Which type of transport does the writer prefer, do you think?

People travelling long distances frequently have to decide whether they would prefer to go by land, sea, or air.

Hardly anyone can positively enjoy sitting in a train for more than a few hours.

Train compartments soon get cramped and stuffy.

It is almost impossible to take your mind off the journey.

Reading is only a partial solution, for the monotonous rhythm of the wheels clicking on the rails soon lulls you to sleep.

During the day, sleep comes in snatches.

At night, when you really wish to go to sleep, you rarely manage to do so.

If you are lucky enough to get a sleeper, you spend half the night staring at the small blue light in the ceiling or fumbling to find your ticket for inspection.

Inevitably, you arrive at your destination almost exhausted.

Long car journeys are even less pleasant, for it is quite impossible even to read.

On motorways, you can, at least, travel fairly safely at high speeds, but more often than not, the greater part of the journey is spent on roads with few service stations and too much traffic.

By comparison, ferry trips or cruises offer a great variety of civilized comforts.

You can stretch your legs on the spacious decks, play games, meet interesting people and enjoy good food — always assuming, of course, that the sea is calm.

If it is not, and you are likely to get seasick, no form of transport could be worse.

Even if you travel in ideal weather, sea journeys take a long time.

Relatively few people are prepared to sacrifice holiday time for the pleasure of travelling by sea.

Aeroplanes have the reputation of being dangerous, and even hardened travellers are intimidated by them.

They also have the disadvantage of being an expensive form of transport.

But nothing can match them for speed and comfort.

Travelling at a height of 30,000 feet, far above the clouds, and at over 500 miles an hour is an exhilarating experience.

You do not have to devise ways of taking your mind off the journey, for an aeroplane gets you to your destination rapidly.

For a few hours, you settle back in a deep armchair to enjoy the flight.

The real escapist can watch a film and sip champagne on some services.

But even when such refinements are not available, there is plenty to keep you occupied.

An aeroplane offers you an unusual and breathtaking view of the world.

You soar effortlessly over high mountains and deep valleys.

You really see the shape of the land.

If the landscape is hidden from view, you can enjoy the extraordinary sight of unbroken cloud plains that stretch out for miles before you, while the sun shines brilliantly in a clear sky.

The journey is so smooth that there is nothing to prevent you from reading or sleeping.

However you decide to spend your time, one thing is certain: you will arrive at your destination fresh and uncrumpled.

You will not have to spend the next few days recovering from a long and arduous journey.

Nothing matches a plane for speed and comfort.

An aeroplane reaches its destination rapidly.

You travel in complete comfort, often watching a film or sipping champagne.

You have a breathtaking view of the world and you can really appreciate the landscape.

When you are above the clouds, the sight of cloud plains is extraordinary.

The journey is SO smooth that it is easy to read or sleep, and you always arrive fresh and uncrumpled at the end of the flight.

All forms of travel have advantages and disadvantages.

Flying has many advantages that regular international travellers will tell you about, but it has many disadvantages.

When you travel by train, you turn up at the railway station, buy a ticket to your destination, go onto the platform and get on the train when it arrives.

With travelling by air, booking itself is a major problem.

Immediately, you are faced with choices because different airlines offer the same flights for different prices.

Personally I never know which to choose.

And then there's the real time.

When they tell you that it is a two-hour flight, add at least five hours to that.

Remember first of all that you have to get to the airport (by car, bus, coach or train). Then you have to check in, usually at least an hour before take-off-go through customs and passport control, and then wait in the departure lounge (bored out of your mind!) until your flight is called.

Boarding takes at least half an hour, and then you sit in the aircraft waiting to take off.

At the other end, after your flight, again you are subjected to customs and passport control before waiting for your luggage before you catch your transport from the airport to your real destination.

On the flight itself, you are squashed in, often sitting next to strangers who might have strange or bad habits, such as an irritating cough.

They always give you a meal, but airline food often tastes like plastic, and there is rarely any choice.

There are just two small toilets for hundreds of people, and there is the constant drone of engines and the hum of the air-conditioning system.

For some travellers, too, there is a constant sense of danger: Will we arrive safely?

Will any of the engines fail?

What if there's a mad hijacker on board?

Flying has many disadvantages but millions will still go on flying.

The great disadvantage shared by train and car travel alike is the tedium and discomfort of the journey.

An aeroplane journey invariably provides such distractions as being able to watch a film or drink champagne.

Having arrived at your destination by air, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you could not have got there any faster.

People travelling long distances frequently have to decide if they would prefer to go by land, sea or air.

In addition, it is a great disadvantage that their being the most expensive form of transport.

If it is not and you are prone to seasickness, no form of transport could be worse.

Nothing can equal aeroplanes for speed and comfort.

For a few hours, you relax in a deep armchair to enjoy the flight.

You can enjoy the extraordinary spectacle of unbroken cloud plains.

You won't spend the next few days getting over a long and arduous journey.