

Exercise 5

Read the following article about the role of cars in modern life.

Write a summary about the reasons why cars are so important to people AND the negative effects of cars on the environment.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Cars – love them or hate them

It is only just over 130 years ago that the first car was invented. In the context of the millions of years since the beginning of our planet Earth, that is no time at all. And yet, because cars are such an essential part of our lives, it seems as though they have always been with us.

Gina O'Donnell, a young marketing executive who runs international campaigns to sell Italian-designed cars to people all over the world, says: "Part of my job is to find out why people drive cars. People choose cars for many different reasons. Some say they are looking for a car that gives them the sense of freedom they desire. Others say that their vehicle is essential because they have to take their children to and from school every day." Priya Patel, mother to three young boys who attend different schools many miles apart, is one such example. Even though she is fully aware of the air pollution that her multiple journeys cause, she doesn't feel that she has any choice at the moment. For some people, their car helps them to express their hidden personality. "When I'm driving my sports car on a sunny day, with the top down, I feel like a teenage rock star," joked a senior manager.

But our love affair with the car has its consequences. The expanding network of concrete roads may be seen as spoiling the beauty of rural areas. Although some people predict that the need for more roads will increase in the future, others are keen to develop different public transport systems, or encourage more people to join car sharing schemes. It's essential to find alternatives, because if we continue to build roads at the same pace, there is an increased risk of flooding. This can occur when rainwater falls on roads and can't drain into the ground so easily.

All over the world there are hundreds of thousands of people employed in the car industry. They work in a wide variety of roles, from marketing executives like Gina O'Donnell, to engineers who create the robots that work on the production line, and quality controllers who inspect the finished products.

Cars are also vital to small businesses all over the world. They are used for transporting goods and merchandise from one part of the country to another. However, all these cars need somewhere to park, and this means that a lot of our green spaces in urban areas are being built on to provide car parks.

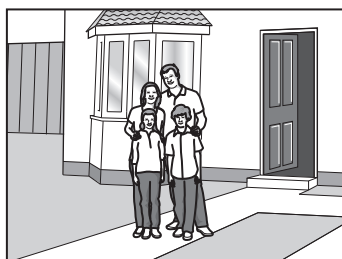
The good news is that people are trying to find ways of helping the environment without having to give up their cars. Scientists are busy researching new fuels, for example by recycling the vegetable oil that restaurants use in their kitchens. Electric cars that have rechargeable batteries are often seen in our cities these days.

We are left with the dilemma about whether the benefits of cars in our daily lives outweigh the negative effects on the environment. This question will no doubt continue to engage people for many years to come.

Cars are very important to people for several reasons. For starters, they provide people with a sense of liberty and give them the chance to express their inner characters. Moreover, cars are used to transport children to and from school and freight commodities and products internationally.

Furthermore, the car industry provides employment opportunities to a significant number of workers.

However, cars have adverse effects on the environment, such as air pollution. Also, the ceaseless construction of concrete roads for automobiles ruins the beauty of countryside and raises the likelihood of flooding. Finally, green spaces in cities are often replaced with car parks.

Exercise 6

Recently, you spent a week with your English friend and their family to improve your English.

Write an email to your cousin about your visit.

In your email, you should:

- describe the family you stayed with
- explain what you enjoyed doing during your visit
- say how your English has improved.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Dear Omar,

How was your math exam? I hope it went well. You've got to know all about my recent trip to England — it was amazing!

As you know, I spent my one-week stay with my English friend Ben and his family to improve my lousy English. They are an easy-going amiable family of four; they welcomed me with open arms, and I could already tell that I'd have a blast! You won't believe how hilarious Ben's father is! He had me laughing non-stop — you know me, I always appreciate a good sense of humor.

Luckily, everything during my stay was enjoyable! Ben took me to some of the tourist attractions in his city, like the vast national museum, an aquatic zoo, and botanical gardens, which were a sight to behold! I enjoyed going to shopping malls with him too, and even relished the opportunity to engage in lively discussions about fashion, design, and aesthetics while having a mouth-watering dinner. Absolutely fun, isn't it?

You'd be astonished how much my English has improved! I guess you already noticed that by now. My grammar improved greatly, and my pronunciation is now somewhat like natives. My siblings were surprised by my accent and wide linguistic prowess. You won't be able to brag about your English around me anymore — finally!

Anyways, I'm late for my boxing class. Write soon!

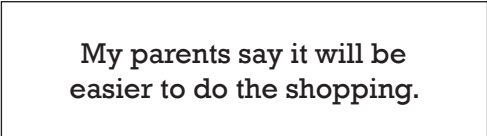
Lots of love,

[your name]

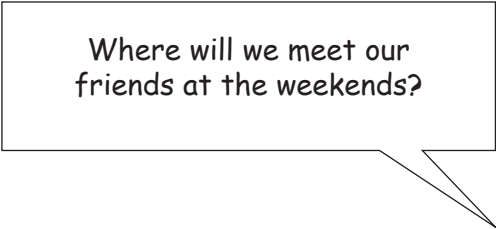
Exercise 7

There is a proposal to close the swimming pool in your town and build a supermarket there instead.

Here are two comments from young people in your town:



My parents say it will be easier to do the shopping.



Where will we meet our friends at the weekends?

Write an article for the local newspaper, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

The proposal to substitute our town swimming pool with a supermarket has ignited a contentious debate among residents. With the ardent conviction of both sides, the issue seems irresolvable. Do you think there is a way to reconcile the conflicting concerns of our community?

On the one hand, advocates of this plan affirm that having a supermarket in the town can bring substantial benefits; it provides job opportunities, creating a livelihood for unemployed individuals. Furthermore, not only will it reduce the efforts and time taken by residents to go shopping, thus being more convenient, but it also means that less money will be spent on fuel for cars as long car journeys to supermarkets will not be necessary.

But do these benefits outweigh the potential negative impacts of losing a communal space for recreation and socialization? As one of our town's main tourist attractions, some people believe the swimming pool is indispensable. Moreover, a swimming pool provides a vital outlet for physical exercise, particularly for young people. It has also been there for so long that older residents think it is a part of our town's history!

To state it concisely, the best solution will require careful consideration of all factors involved and a willingness to cooperate. I believe that building the supermarket on a nearby vacant site while preserving the swimming pool will be a mutually acceptable resolution.