

Hi, I'm Jack Foster and I'm a Londoner. I love my city. I think it is one of _____ cities in the world.

I enjoy driving, but I almost never drive in London. For one thing it's too expensive – you _____ pay a congestion charge to drive in Central London. And if you do drive in the city, you spend most of your time stuck in traffic, and parking is even _____ petrol. So, I always get around the city by public transport.

London has a great bus network and the Tube is _____ underground system in the world, but it definitely isn't _____. Public transport in London is much more expensive than in many other cities. Luckily, since 2010 there's been a _____ alternative to the buses, Tube, and cars in London –and it's a _____ alternative, too.

This is London Waterloo, _____ railway station in Britain. And right next to the train station is this... one of the many Cycle Hire docking stations around London.

At each of these stations you _____ borrow a bike for making short journeys around the city. About 3,000 people hire bikes from here every week. Londoners nicknamed these bikes 'Boris Bikes' after Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London when the scheme started. You _____ pay a small fee to join the scheme, but then you _____ borrow a bike for up to 30 minutes for free. The bike-sharing scheme has proved popular both with commuters and visitors to the city.

Of course London isn't the only city with a bike -sharing scheme, and it isn't a new idea. There have been schemes around since the 1960s, but, with new technology like GPS, cash cards, and

smartphones, local authorities _____ make the schemes more secure and _____ to use.

There are now bike-sharing schemes in over 165 cities around the world, with more starting up all the time. Some of the _____ schemes are the Velib' in Paris, DublinBikes in Dublin, Ireland, Bicing in Barcelona, and Bixi in Montreal, Canada. But _____ scheme is in Hangzhou, China, which has more than 60,000 bicycles. Unfortunately, despite the success of the Boris Bikes, London still isn't _____ city. There are some bike lanes, but often bikes, cars, and buses _____ share the roads, and this _____ be dangerous.

So there are a few things everyone can do to make their bike trip _____ – whether you're on a Boris Bike, or your own bike. Firstly, you _____ obey the rules of the road. You _____ cycle on the pavements and you _____ cycle through red lights. You _____ wear a helmet and bright clothes.

You _____ wear a helmet to ride a bike in the UK, but it's probably a good idea. You really _____ use your phone or wear headphones while cycling. You _____ see and hear what is going on around you.

But if you are careful, a bike is _____ way to see a city like London. And _____ borrow one for free makes it even _____!