

## 13.Cars

Today a car is not just a luxury item; for many, it is almost a necessity. People factor in a lot of considerations when buying one. So, even though a compact car may be convenient and economical in terms of price, mileage, insurance, and taxes, some people would rather get a larger, more expensive model because of its higher social status and better safety.

Thanks to the exploding demand for cars of all kinds, roads are becoming ever more crowded. Governments around the world are actively trying to discourage or limit the use of automobiles. But most of these plans, quite naturally, clash with people's interests. Perhaps the simplest method of control is to impose heavy taxes; but in the long run, a better approach would be investing in public transit by building or upgrading light rail systems and subways, bus lines, and so forth. If these systems were safer, more convenient, and more comfortable, more people might be willing to put aside the time-, energy-, and money-consuming activity of driving.

### Comprehension

1. Why is a car "almost" a necessity?
2. What is one advantage that a large, expensive car has over a compact?
3. What is the easiest tool government use to limit driving?

### Your opinion

1. Do you usually fill up when you drop by a gas station?
2. If you knew that gas prices would go up 5% tomorrow, would you fill up today?
3. Who do you think is liable to wash your family car?
4. How often do you wash your car?
5. Do you wash your car yourself, or do you take it to a carwash?
6. When did you get your driver's license? Was it difficult?
7. How long did you practice before you actually drove a car on the road by yourself?



8. How did you feel when you drove a car on the road for the first time?
9. What is your first concern in buying a car (design, price, make, fuel efficiency, color, etc)?
10. What do you think about driving a foreign-made car?
11. What do you think about driving a used car?
12. What are the advantages of buying a used car?

