



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.

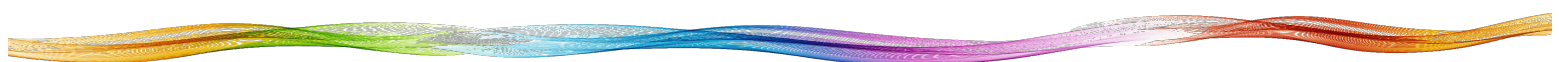
Sarah: Actually, it's already done: thanks to congestion charging, the mayor of London managed to slash traffic in the city centre by around twenty percent. As bumper-to-bumper traffic is the everyday lot of many city dwellers. No wonder why road rage is on the increase...

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	Mayor
To get up	Motorist
To be caught	Congestion charge
To widen	The city centre
To be congested	Bumper to bumper traffic
To come to a standstill	The everyday lot
To ease	City dwellers
To be tempted	Road rage
To price	Heavy handed approach
To manage	Parking meters
To slash	Parking tickets
To wonder	The number
To cajole	Pedestrianised streets
To reduce	The order of the day
To increase	A matter of time
To be highon the agenda	Private cars
To ban	Alternative solutions
To use	Car-pooling
To disappear	Car sharing
The traffic	Public transport
The road	Traffic congestion
A nightmare	At the crack of dawn
Rush hour	Heavily
The ring road	Twice
A lane	Thanks to
Congestion	By around

A little to show for it	
Unbearable	
Altogether	
In a hurry	



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