

## Traffic: A Global Problem

There are more and more people and more and more cars



**T**raffic is a big problem in many cities around the world. Traffic is especially bad during *rush hour*—the time when people go to work or school and the time when they go home. Many people take buses, subways, or trains to work, but many other people drive their cars. As a result, the streets are very busy, and traffic is very bad.

Many cities are trying to solve their traffic problems. Some cities are building more roads. Other cities are expanding their bus and subway systems.

Many cities are trying to reduce the number of cars on their roads. Some highways have *carpool lanes*—special lanes for cars with two, three, or more people. In some cities, people drive their cars only on certain days of the week. For example, in Athens, people with license plate numbers ending in 0 through 4 drive on some days, and people with numbers ending in 5 through 9 drive on other days.

Every day around the world, more and more people drive to and from work in more and more cars. As a result, traffic is a global problem.

### LISTENING

#### And Now, Here's Today's News!

TODAY'S NEWS



- b**
- 1 There's a subway problem in . . .
  - 2 Police officers are on strike in . . .
  - 3 It's snowing very hard in . . .
  - 4 There aren't any problems in . . .
  - 5 Children aren't going to school in . . .

- a. Toronto
- b. Boston
- c. Miami
- d. Sacramento
- e. Chicago

### BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY!

#### How Do You Get to Work?

I \_\_\_\_\_.



■ walk



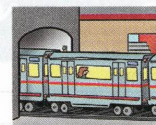
■ drive



■ take the bus



■ take the train



■ take the subway



■ take a taxi



■ ride a bicycle



■ ride a motor scooter



■ ride a motorcycle



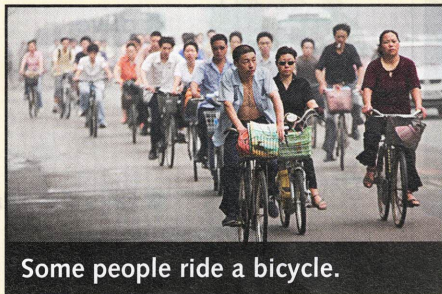
## AROUND THE WORLD

### Getting Places

People around the world go to work or school in many different ways.



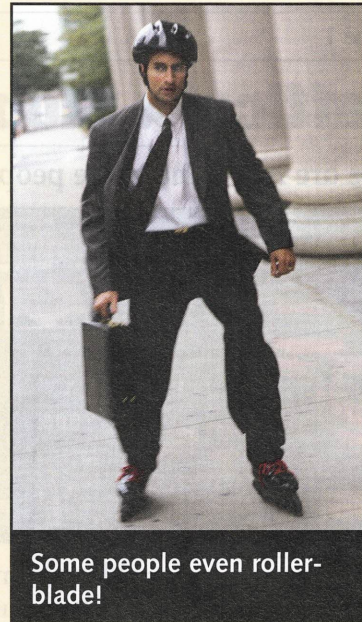
Some people take the subway.



Some people ride a bicycle.



Some people ride a motor scooter.



Some people even roller-blade!

How do people go to work or school in different countries you know?

### FACT FILE

#### World's Largest Subway Systems

CITY	NUMBER OF RIDERS IN A YEAR (IN MILLIONS)	CITY	NUMBER OF RIDERS IN A YEAR (IN MILLIONS)
Moscow	3,160	Paris	1,120
Tokyo	2,740	Osaka	1,000
Mexico City	1,420	Hong Kong	779
Seoul	1,390	London	770
New York	1,130	Sao Paulo	701

#### Global Exchange

JeffZ: I live in a small apartment in the center of our city. I have a brother and two sisters. My brother's name is Kevin, and my sisters' names are Emily and Melissa. Our family has a dog and a bird. Our dog's name is Buster, and our bird's name is Lulu. I'm tall, and I have brown eyes. My hair is short and curly. It's usually black, but this week it's red. How about you? Where do you live? Do you have brothers or sisters? What are their names? Do you have a dog or a cat or another pet? What do you look like?

Send a message to a keypal. Tell about yourself.

#### What Are They Saying?





She lives in London.  
Does she live in London?

Your neighbors have a dog.  
Do your neighbors have a dog?

