

# WORLD CAR-FREE DAY

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/world\\_car\\_free\\_day.html](http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/world_car_free_day.html)

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

World Car-Free Day is a very important holiday on the environmental calendar. Every September 22, governments, green groups and ordinary citizens highlight the damage cars are doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder that we do not need to rely so much on cars. Those who take part hope others will realize we do not have to accept our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project summed things up, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of fun ways to get around the city, but a demonstration of what is possible: unclogged streets, clean air, and city traffic participants with their usual stress levels turned down drastically."

World Car-Free Day aims to take a sizeable number of cars off the streets for all or part of a day. This will give people a chance to see what their town might look like with a lot fewer cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first national campaign was held in Britain three years later. The European Union adopted the idea in 2000. Today, as many as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities worldwide celebrate this day. There are many critics of the day. They say it is a one-day gimmick and does not make people give up their cars for the rest of the year. They say what is needed is a move towards a more sustainable city transportation system.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a very important holiday on the | a. much on cars           |
| 2. ordinary                        | b. is possible            |
| 3. we do not need to rely so       | c. environmental calendar |
| 4. summed                          | d. levels                 |
| 5. a demonstration of what         | e. citizens               |
| 6. stress                          | f. things up              |

### Paragraph 2

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a sizeable              | a. day gimmick           |
| 2. for all or part         | b. transportation system |
| 3. a lot                   | c. campaign              |
| 4. national                | d. number                |
| 5. They say it is a one-   | e. of a day              |
| 6. a more sustainable city | f. fewer cars            |

## LISTENING GAP FILL

World Car-Free Day is \_\_\_\_\_ on the environmental calendar. Every September 22, governments, green groups and ordinary citizens highlight \_\_\_\_\_ doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder that we do not need to rely so much on cars. Those who \_\_\_\_\_ will realize we do not have to accept our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project \_\_\_\_\_, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of fun ways to get around the city, but a demonstration \_\_\_\_\_: unclogged streets, clean air, and city traffic participants with their \_\_\_\_\_ down drastically."

World Car-Free Day aims \_\_\_\_\_ number of cars off the streets for all or part of a day. This will give people a chance to see what their town \_\_\_\_\_ a lot fewer cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first \_\_\_\_\_ held in Britain three years later. The European Union \_\_\_\_\_ 2000. Today, as many as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities worldwide celebrate this day. There are many critics of the day. They say it \_\_\_\_\_ and does not make people give up their cars for the rest of the year. They say what is needed is a \_\_\_\_\_ sustainable city transportation system.

## WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

World Car-Free Day is a very important holiday on the environmental \_\_\_\_\_. Every September 22, governments, green groups and ordinary citizens highlight the \_\_\_\_\_ cars are doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder that we do not need to \_\_\_\_\_ so much on cars. Those who take part hope others will \_\_\_\_\_ we do not have to accept our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project \_\_\_\_\_ things up, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of \_\_\_\_\_ ways to get around the city, but a demonstration of what is possible: \_\_\_\_\_ streets, clean air, and city traffic participants with their usual stress \_\_\_\_\_ turned down drastically."

*realize*  
*summed*  
*unclogged*  
*calendar*  
*levels*  
*damage*  
*rely*  
*fun*

World Car-Free Day aims to take a \_\_\_\_\_ number of cars off the streets for all or part of a day. This will give people a \_\_\_\_\_ to see what their town might look like with a lot \_\_\_\_\_ cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first national \_\_\_\_\_ was held in Britain three years later. The European Union \_\_\_\_\_ the idea in 2000. Today, as many as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities worldwide celebrate this day. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ of the day. They say it is a one-day gimmick and does not make people \_\_\_\_\_ up their cars for the rest of the year. They say what is needed is a \_\_\_\_\_ towards a more sustainable city transportation system.

*critics*  
*chance*  
*campaign*  
*move*  
*sizeable*  
*adopted*  
*give*  
*fewer*

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

World Car-Free Day is a very important holiday on the environmental calendar. Every September 22, governments, *green / greenish* groups and ordinary *citizen / citizens* highlight the damage cars are doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder that we do not need to *rely / reliable* so much on cars. Those who take part *hopefully / hope* others will realize we do not have to accept our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project *added / summed* things up, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of fun ways to get around the city, *but / and* a demonstration of what is *probable / possible*: unclogged streets, clean air, and city traffic participants with their usual stress levels turned down *drastic / drastically*."

