiding tired
drivers?



A question of ethics

Stage a debate between a leading engineer in the field of driverless technology and a government employee who is wary of such handing such a huge responsibility over to an advanced computer.



Engineer:

You are an expert in driverless technology and want to show how many advantages there are to driverless cars. You are eager to show how advanced your technology is.



Government employee:

You are very aware that this is new technology, and that it can't possibly think in the same way as humans can. Technology can malfunction and driving on the roads is a huge responsibility.



Thinking about the future

Look at the image below. Do you think the future of transportation is headed in this direction?



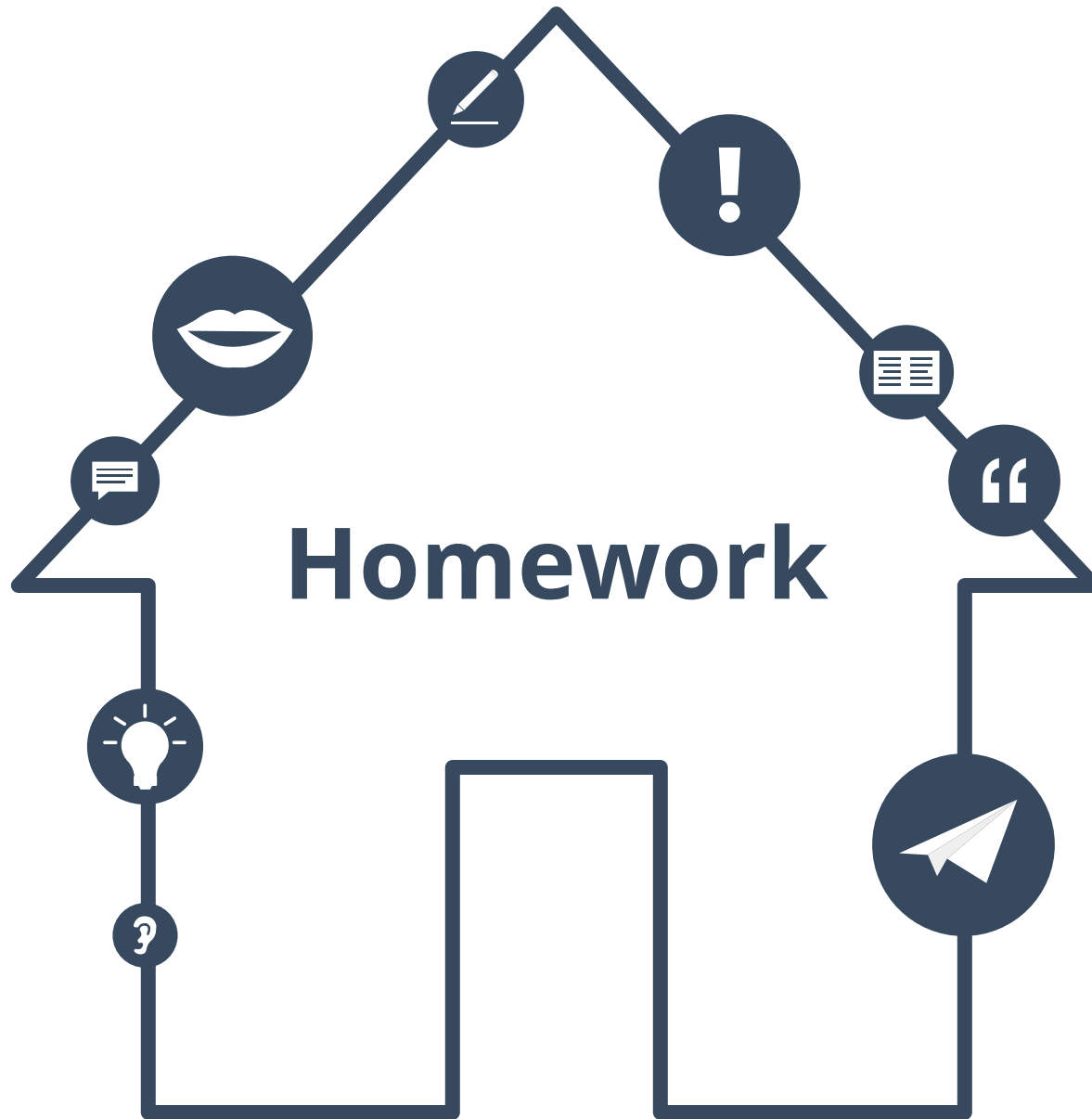


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Vocabulary review

Go back through the lesson and make flashcards with useful vocabulary. Remember to write the definition on the back!





Thinking about transportation

Think about the transportation changes we have discussed in this lesson. How do you use transportation at the moment and what changes would you like to see in the future?

What factors are important for us to consider when planning the transportation systems of the future?





About this material

Find out more at
www.lingoda.com



This material is provided by

lingoda

lingoda Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!