

LASER UNIT 2

Reading

1 Read the article about public transport. For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Getting around

Over the centuries, it became more and more important to move larger and larger groups of people from one place to another faster, more comfortably and less expensively.

The stagecoach was probably the first organised means of public transport. A stagecoach was like a cart pulled by horses – it had four wheels, but was closed in with a roof and doors. They first appeared in the 16th century in Britain. An average-sized stagecoach could carry about six passengers. If they were travelling a long distance, passengers would stay the night at an inn, which was like a hotel.

At the beginning of the 19th century, buses first appeared. The early ones looked like stagecoaches and were pulled by horses, but the difference was that passengers could get off the bus at many different stops along the way, making them an ideal means of travelling within cities. When motors replaced horses as a source of power, the number of buses quickly increased as people realised they were a good way to get to work or go shopping. The main drawback in travelling by bus is the long period of time you often have to wait for one.

An underground train is a train which travels below the streets of a city. It provides a quick way to get around because it avoids heavy traffic, but in many cities it is quite expensive. Also, underground trains often don't serve all the areas of a city, so people have to take a bus to the station. What is more, in some cities the service is not clean and comfortable.

Other means of transport are specialised and so not used by everyone. Ferries, for example, are only used to travel between islands or across rivers and seas. A common problem with the ferry, as with other means of transport as well, is that at certain times of the year, it can be extremely difficult to find a ticket unless you have booked way in advance. Also, ferries can be rather slow and may be cancelled or delayed if the weather is bad.

As you can see, mass transport has certainly changed over the years. However, modern means of transport create a lot of pollution, and so the question is: Have we paid too big a price for easy travel?

1 What is true about stagecoaches?

- A They have always been used for travel.
- B They were only used for short distances.
- C They could transport people travelling in groups.
- D They were only used to take people to inns.

2 The introduction of buses

- A helped transport in cities.

- B increased the number of shops.
- C helped people get jobs.
- D did not make a difference to stagecoaches.

3 An underground system isn't the perfect means of transport because it

- A is too fast for some people.
- B only avoids heavy traffic.
- C serves only a few areas of a city.
- D can be unpleasant and expensive.

4 The writer says that, with ferries,

- A it's always difficult to find tickets.
- B tickets are usually very cheap.
- C there are often very long delays.
- D the weather can affect the journey.

5 According to the writer, we have to think about whether transport has

- A always created pollution.
- B more positive or negative effects.
- C become less expensive.
- D become faster.

Listening Track 2

2 You will hear a bus driver talking about her job. For questions 1–5, complete the sentences.

- 1 Liz says that unfortunately some of the _____ can be rude.
- 2 There was one woman who had so much shopping that she couldn't _____ the bus.
- 3 A bus driver isn't allowed to _____ unless they're at a bus stop.
- 4 Liz wants to be able to give _____ to her passengers.
- 5 She thinks the government should make the buses _____.

Grammar and Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct option in each sentence.

Example:

It wasn't a very good journey, because the sea was rough and the _____ moved around a lot.

- A train
- B hovercraft
- C plane
- D train

- 1 We waited on the _____ for the train to arrive.

- A taxi rank
- B road
- C railway
- D platform

- 2 Bicycles with _____ didn't exist before 1840.
A pedals B tracks
C hot air D skis
- 3 Mr Smith is going on a business _____ to Hamburg.
A holiday B journey
C travel D trip
- 4 Hurry up! We're going to _____ the bus.
A lose B get off
C miss D find
- 5 There was so much traffic that I got off the bus and continued _____ foot.
A with B on
C by D with
- 6 I couldn't believe my ears when the taxi driver told me how much the _____ was.
A ticket B price
C bill D fare
- 7 Even though it was my birthday, my brother insisted _____ paying for dinner.
A on B to
C for D in
- 8 Listen! Doesn't that song remind you _____ our holiday last summer?
A for B about
C of D for

4 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form, past simple or past continuous, to complete the sentences.

- 0 My mum was putting (put) out the washing when it started (start) to rain.
- 1 I _____ (cross) the road when I _____ (see) my old friend from school.
- 2 I _____ (run) for the bus, got on and _____ (find) a seat at the front.
- 3 When I _____ (hear) the bang, I _____ (turn) round to see what it was.
- 4 While I _____ (swim), someone _____ (steal) my clothes.
- 5 He _____ (ride) his bike when the back wheel _____ (fall off).

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

Example :

Where did you used to going on holiday?

Where did you use to go on holiday?

1 We would riding about thirty kilometres a day.

2 We have to taking into the account that it might rain on the picnic.

3 I haven't get used to eat such spicy food every day.

4 When my dad was young he would used go to his village in August.

5 I'm used for live out of a suitcase.

6 Kiki worked during a waiter on an island for the summer.
