

Advanced Conversation

Warm up discussion

If you had to take a two-week trip to Paris or another European capital what would you do to prepare? You have no tour guide or anyone to help; talk about what problems you may face and how you might solve them.

- Do you have a driver's license? If yes, how often do you drive?
- If the place where you live had a car share scheme would you ever use it?
- Have you ever rented a car? If yes, how much did it cost and why did you rent it?
- Is traffic in the place where you live getting better or worse and for what reasons?

Pictures

Take a look at these pictures of traffic solutions. How would each of these ideas help ease the traffic problem? Do you think they would be effective?



Paris launches electric car-sharing scheme

1. Paris is launching its first car-sharing project as it aims to clear its traffic-clogged boulevards. The backers hope the scheme will be a major boost for electric vehicles.
2. The Autolib system is intended to build on the success of the Velib bicycle-rental service, similar to that operating in many European cities.
3. A two-month pilot project will allow motorists to hire the battery-powered Bluecar for 30 minutes at a cost of four to eight euros. Membership of the Autolib scheme will cost from 10 euros a day up to 144 euros a year.
4. The cars are being provided by entrepreneur Vincent Bolloré and manufactured by the Italian designer Pininfarina, famous for sculpting Ferraris and Maseratis.
5. They will have a range of up to 250 km before a recharge, which will take about four hours. At first, 66 of the four-seater vehicles will be available for hire at 33 charging stations. But Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë intends to expand to 3,000 vehicles and more than 1,000 stations by the end of 2012.
6. "We want to persuade people to shift from the concept of owning a car to that of using a car," Autolib General Manager Morald Chibout told the Reuters news agency.
7. The project gets underway as leading automakers test drive enthusiasm for electric cars on a large scale in Europe.
8. Renault SA and its Japanese sister company Nissan Motor Company have invested 4 billion euros in electric vehicles. Carlos Ghosn, who leads Renault and Nissan, has said electric cars could account for 10% of new car sales by 2020.
9. Valentine de la Celle, a 30-year-old Parisian mother of two, does not own a car. "We are doing building work at home at the moment and to run errands I would have to hire a car, which is difficult," she told Reuters.

10. "But the scheme needs to be quick and simple, otherwise people will not use it." Like the Velib cycle-hire scheme, Autolib's **pricing structure** encourages people to rent vehicles only for short journeys.
11. "We are not here to compete against traditional **car rental businesses**," said deputy mayor Annick Lepetit.



www.automobile-propre.com

Questions about the article

- A. What is Paris' aim for their new project?
- B. What will this system build on the success of?
- C. Who is providing the first cars?
- D. How far can the cars travel on one charge?
- E. What does the GM of Autolib want to persuade people to do?

Big problems

Which of these do we need to solve? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- traffic congestion
- air pollution
- rubbish and waste everywhere
- viruses and superbugs
- lack of clean water
- the digital divide
- internet privacy
- shortage of energy

What can I do?

What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint? Talk about these things with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

- what I can do right now
- what I can do at home
- what I can do with my family
- what I can do about transport
- what I can do to tell others
- what I can do about my government
- what I can do in stores
- what I can do every day

(See Earthitude.com for great tips on saving the environment)

Reliability

Talk about what companies are most and least reliable from the list below.

Goods / Service	Most reliable company	Least reliable company
Car		
Notebook computer		
Music player		
Mobile phone		
English school		
Airline		

Learning materials created by Rob at David's English, Taipei, Taiwan
(then amended a teeny weeny bit by teacher Luc)

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