

Eco-friendly transportation

This is the story of a modern man and his car-sharing membership. George Dizvolitsis lives in a condo with his wife. Both work downtown, take public transit, and walk during the summer. But their epic journeys to visit family in the suburbs or trek to get groceries were wearing them down. They try to be as completely car-free as possible and yet they still couldn't pull it off. They struggled with a solution and then discovered a car-share program in the parking lot of their building and signed up.

Saving money with car sharing

Before we met George, we expected a sandal-wearing, granola-eating renegade. Instead, he was the perfect picture of an everyday dude, gym bag over one shoulder and a baseball cap on his head.

The green benefits were nice, he explained, but the real motivation was dollars and sense. They saved \$300 to \$400 a month on fuel, parking and insurance. Plus, the share-cars were always available and easy to take out. We had an epiphany on the parking spot: Had the green movement got the guilt pitch wrong all these decades? Give people cost-effective and convenient alternatives to driving a car and they will take them.

Eco-friendly transportation alternatives

In George's case, the decision to car-share came down [- 6 -]. But surely there are other reasons to ditch and drive? Driving is one of the single biggest polluting acts a person can make. Yet, three quarters of us [- 7 -] even when could easily use another form of transportation. We get it, the True North, Strong and Free, with its inclement weather and massive size, feels like it was built for a car. But maybe we can start by cutting back on our car usage?

7 tips for eco-friendly transportation.

- [- 8 -], catching on in Ottawa and other cities, where children walk together in groups with parental supervision.
- Check out car-sharing companies available in your town city.
- Bike-sharing options are popular at several universities across Canada, while the Bixi bike-sharing program is rolling in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.
- [- 9 -], in case in an e-bike or scooter for quick, inter-city trips.
- Challenge yourself by leaving the car at home for a week. By week's end, you'll appreciate your wheels and pinpoint places where you can use [- 10 -]
- Rural Canadians can scout out local bus and character companies to get across back-country roads.
- [- 11 -], plan ahead and carpool with neighbors or nearby families.

Text A – Eco-friendly transportation

Answer the following questions.

1. Why were Mr. and Mrs. Dizvolitsis tired of visiting family or going to the grocery store?

2. Which phrase in lines 1-6 shows that Mr. and Mrs. Dizvolitsis were forced to use a car at times?

3. How did the authors assume George would be?

4. What was George's main reason for joining the car-share programme?

5. Which word in lines 7-15 is closest in meaning to "sudden realization"?

Choose the appropriate words from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| 6. [- 6 -] | ☐ | A. try the walking school bus revolution |
| 7. [- 7 -] | ☐ | B. to being green |
| 8. [- 8 -] | ☐ | C. although you are late |
| 9. [- 9 -] | ☐ | D. alternate forms of transportation |
| 10. [- 10 -] | ☐ | E. to money and convenience |
| 11. [- 11 -] | ☐ | F. avoid the walking school bus revolution |
| | | G. for the fast and fashionable |
| | | H. similar forms of transportation |
| | | I. guiltily admit to getting behind the wheel |
| | | J. if everything works |
| | | K. happily admit to avoiding driving |