



Transportation Choices: Positive and Negative Aspects

Transportation methods help us move from one area of a city or town to another. For example, you use transportation methods to get from home to school. Each type of transportation method has different positive or negative consequences.

Type of Transportation	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects
Walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Good for one's healthGood for the environmentInexpensiveFun to see community by footNotice more details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hard to carry heavy itemsDoes not protect from the weatherNot possible if the destination is far awayCould be unsafeSidewalks may not be available
Bicycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Good for one's healthGood for the environmentRelatively inexpensiveFun to see the community by bike	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dangerous if there are no designated bike lanesDoes not permit carrying heavy itemsDoes not protect from the weatherNot possible if the destination is too far away

Transportation Choices: Positive and Negative Aspects

Type of Transportation

Positive Aspects

Negative Aspects

Cars



Convenient for the driver
Allows driver to be independent
Offers privacy
Requires less planning to get from place to place
Allows driver to transport people and heavy items

Exhaust fumes are harmful to the environment
Drivers are frustrated with traffic delays
Requires a lot of land for highways
Expensive (cost of car, insurance, maintenance, parking fees, gas, traffic and parking tickets)
Requires a lot of land for parking spaces, gas stations, car sales lots

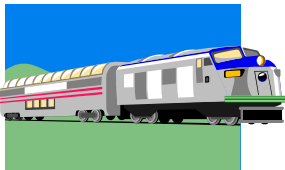
Buses



Transport many people, reducing traffic
Cheaper than maintaining a car
Passengers read or relax while riding
Newer buses use natural gas and are more environmentally friendly

Exhaust fumes that are harmful to the environment
May be crowded during rush hour
Passengers must follow bus schedule
Location of bus stops may not be convenient for some

Trains



Transport many people, reducing traffic
Passengers read or relax while riding
Cheaper to ride than to maintain a car
Enjoyable way to view the landscape
A way to travel long distances including overnight in a relaxed manner

Expensive to build
Passengers must follow train schedule
Location of train stops may not be convenient to some people
Requires a lot of land for track and stations
Crowded trains may not have adequate seating
Delays or cancellations could cause frustrations

What is your least favorite way to travel?

What is your favorite way to travel?

Transportation Over Time

About 100 years ago, many people moved from the countryside into the city, and cities became very crowded. Traffic jams might seem like a modern problem but they originated as populations grew faster than transportation corridors could handle.

Identify different ways people traveled and circle the following:



Photo: Traffic jam on Dearborn Street near Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois, 1909
Courtesy of Chicago History Museum, Photograph ICHI-04191

1. A man riding a horse
2. A horse-drawn wagon
3. Two streetcars
4. People walking

Transportation Over Time

Cars help people travel over long distances. They allow people to live in suburbs, far away from the center of the city. As more and more people bought cars, more roads were built to allow these cars to travel. More roads and cars meant more traffic.



Traffic jam on freeway near Hazard Street, Houston, Texas, 1962
Courtesy of www.texasfreeway.com

How would you feel if you were sitting in traffic on this highway?

Are highways built so that people can enjoy the scenery or just to move people from here to there?

What do you think highways will be like in the future?