

TASK1 Ask your partner these questions:

- 1) Have you ever been in a sports car / lorry / van / convertible?
- 2) When is the rush hour in your city?
- 3) Are there enough parking spaces in your city?
- 4) Are there any cycle lanes? Do you use them?

READING A

The Rush-hour Grand Prix

Do you live in a city or a large town?
How do you get to work or get to class?
Do you drive or go on a motorbike?, do you use public transport or a bike, or do you just walk?

Every day more than 5000,000 people travel across the city of London to get to work or school. But what's the best way for them to around the city? To find the answer to this question,

The Times newspaper decided to organize a race.

The four contestants in the race, Linda, Nick, Alan and Dalya, all *Times* journalists, had to choose between a bike, a scooter, a car, and public transport (the London underground or "tube").

The race started at Belsize Park underground station in north London, about 12 kilometres

away from *The Times* offices. The start of the race was 8.36 on a sunny morning June, right in the middle of the London rush hour. The objective was to see who would arrive first at the office, and in what condition (stressed, exhausted, etc.).

There were only two rules: 'you mustn't brake the law and you have to be considerate to other travellers'.

READING B Read the rest of the article and complete it with *car, bike, scooter or underground*. What problems did they have each?

<p>They set off at exactly 8.36 a.m.</p> <p>Nick went by _____. 'Although you don't have to wear a helmet in Britain, I always wear one. People who use this form of transport are famous for not obeying traffic signs or traffic light. But I remembered the rules of the race and I tried to behave well. However, I was stopped by a policeman who said: "Excuse me sir, but you've just turned right where it said no right turn. Next time I'll fine you." I had to listen to a five-minute lecture.'</p> <p>Alan chose the _____. 'I had the most comfortable journey, but the race was over for me at the first traffic lights. While I was sitting in traffic jams, I turned</p>	<p>on the air-conditioning and listened to classical music to relax. On the journey I noticed that very few drivers were carrying more than one passenger, which I suppose is the reason why there's so much traffic on the roads during the rush hour.'</p> <p>Dalya went by _____ on the Northern line, which London commuters call the Misery line. Her journey was a nightmare (although she said it wasn't the worst she has had.)</p> <p>'The one I wanted to catch had left just as I arrived, so I had to wait for ten minutes. The next one was too crowded to get on, and when the next one came there were still no</p>	<p>seats so I had to stand. Then we had a delay of a few minutes because of 'problems on the line'. I tried to forget my frustration by studying the face of the woman opposite me who was wearing earrings in all sorts of strange places..."</p> <p>Linda chose the _____. 'When you travel like this, it's a good idea to get behind someone on a big motorbike, because they protect you – but you shouldn't stop next to them at traffic lights – they look down at you as if you were inferior! I was wearing a leather jacket, gloves and a helmet so I got a bit hot as it was a sunny day.'</p>
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TASK Read the text again quickly and find the words in the text for the following definitions:

- 1 a hard hat which protects your head _____
- 2 was finished _____
- 3 saw _____
- 4 people who travel to a city to work _____
- 5 irritation when you can't do anything _____
- 6 material made from animal skin _____
- 7 not as good _____
- 8 very bad experience _____