

Select Readings, Second Edition Elementary, Chapter 8 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How Can We Solve Traffic Problems?

Large cities often have problems that small towns and rural¹ areas do not have. Two of the biggest problems are heavy traffic and the pollution that cars create. Of course, traffic problems and pollution are not only found in big cities. However, the higher populations and larger number of cars on the roads in cities can make the problems happen more often and with more noticeable² effects.

One of the most common traffic problems that large cities have is congestion³. As the population of a city increases, so does the number of cars on the road. Cities cannot always improve the number and size of their roads and highways to keep up with the number of cars. The result is traffic congestion, or traffic jams.

When traffic jams happen, cars that are stuck in the congestion continue to run their engines. This creates pollution and is a big problem. Pollution causes health problems for the people in cities and also hurts the environment.

Some big cities around the world have found ways to help solve common traffic problems. In London, England, for example, drivers must pay a very high fee⁴ to drive into downtown areas. The government in Singapore also makes people pay large amounts of money to own a car. Because of this, it is too expensive for many Singaporeans to own a car.

In places like Tokyo, buying a car is not too expensive for many people. However, finding a parking place is often almost impossible, and paying for parking can be very expensive. Since the public transportation system in Tokyo is very good, for many commuters, it is more convenient not to own a car.

Reducing the number of cars in cities is helpful. However, making it too difficult or too expensive to own a car is only one solution. Governments need to find other solutions to the problems of traffic and pollution as well.

1. What is the main idea of the article?
 - A. Driving a car costs too much in Singapore.
 - B. Most big cities have too much pollution.
 - C. Having too many cars is a big problem for many cities.
 - D. Traffic jams cause pollution.
2. The cars that drive together on the roads are called _____.
 - A. congested
 - B. pollution
 - C. government

¹ **rural** in the country, not in the city

² **noticeable** can be seen

³ **congestion** being too crowded or too full

⁴ **fee** a cost, money

- D. traffic
3. Why do traffic jams cause a lot of pollution?
 - A. People stop driving their cars into the city.
 - B. Car engines keep running for a long time.
 - C. Too many people drive dangerously.
 - D. Cars move too fast and get stuck.
 4. Pollution from traffic congestion hurts the _____.
 - A. health problems
 - B. environment
 - C. traffic jams
 - D. noticeable effects
 5. Traffic jams are a problem because they _____ the environment.
 - A. pollute
 - B. pollution
 - C. polluter
 - D. polluting
 6. Which of these is true about Tokyo?
 - A. Owning a car is too expensive for most people.
 - B. It is easy to find a parking place around the city.
 - C. People use cars more than public transportation.
 - D. Many people don't drive because parking is too expensive.
 7. People who travel to and from work every day are called _____.
 - A. commuters
 - B. congested
 - C. traffic
 - D. popular
 8. _____ can use public transportation to reduce the number of cars.
 - A. Commute
 - B. Commutes
 - C. Commuting
 - D. Commuters
 9. All of these places are in the article EXCEPT _____.
 - A. Tokyo
 - B. Singapore
 - C. London
 - D. New York
 10. Reducing the number of cars is _____ for reducing pollution.
 - A. too difficult
 - B. too expensive
 - C. helpful
 - D. the only solution