Practice these conversations with a classmate.

Their son always walks to school.

- A. What's the sentence?
- B. *Their son always walks to school.*
- A. What kind of sentence is it?
- B. It's a statement.
- A. Can you change it to a question?
- B. Yes. *Does their son always walk to school?*

Many people ride bicycles to work.

- A. What's the sentence?
- B. *Many people ride bicycles to work.*
- A. What kind of sentence is it?
- B. It's a statement.
- A. Can you change it to a question?
- B. Yes. *Do many people ride bicycles to work?*

Does he usually watch TV at night?

- A. What's the sentence?
- B. *Does he usually watch TV at night?*
- A. What kind of sentence is it?
- B. It's a question.
- A. Can you change it to a statement?
- B. Yes. *He usually watches TV at night.*

Do her parents like classical music?

- A. What's the sentence?
- B. *Do her parents like classical music?*
- A. What kind of sentence is it?
- B. It's a question.
- A. Can you change it to a statement?
- B. Yes. *Her parents like classical music.*

**Rewrite these sentences. Capitalize the first letter of the first word in each sentence. Put the correct punctuation mark at the end of each sentence. Then practice new conversations about these sentences.**

1. rita sometimes works on the weekend
2. does Stanley cook Italian food
3. the students eat lunch in the cafeteria
4. do some highways have carpool lanes
5. does the office assistant sort the mail
6. the apartment building has an elevator
7. your parents have a cat
8. does she have a new computer
9. our boss takes the subway to work
10. do they visit their grandparents often



# Public Schools

Public schools are open to all students. There are three kinds of public schools: elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. However, there are many different kinds of elementary, middle, and high schools. Different cities, towns, and states have different schools.

**PRE-SCHOOL** Children 3 to 5 years old often go to pre-school. In pre-school, students play games, sing songs, and do things together. Teachers teach children about books, numbers, language, and the classroom. Some elementary schools have pre-schools, but some do not.

**KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** All elementary schools have kindergarten classes.



Children are 5 to 6 years old in kindergarten. Some kindergartens are all-day. Others are half-day—in the morning or in the afternoon. Some elementary schools go from kindergarten to grade four. Others go to grade five or six.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

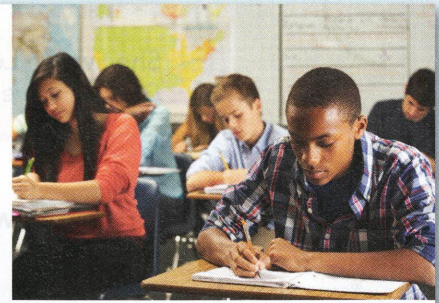
Middle schools, or junior high schools, are different in each city, town, or state.

Some middle schools have grades six to eight. Others have grades seven to nine.

**HIGH SCHOOL** Most high schools are very large. They go from grade nine or ten to grade twelve. In high schools, students study for college and for jobs.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS** A charter school is a different kind of school. It is a public school, but it is not a traditional school. Teachers teach in different ways and usually use new technology. Often, charter schools are small. Charter schools are for elementary, middle, or high school students.

**SPECIALTY SCHOOLS** Some schools have special programs for music, painting, acting, or subjects such as math or science. A vocational high school is a kind of specialty school. In a vocational school, students study school subjects and also prepare for jobs.



- Children 3 years old go to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - grade one
  - pre-school
  - kindergarten
  - middle school
- In kindergarten, children are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 to 5 years old
  - 3 to 6 years old
  - 4 to 6 years old
  - 5 to 6 years old
- Some elementary schools go from kindergarten to grade \_\_\_\_\_.
  - six
  - eight
  - ten
  - twelve
- Charter schools and specialty schools are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - very large
  - high schools
  - public schools
  - traditional schools
- A vocational school prepares students for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - jobs
  - college
  - high school
  - charter schools
- This passage is about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - children in grades one to twelve
  - high schools and middle schools
  - different kinds of public schools
  - different schools in different areas

## APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- What are the names of some public schools in your city or town?
- In your area, what grades are in the elementary schools?
- Is there a charter school or specialty school in your area? Tell about the school.