World Car-Free Day aims to take a *sizes / sizeable* number of cars off the streets for all or *parts / part* of a day. This will give people a chance to see what *there / their* town might look like with a lot fewer cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first national campaign was *holding / held* in Britain three years later. The European Union adopted the idea in 2000. Today, as *many / much* as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities worldwide celebrate this day. There are many *criticisms / critics* of the day. They say it is a one-day gimmick and does not make people give up their cars for the *relax / rest* of the year. They say what is needed is a *move / moved* towards a more sustainable city transportation system.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

World Car-Free Day is a very important holiday (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the environmental calendar. Every September 22, governments, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ groups and ordinary citizens highlight the damage cars are doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder that we do not need to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ so much on cars. Those who take part hope others will realize we do not have to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project (5) \_\_\_\_\_ things up, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of fun ways to get around the city, but a demonstration of what is (6) \_\_\_\_\_: unclogged streets, clean air, and city traffic participants with their usual stress levels turned down drastically."

World Car-Free Day aims to take a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ number of cars off the streets for all or part of a day. This will give people a chance to see what their town might (8) \_\_\_\_\_ like with a lot fewer cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first national (9) \_\_\_\_\_ was held in Britain three years later. The European Union adopted the idea in 2000. Today, as many as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities (10) \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate this day. There are many critics of the day. They say it is a one-day gimmick and does not (11) \_\_\_\_\_ people give up their cars for the rest of the year. They say what is needed is a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ towards a more sustainable city transportation system.

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |               |               |                 |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) in         | (b) at        | (c) on        | (d) by          |
| 2.  | (a) green      | (b) greenish  | (c) greens    | (d) greeny      |
| 3.  | (a) reliable   | (b) rely      | (c) reliance  | (d) relies      |
| 4.  | (a) except     | (b) aspect    | (c) accept    | (d) impact      |
| 5.  | (a) sums       | (b) summing   | (c) summation | (d) summed      |
| 6.  | (a) possible   | (b) probable  | (c) definite  | (d) possibility |
| 7.  | (a) sizeable   | (b) size      | (c) sizes     | (d) sized       |
| 8.  | (a) see        | (b) look      | (c) view      | (d) stare       |
| 9.  | (a) campaigner | (b) campaigns | (c) campaign  | (d) campaigned  |
| 10. | (a) worldly    | (b) worlds    | (c) world     | (d) worldwide   |
| 11. | (a) do         | (b) be        | (c) take      | (d) make        |
| 12. | (a) moves      | (b) move      | (c) movable   | (d) moved       |

## SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

### Paragraph 1

1. the environmental aladecrn
2. the amgdae cars are doing
3. others will iareezl
4. our car-dominated iycoset
5. what is isbpoles
6. stress levels udenrt down

### Paragraph 2

7. a sizeable mruebn of cars
8. give people a aehcnc
9. national cnaagimp
10. The European Union odatedp the idea
11. 1,500 cities ediwrwlo
12. transportation ssymet

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( 1 ) World Car-Free Day is a very important holiday on the environmental calendar. Every September 22, governments,
- ( ) air, and city traffic participants with their usual stress levels turned down drastically."
- ( ) World Car-Free Day aims to take a sizeable number of cars off the streets for all or part
- ( ) Cities Conference in Toledo, Spain. The first national campaign was held in Britain three years later. The European
- ( ) give up their cars for the rest of the year. They say what is needed is a move towards a more sustainable city transportation system.
- ( ) of a day. This will give people a chance to see what their town might look like with a lot fewer
- ( ) worldwide celebrate this day. There are many critics of the day. They say it is a one-day gimmick and does not make people
- ( ) that we do not need to rely so much on cars. Those who take part hope others will realize we do not have to accept
- ( ) Union adopted the idea in 2000. Today, as many as 100 million people in over 1,500 cities
- ( ) up, saying: "World Car-Free Day is not only a celebration of fun ways to get
- ( ) our car-dominated society. Carlos Pardo from Colombia's Sustainable Urban Transport Project summed things
- ( ) around the city, but a demonstration of what is possible: unclogged streets, clean
- ( ) cars. The idea for this day came in October 1994 at the International Accessible
- ( ) green groups and ordinary citizens highlight the damage cars are doing to the Earth. The day is a reminder

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. damage doing Earth the are the Highlight cars to.

---

2. rely so much on cars We do not need to.

---

3. to ways Fun city the around get.

---

4. demonstration what possible A of is.

---

5. levels down stress turned drastically Usual.

---

6. streets a of the Take number off sizeable cars.

---

7. first in national Britain campaign was The held.

---

8. , worldwide day 1,500 cities this Over celebrate.

---

9. up cars Make give their people.

---

10. more city system A sustainable transportation.

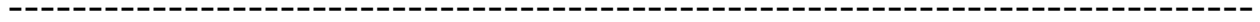
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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE WORLD CAR-FREE DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about World Car-Free Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about World Car-Free Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about World Car-Free Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about World Car-Free Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.