



152. Car pollution

Sarah: Good morning Wentworth, have you noticed the sky today?

W: Good morning Sarah. Yes I have. I'm not surprised. Paris is regularly covered in a health-threatening yellow-grey pall on windless days. Did you come by bus today?

Sarah: Yes I did. The authorities have no choice but to impose driving restrictions to help clear the air when pollution levels peak and I think it's a good step. I wonder just how they can measure if drivers are following this rule.

W: To be honest I don't know. Another solution would be to allow drivers to enter the city only on alternate days. Anyway, the time will come when traffic will have to be banned from cities altogether.

Sarah: In order this solution could work, more efficient public transport and car sharing would greatly reduce car pollution in cities.

W: Yes and why not systematically suspend all fares on public transport when the air really becomes unbreathable?

Sarah: This sounds a bit utopic but if we don't want to choke to death in the future, we will probably have to give up all non-essential car trips.

GLOSSARY:

Car pollution: la pollution automobile	Driving restrictions : des restrictions de circulation
To notice : remarquer	The air : l'air
To be covered : être couvert	Pollution levels: les niveaux de pollution
To impose: imposer	A step: un pas
To clear: assainir	Drivers: les automobilistes
To peak: culminer, plafonner	Alternate days: un jour sur deux
To wonder: se demander	Traffic: le trafic
To measure: mesurer	Public transport: les transports en commun
To follow: suivre	Car sharing: le covoiturage
To allow: permettre, autoriser	Fares: les tarifs, les prix
To enter: entrer	Death: la mort
To be banned: être interdit	Car trips: les voyages en voiture
To reduce: réduire	Regularly: régulièrement
To suspend: suspendre	But to impose: que d'imposer
To sound: sembler, paraître	To be honest: franchement
To choke: étouffer, asphyxier	Altogether: complètement, totalement
To give up: abandonner, renoncer	More efficient: plus efficace
The sky: le ciel	Greatly: considérablement
Health-threatening: nuisible à la santé	Systematically: systématiquement
A yellow-grey pall: un linceul / un voile jaune-gris	Unbreathable : irrespirable
Windless days : les jours sans vent	Utopic : utopic
The bus : le bus	Non-essential : non indispensable
The authorities : les autorités	
The choice : le choix	