

9 Car, bike, or bus?

Preview

CULTURE

The first vehicle similar to a bicycle was built in 1690 in France. It was called a hobbyhorse. In Scotland, in 1840, pedals were added and it became the first real bicycle. Today there are twice as many bicycles as cars. There are over a billion bicycles in the world, with 400 million of them in China alone. In the U.S., almost 90 universities now have a campus bike program. Students "check out" the bikes to get around campus. This helps cut down on traffic, reduce pollution, and improve campus safety, but students need to remember: The bikes still need to be locked!



Do people ride bicycles in your country? How about 25 years ago?
How do people travel now?
Do most people own a car? How about a bicycle?

VOCABULARY Transportation costs

A PAIR WORK Do you know all of these words? Circle the word in each item that doesn't belong.

- car insurance parking ticket sidewalk
- tires expense bicycle helmet
- job loan credit debt
- repairs bus route public transportation
- lend commute borrow manage



B Now choose two words from each item and use them in a sentence, like this:

"I bought a new car, but then I couldn't afford the insurance!"

GUESS THE STORY

Look at the characters. Which form of transportation do you think each one prefers? Write it on the line.

bike car bus



1. Luis

.....



2. Jessica

.....



3. Will

.....



4. Emi

.....

Watch the video

GET THE PICTURE

A Look at your answers to Exercise 3. Did you guess correctly? Write the transportation each person prefers in the chart.

	Luis	Jessica	Will	Emi
Transportation:	car
Other:	can take out a car loan

B Now write one more piece of information about each person. Compare with a partner.

WATCH FOR DETAILS

Check (✓) True or False. Then correct the false statements. Compare with a partner.



	True	False	
1. Luis rides a bike now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Luis takes the bus now.....
2. Luis has already told his wife about the car.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will rode his bike through a puddle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Jessica will drive to work after graduation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. A car loan can help someone establish credit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Someone else bought the car Luis wants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

A Complete the sentences with the consequences you think will happen.

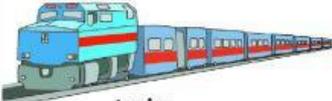
1. If you buy a car before you have a job,
2. If you take out a car loan,
3. If you ride a bike instead of driving,
4. If you take the bus to work,
5. If you walk everywhere you go,
6. If you're not careful where you park your car,

B PAIR WORK Choose three sentences from part A and share your opinions.

Follow-up

YOUR CITY

A PAIR WORK In your city or town, what are the advantages and disadvantages of these forms of transportation? Complete the chart. Then compare around the class.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
 car
 bus
 train
 bicycle

B Convince another pair to leave their cars at home. Give as many reasons as you can why another form of transportation is better.

"If you drive a car every day, you're going to spend a lot of money on gas."

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

Watch the video and complete the conversation. Then practice it.

Jessica and Will warn Luis about the expenses of owning a car.

Jessica: People *used* to pay for things with cash. They didn't buy on credit. money to buy the car, you're that debt for years.

Will: And even you the debt, you're going to have to spend a lot of on the car. You're going to to pay for insurance, and you're going to to pay for

Jessica: Yeah, and you're going to have to pay for . And, if you're not , you're going to pay parking . It all .

Luis: You're right. I didn't think the expenses.

Jessica: After graduation, I'm still going to to work. But that's OK with me. Public transportation in city is efficient.



9 TALKING ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A Complete each sentence with at least two of the phrases in the box. Then compare with a partner.

In the past, people used to ...

-
-

Today, many people ...

-
-

In the future, people will ...

-
-

B Write two more sentences of your own about transportation in the past, present, and future. Take turns reading them to a partner.

-
-

think it's safer to get a job before you buy a car
 pay for things with cash
 take the bus to work
 not buy things on credit
 establish credit through loans
 walk or bike to work more often