

**Task 1 Transport pictiography**

Listen to your teacher to play a game. Write any new vocabulary here:

**Task 2 Travel – find somebody who...**

Find somebody who...	Name	Extra information
... walked to school today.		
... has travelled by helicopter.		
... can tell you a funny travel story.		
... rides a bike regularly.		
... thinks people travel too much these days.		
...		
...		

**Task 3 Planes, trains and... tuk-tuks**

Read the text about transport in the UK and put the paragraph headings in the correct places. Then discuss the questions below.

- International commuting
- Commuting options
- A lifestyle thing
- Staying at home
- The greener option

### **Planes, trains and... tuk-tuks**

With conventional modes of transport becoming less appealing, commuters are finding alternative methods of getting to work.

**1)** Roads in the UK are becoming increasingly crowded which means more traffic jams and longer journeys for those who travel to work by car. Public transport is seen to be expensive and unreliable, and is often not available, particularly to people living in rural areas. Although more people cycle to work now, many think cycling is dangerous on our busy roads.

**2)** That's why some people are prepared to take drastic action to avoid the nightmare of conventional commuting. Cheap flights have enabled people to commute from places as far-flung as Barcelona, Marrakech and even Tallinn. A recent report (Future Forum) suggests that by 2016, 1.5 million people will be working in the UK but living overseas.

**3)** Flexible working hours and advances in technology have also helped to make this possible. Ellie Portland, 24, who works for a television production company in London, uses budget airlines to commute to work from her home in Barcelona. It is not feasible to commute daily, so she travels to the UK once a week and stays for a few days with friends or family in London. And for the rest of the week she is able to work from her 'virtual office' at home in Spain. There are added benefits, as Ellie explains, 'I have a better quality of life in Barcelona and rent, food and clothes are much cheaper.'

**4)** Not everyone, however, thinks this is a sustainable alternative. John, 26, from Lincoln thinks it's 'irresponsible... and selfish. The sky will become more like the M25... what a disaster for the environment!' Another more environmentally friendly option is Eurostar. High-speed train routes between the UK, France and Belgium are due to be opened next year which would mean travelling between London and Lille, for example, will take just 80 minutes.

**5)** For those who prefer to continue to live in the UK, another form of public transport is being tested in Brighton with plans to extend to other cities next year. Twelve tuk-tuks, three-wheeled vehicles prevalent in Asia, have been imported to the UK from India. Adapted for the British climate – with hoods and curtains to keep out the rain – they are environmentally friendly and ideal for getting around towns and cities. Now that sounds like a fun way to get to work!

*Connie, October 2006 (British Council's Trend UK team)*

#### **Glossary**

M25 - Motorway circling London

Eurostar - Train service between the UK and Europe via the Channel Tunnel

Now discuss:

- Are the transport problems in the UK similar to those in your country?
- What do you think about living in one country and working in another? Do you think it's environmentally irresponsible?
- Do you think cycling in a city centre is dangerous?
- What other transport solutions can you think of for big cities?

#### **Task 4 Carbon footprints**

Have you ever heard of 'Carbon Footprints'? Your teacher is going to tell you about Carbon Footprints then you are going to write five questions to ask your classmates to try and decide who is leaving the biggest carbon footprint on the planet.

Write your questions here:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Conclusion: I think the students in the class with the biggest carbon footprints are....

### Task 5 Travel trauma – role play

1) At the airport.

At the airport

A – You work in the check-in at Heathrow airport. Today all the flights are cancelled because of all the pilots are on strike. You have to explain to the passengers that there will be no flights for at least three days.

At the airport

B – You reserved your flight 6 months ago to travel to Australia for your best friend's wedding (or a similar event). You arrive at the airport early and go to the check in. You are very excited and you only have two weeks off work so you plan to arrive just the day before the wedding then you will travel around Australia.

2) At the train station

At the train station

A – You work for British Rail. You arrived at work this morning and your boss told you that all trains are cancelled today because of important engineering work on the tracks. You have to tell the passengers the news!

At the train station

B – You arrive at Paddington train station in the centre of London. You have paid a lot of money for a ticket to Edinburgh where you have a friend waiting for you. Your friend doesn't have a telephone or a mobile and will be waiting for you at the station.

### Task 6 Transport of the future

Work in groups to design a form of transport for the future. It must be environmentally friendly. Draw the vehicle here and be prepared to explain it to the other groups.