



101. Traffic in the city

W: Hello Sarah, sorry I'm late today; the traffic on the road is a nightmare this morning.

Sarah: no worries I know the problem, I get up at the crack of dawn every day not to be caught in the morning rush hours. And although the ring road has been widened from 2 to 3 lanes, it is still heavily congested.

W: Anyway, the traffic virtually comes to a standstill twice a day in most European cities. To ease congestion in cities, many mayors will be tempted to price motorists off the road.

Sarah: Actually, it's already done: thanks to congestion charging, the mayor of London managed to slash traffic in the city centre by around twenty percent. As bumper-to-bumper traffic is the everyday lot of many city dwellers. No wonder why road rage is on the increase...

W: Well, for many years, politicians have tried cajoling drivers out of their cars with little to show for it. Now they try the heavy handed approach with parking meters, parking tickets etc. Reducing car use and increasing the number of pedestrianised streets is high on the agenda of a lot of mayors.

Sarah: Yes. Making life unbearable for the driver seems to be the order of the day.

W: Which is a good thing I think. It may well be only a matter of time before private cars are banned from city centres altogether, and people will really have to find alternative solutions as car-pooling, car sharing, or using public transport.

Sarah: for sure. Anyway, the problems of traffic congestion won't disappear in a hurry.



GLOSSARY:

Traffic in the city: la circulation urbaine	Mayor: le maire
To get up: se lever	Motorist: un automobiliste
To be caught: (from to catch/caught/caught): être coincé, se faire attraper	Congestion charge: la taxe anti-embouteillage (à Londres)
To widen: élargir	The city centre: le centre-ville
To be congested: être chargé, embouteillé	Bumper to bumper traffic: la circulation à touche-touche (littéralement pare-choc à pare-choc)
To come to a standstill: s'arrêter, s'immobiliser	The everyday lot: le lot quotidien
To ease: faciliter	City dwellers: les citadins
To be tempted: être tenté	Road rage: l'agressivité au volant
To price: faire payer	Heavy handed approach: la méthode dure
To manage: réussir, gérer	Parking meters: des parcmètres
To slash: entailler (ici, réduire)	Parking tickets: des contraventions
To wonder: se demander	The number: le nombre
To cajole: cajoler, convaincre	Pedestrianised streets: les rues piétonnières
To reduce: réduire	The order of the day : l'ordre du jour
To increase: augmenter	A matter of time: une question de temps
To be high on the agenda: être important, être une priorité	Private cars : les voitures particulières
To ban : interdire	Alternative solutions : des solutions alternatives
To use : utiliser	Car-pooling : le covoiturage
To disappear : disparaître	Car sharing : l'auto-partage
The traffic : la circulation	Public transport : les transports en commun
The road : la route	Traffic congestion : les embouteillages
A nightmare : un cauchemar	At the crack of dawn : aux aurores
Rush hour : l'heure de pointe	Heavily : fortement
The ring road : le périphérique	Twice : deux fois
A lane : une voie de circulation	Thanks to : Grâce à
Congestion : les embouteillages	By around : d'environ

A little to show for it : sans grand succès	
Unbearable: insupportable	
Altogether: complètement	
In a hurry: rapidement, vite	