

## CYCLING IN LONDON

It's not easy to get around London. Public transportation is expensive and often very crowded. Drivers face a lot of traffic, and they must also pay an £8 fee every time they enter the city center. As a result, cycling has become increasingly popular in London. Over the last decade, the number of bicycle trips made in London has risen by almost 100 percent, to more than half a million rides a day.



Environmentalists are very happy about the change, but they say that there is still much to be done. Only 2 percent of all trips in London are by bike, as compared to 5 percent in Berlin, 12 percent in Munich, 28 percent in Amsterdam, and 36 percent in Copenhagen. One reason for this is the danger of cycling in the city. Unlike many other large European cities, London doesn't have special bicycle lanes on most of its roads. Therefore, cyclists are more likely to be hit by cars. Every year, more than 300 people are killed or seriously hurt while riding their bikes in London.

Another problem with cycling in London is finding a safe place to park your bike. Approximately 80,000 bicycles are stolen in London annually, and only a small percentage are returned to their owners. In many other cases, only parts of bicycles are stolen, but even those can be expensive to replace. Transport for London (TfL), an organization that encourages bicycle riding in London, gives several tips for preventing bicycle theft, but not all of them are easy to follow. For example, TfL tells cyclists not to leave any part of the bike that can be removed without tools, such as the wheels or the saddle, but who is actually going to go around carrying the wheels and saddle of his bike?

The city of London has come up with several plans to combat the problems facing cyclists. They hope that these plans will double the use of bicycles in the city within ten years. One initiative is to make cycling safer by creating new cycle (bicycle) lanes in and around London. Another plan is to increase the number of bicycle parking spaces in schools and at train stations, although it's not clear how these parking facilities will be protected against theft. Finally, thousands of bikes will be available for rental throughout the city, which will allow people to ride without having to buy expensive equipment.

## QUESTIONS

Answer the questions in English, according to the article and the instructions.

1. Why is it difficult to get around London? Give ONE problem facing drivers, and ONE problem facing users of public transportation. (lines 1–5)
  - i. **Drivers:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. **Users of public transportation:** \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Why do environmentalists say that there is still much to be done? (lines 1–12)  
CIRCLE THE NUMBER OF THE CORRECT ANSWER.  
Although more than 500,000 bicycle trips are made in London daily, (—).
  - i. the percentage of Londoners using bikes is still very small
  - ii. the number of bike rides has decreased over the last ten years
  - iii. most London cyclists eventually move to other European cities
  - iv. cycling in London is not as popular as it used to be
  
3. Why are so many people killed or seriously hurt while riding their bikes in London? (lines 6–12)  
COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.  
There aren't \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. Lines 13–19 mention one tip given by TfL.
  - i. Which problem is that tip meant to solve?  
ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. What is the writer's opinion of the tip?  
CIRCLE THE NUMBER OF THE CORRECT ANSWER.
    - a. It won't solve the problem.
    - b. It's a perfect solution.
    - c. It's not practical.
    - d. It's easy to follow.
  
5. FILL IN THE CORRECT NUMBER. (lines 6–12, lines 20–25)  
The city of London hopes that within ten years, \_\_\_\_ percent of all trips in London will be by bike.
  
6. What are two of the plans meant to combat the problems facing London cyclists? (lines 20–25)  
PUT AN X BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.
  - \_\_\_ i. Protecting bike parking facilities against theft.
  - \_\_\_ ii. Selling cycling equipment at a discount.
  - \_\_\_ iii. Providing more parking spaces for bicycles.
  - \_\_\_ iv. Educating drivers to be more considerate of cyclists.
  - \_\_\_ v. Establishing more bicycle lanes on London's roads.
  - \_\_\_ vi. Providing cycling equipment to schools free of charge.