



Keith **Speaking** Academy

Live Lesson Notes

Transportation

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Some Useful Links

My GOLD online course

<https://courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/ielts-speaking-get-band-7-gold>

Carbon Pollution from Transportation

<https://www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change/carbon-pollution-transportation>

Zero emission trains in Germany

<https://www.iflscience.com/worlds-first-zeroemissions-hydrogenpowered-trains-launch-in-germany-49782>

GIF 200 people in the street

<https://blog.gunneboentrancecontrol.com/5-public-transportation-challenges-and-their-solutions>

Collect my free materials here

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-free-live-lessons/>

Follow me on **social media**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeithIELTSMastermind/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiVm8XcbwS8-pcDEa5IFXIA>

IELTS Vocabulary: Transportation

In this lesson we will look at different types of transportation, both public and private, as well as the problems transportation systems have.

Finally, we will also consider the solutions to such problems.

Throughout the lesson we will focus on vocabulary, especially collocations and idioms, that you can use to talk about this topic confidently.

In the UK we tend to use 'transport' as a noun, whereas in the US they tend to use 'transportation' as a noun. For example,

Public transport (UK)

Public transportation (US)

A form of transport (UK)

A means of transportation (US)

Every city has its own transportation system, including both private and public vehicles /viː ɪkˈɒlɪz /

Public transportation

Bus, coach, train, plane, ferry, cruise ship, taxi, cab, bicycles for rent, rickshaw, tuk tuk, tram, subway, tube (London)

Private transportation

Car, motorbike, bicycle, jet, yacht, boat, van, scooter

IELTS Speaking Topic: Problems with Transportation Systems

Watch the video and answer the question below

What are the 4 main problems with Transportation Systems?

[Click here to watch the video](#)



Answers at the bottom of PDF

Tape script: Collocations in bold

1. **Overcrowding**

There is overcrowding in **peak hours**, or **the rush hour**, due to insufficient number of buses or trains.

People are **packed like sardines**, squeezed into confined spaces, buses are **full to the brim** with passengers.

2. **Pollution**

Emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases, the **exhaust fumes** from cars and buses can be overbearing, not to mention planes.

They make up around 10% of all transportation **CO2 emissions**.

There can be excessive **noise pollution**.

3. **Traffic jams**

You can frequently find a **build up** of traffic, or **bottlenecks** sometimes caused by bad city planning.

The cause maybe an **antiquated** (=old) city road system.

The **volume of traffic** is too great.

Private car ownership has grown.

4. **Delays**

Trains and planes can be delayed **for hours on end**, or even cancelled.

This usually **leads to** boredom and frustration.

This problem is **exacerbated by** the sudden increase in demand following years of being locked up during the pandemic.

There is insufficient staff **to cater** for the increase in demand.

IELTS Speaking Topic: Solutions to Transportation Problems

Before you watch the video below, think about the solutions to the transportation problems or overcrowding, pollution, traffic jams and delays .

Now watch the video and see which ideas are the same as yours.

Also make a note of any interesting **collocations**.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



Tape script: Collocations in bold

So, we have seen the problems with transportation, including, traffic jams, delays, pollution and overcrowding, but what about the solutions?

Well, as far as, traffic jams, delays and overcrowding are concerned, we really need to **improve the transportation infrastructure**.

We need **better urban planning**, and we really have to **update the roads**, highways and flyovers.

We need more roads, and wider ones, as well as **bus lanes**, but of course, we need to be careful we don't **encroach on** green spaces within the city.

Infrastructure is one thing, but we also need better vehicles, especially if we are going to **combat the problem** of pollution and climate change.

So many countries are aiming to be **carbon neutral** in the near future, so new **sustainable vehicles** are going to be necessary.

Many cities are developing and investing in electric, hybrid, and **lower emission buses**, for their bus systems.

In countries like Germany they are **piloting** (=to test) **zero emission trains** which is being extremely successful.

Also across Europe, many ferry companies are investing in **hydrogen-powered ferries** that will be much more sustainable in the future.

A final point worth mentioning is the idea of Smart cities.

This is the **integration of technology** to improve the city infrastructure and city efficiency.

For example, you can monitor traffic jams and get the information to the drivers before they arrive there.

This is done with **a system of sensors** attached to lampposts across the city, collecting information, **gathering the data** and **passing it on** to the drivers.

Similarly for parking, similar systems can be set up.

So all in all, I think **a total overhaul** (=a complete change) of the urban infrastructure is needed and new, more **sustainable vehicles** will be a requirement in the future.

Of course, **easier said than done!**

IELTS Topic: Traffic Jams

What do you do when in a traffic jam?

Some people shout and honk their horns, others just relax and listen to music.

These are the most popular activities that you students said they do when in a traffic jam.

POWER POLL

What do you do when in a traffic jam?



TIPS: How to Improve your English

Take an integrated approach

1) *Practice all 4 skills*

Reading, listening, speaking and writing

All of these will improve

your grammar

your vocabulary

your 'sense of the language'

2) *Practice each one **widely***

Read widely

Novels, newspapers, blogs, poetry, recipes...

Listen widely

Podcasts, news, talk shows, films, comedy, politics

Speak widely

Chat on different topics

Write widely

Diary, ideas, reports, emails, letters, blog, novel, essays

Idioms about Transportation

Packed like sardines = crowded very close together

*We are **packed like sardines** on the bus in the morning during rush hour.*

To miss the bus = not to catch the bus (you arrived too late).
This is not an idiom!

To miss the boat = to miss an opportunity

*I have **missed the boat** with that promotion, they have already chosen someone.*

That ship has sailed - that opportunity has already gone

*Stop thinking about the promotion, **that ship has sailed**, focus on something else.*

To hit the road = to start a journey

*We need to get up early tomorrow, so we can **hit the road** before the rush hour.*

To drive someone up the wall = to make them angry

Waiting in traffic, drives me up the wall

To drive someone round the bend = to make them angry

Getting stuck in a traffic jam, drives me round the bend!

Bumper to bumper = almost no space between cars.

The traffic was bumper to bumper all the way home.

Video 1 - Answers:

What are the 4 main problems with Transportation Systems?

1. Overcrowding
2. Pollution
3. Traffic jams
4. Delays