

## Environmentally friendly on the road: simply change!

*Private cars are useful and convenient. But from an environmental point of view they have many disadvantages. In addition, there are traffic jams on many routes. The best thing would be to combine the advantages of different means of transport.*

### Task

- Look again at the traffic problems discussed in class.
- Read the following texts about the possibilities of different means of transport.
- Choose the means of transport you could use to travel the distance discussed. Give reasons for your choice.
- Describe the route you would take. For example: Which means of transport does the route start with? Do you change on the way - and if so, which means of transport?

### Possible means of transport

#### Public bus

Buses are suitable for travelling a few kilometres within a town. For example, from district to district or from the outskirts to the city centre. Buses are also a good way to travel from one town to a



neighbouring town. There are usually many stops that are close to each other. This means you can get very close to your destination.

A bus can fit a large group of people. About two school classes can fit in most buses.

Bus routes are quite easy to set up because buses use the normal roads. However, they also get stuck when the rest of the traffic is in a traffic jam. The exception are streets where there are dedicated lanes for buses that are closed to private cars.

## Tram



Trams are suitable for travelling a few kilometres within a larger city. For example, from district to district or from the outskirts to the city centre. The stops are usually close together. Many destinations can therefore be reached easily by tram. However, there are usually only a few tram lines in a city. Some destinations are far from the nearest stop.

A very large group of people fits into a tram. Depending on how long the train is, it can transport at least two school classes. However, many trains can fit twice as many people.

Trams can only run on rails. Therefore, it is costly to build a new track. First, rails have to be laid and stops built. However, a tram on its rails can be faster than buses and cars on the road.

## Bicycle



You can comfortably ride a few kilometres by bike. For example, within your own neighbourhood or from district to district. Sporty people also have no problem cycling a few kilometres to the neighbouring town. The big advantage is that you can get almost anywhere by bike and you can ride straight to your destination.

You can't carry much on a bicycle. School supplies or a small purchase can be carried in a backpack or saddlebags. Somewhat larger items can be transported on a cargo bike or in a bicycle trailer.

You can also take a bicycle with you on some other forms of transport. For example, in the commuter train, in many trams and in some buses.

Bicycles are extremely convenient. You can ride it almost everywhere - on roads and on many unpaved paths. However, children and families usually feel better and safer on cycle paths than between cars on the road. Since you can cycle directly from door to door, you can reach your destination faster than by car or public transport on many routes within a city.

## Private car



Travelling by car allows you to cover a wide range of distances: a few kilometres from one part of town to another, from the suburbs to the city centre, to a neighbouring town or even hundreds of kilometres away on holiday. By car, you can get anywhere there are roads.

At most, a car can fit a small group of people. As a rule, there is room for no more than four or five people.

Because there is a very dense network of roads in most European countries, you can get to practically any place by car. However, there are often traffic jams on many routes, for example on motorways. But the roads in the cities are also often congested, especially in the morning and in the afternoon. This is when a lot of people want to go to work or take their children to school at the same time. The situation is similar when everyone wants to go home again. Building new or wider roads is very expensive. And in the cities there is usually no more space for them.

## Commuter train



With the commuter train, you can travel comfortably and quickly for several kilometres, for example from district to district or from the outskirts of the city to the city centre. It is also easy to take the commuter train from place to place. However, there are usually only a few commuter rail lines in a city. Many destinations are far away from the next stop.

Many people fit on a commuter train. In most trains, there would probably be room for all the children from your school. You can also take bicycles on the commuter train.

Commuter trains can only run on rails. That is why it is expensive to build a new line. First, tracks have to be laid and stops built. However, an commuter train is much faster on its tracks than cars and buses.

## Carsharing



With a car sharing vehicle, you can do almost everything that is possible with a private car. However, you share the car with other people. Car sharing vehicles are usually parked at certain locations in the city. You can borrow them when you need one. You pay a fee for using one.

## Your feet



On foot, you can quickly and comfortably walk a few hundred metres or a few kilometres. Your feet are an unbeatably versatile means of transport. They take you everywhere - even to places where no other means of transport can get you through. In many city centres or in your neighbourhood, walking is usually the quickest way to reach your destination.

You can't carry much on foot. However, school supplies or a small purchase can easily be carried in a backpack.

Travelling on foot is extremely uncomplicated.

You don't need anything except solid ground under your feet. However, it is most pleasant to walk on good footpaths.

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Public bus

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Carsharing

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