

Motorbikes and Air Pollution in HCMC

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1. Have you ever suffered from traffic jam or air pollution? Tell your story.

<https://youtu.be/mujqrQ6WCdw>



A. Read the text and answer the questions

- ▶ 1. Why is crossing the streets is almost an adventure in Ho Chi Minh city?
- ▶ 2. What has the local government done to deal with the traffic problems?
- ▶ What does Akira Hosomi mean saying that ‘A metro can be provided, but if people keep using private vehicles, it could be difficult...’?

B. Decide whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Private vehicles are less used than public ones in HCM City.
2. It is easy for people there to find pure spaces for walking and exercising.
3. One of the proposals to lessen traffic jams and pollution is that people commute to work or schools at different points of time.
4. Students, in general, support and practice using public transport such as buses.
5. City-dwellers often suffer from ear-splitting noise coming from whistles or horns of the cars, trucks, and lorries in the streets.
6. Severe congestion has caused drivers' impatience which partly leads to tragically fatal accidents.
7. There have been not many effective solutions to alleviate problems of traffic and pollution in big cities of Vietnam.

1. Private vehicles are less used than public ones in HCM City. **F**
2. It is easy for people there to find pure spaces for walking and exercising. **F**
3. One of the proposals to lessen traffic jams and pollution is that people commute to work or schools at different points of time. **T**
4. Students, in general, support and practice using public transport such as buses. **F**
5. City-dwellers often suffer from ear-splitting noise coming from whistles or horns of the cars, trucks, and lorries in the streets. **T**
6. Severe congestion has caused drivers' impatience which partly leads to tragically fatal accidents. **T**
7. There have been not many effective solutions to alleviate problems of traffic and pollution in big cities of Vietnam. **T**

C. Word search

Find words/phrases in the passage which mean:

1. to make something bad (such as pain or problems) _____
2. the introduction of harmful materials into the environment (paragraph A) _____
3. a situation in which a place is too blocked or crowded, causing difficulties (paragraph B) _____
4. related to breathing (paragraph C) _____
5. causing death (paragraph D) _____
6. extremely loud (paragraph D) _____
7. in a way that is parallel to the ground or to the bottom or top edge of something (paragraph D)

8. to step awkwardly while walking or running and fall (paragraph E) _____
9. in a way that is very sad, and often involving death and suffering (paragraph E) _____

Answer

- ▶ 1. to alleviate 2. pollution 3. congestion
- ▶ 4. respiratory 5. fatal 6. ear-splitting 7. horizontally
- ▶ 8. to stumble 9. tragically

D. Understanding expressions

Choose the best explanation for each phrase from the article.

- ▶ 1. Crossing the streets is almost an adventure in Ho Chi Minh city (paragraph A)
 - a. Crossing the streets in Ho Chi Minh city is interesting
 - b. Crossing the streets in Ho Chi Minh city is difficult
- ▶ 2., the traffic never seems to subside (paragraph A)
 - a. the traffic is always heavy
 - b. the traffic is quite light
- ▶ 3.people will be more likely to ride bicycles or walk (paragraph B)
 - a. people will like to ride bicycles or walk
 - b. people will probably ride bicycles or walk more.

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E. Linking words. Use appropriate linking words for the following sentences

- ▶ 1. The idea is that if people commute at different points of time, _____ rush hour will not result in severe congestion.
- ▶ 2. Public transport, _____ buses, can be more fuel efficient vehicles and help to reduce air pollution.
- ▶ 3. Nguyen used to use her bicycle a lot for exercise and for getting to school during her first year in Ho Chi Minh City. _____ , she started to suffer from respiratory problems because of the level of air pollution in the city.

- ▶ 1. The idea is that if people commute at different points of time, then rush hour will not result in severe congestion.
- ▶ 2. Public transport, such as buses, can be more fuel efficient vehicles and help to reduce air pollution.
- ▶ 3. Nguyen used to use her bicycle a lot for exercise and for getting to school during her first year in Ho Chi Minh City. However, she started to suffer from respiratory problems because of the level of air pollution in the city.

D. Discussion

- ▶ Who do you think should be blamed for the death of the two little pupils: their parents for not picking them up from and to school, the lorry driver for pressing his horn irresponsibly, or the construction site for occupying the street side? Why/Why not?

F. Writing

As a highly educated citizen, what have you done to help solve the conundrums of pollution and traffic congestion of HCMC?

Write about 120 words for your answer. Include practical examples to support your point.