

Worksheet

1. Answer the following questions and do the tasks, using your own words as far as possible.
 - 1.1 Explain the problematic situation the Daily Express wants to help change.
 - 1.2 Find out what "walking buses" are and describe the way they work.
 - 1.3 Referring to the text, how do the children themselves feel about the "walking buses"?
 - 1.4 Who helps to make the new scheme mentioned in the text come true?
 - 1.5 Write a summary of the text.

2. **Grammar**
 - 2.1 Write questions for which the underlined words are the answers.
 - 2.1.1 Our travel habits have changed dramatically.
 - 2.1.2 Rebecca Sarker launched the campaign in Turnbridge Wells.

 - 2.2 Use the correct tense. Fill in the gaps.
 - 2.2.1 The government... (introduce) walking-bus schemes in a lot of cities next year.
 - 2.2.2 Rush-hour traffic jams ... (clog) the roads since the 70s.
 - 2.2.3 After they ... (evaluate) the survey they ... (decide) to start the project last year.

 - 2.3 Put into the passive.
 - 2.3.1 The *Daily Express* supports the walking-bus scheme.
 - 2.3.2 The government has produced an information pack.

 - 2.4 Put into reported speech.
 - 2.4.1 Mark Quinn said, "Kia Cars UK is delighted to be a founding supporter of the Express Walking Bus campaign."
 - 2.4.2 Keith Hill said, "We have established the School Travel Advisory Group."

 - 2.5 Adjective or adverb? Fill in the gap.
 - 2.5.1 The government authorities supported the project... (willing).
 - 2.5.2 The pilot project seems to be ... (good).

3. **Writing**

Choose one of the following topics and write a composition of at least 200 words.

 - 3.1 "... children said they like chatting to friends ..." (II. 20-21) Communicating by mobile phone and the Internet is up to date, especially among young people. Discuss the chances and dangers you see in these ways of getting into contact to other people.

 - 3.2 You meet advertising everywhere. Some people say it makes our life colourful, others claim they could better do without it. Develop your ideas.

Children's 'walking buses' can beat the rush hour

BY GRAHAM BALL

The Daily Express is backing an ingenious new scheme which could slash rush-hour traffic jams by 20 per cent and improve the health of millions of children. Surveys have shown that at 8.50am on weekdays, one in five cars clogging the roads is on the school run. Our travel habits have changed so dramatically that now only one in 11 of our young children goes to primary school unaccompanied. A generation ago, 80 per cent of children aged seven and eight walked to school.

Now, with each pupil making up to 5,000 trips to school and back during their 11 years of education, it is easy to see why scientists are alarmed at the congestion and pollution these extra journeys cause.

The challenge is to find a safe way for children to walk to school. We believe we have found the answer: walking buses. These "virtual" buses are the 21st-century solution to school transport problems.

Like a real bus these walking versions have a "driver" and a "conductor", although in this case they are volunteer parents who walk at the front and back of a double file of youngsters.

The Walking Bus follows a plotted safe route, halting at "bus stops" to pick up pupils and keeping to a regular timetable. Because the children are in the open they inhale only a third of the traffic fumes that they would be exposed to if they were in cars.

Pilot schemes have started and a survey organised by the Pedestrians' Association shows how popular they are. More than 50 per cent of children said they liked chatting to friends on the way to school, while 27 per cent who travelled by car said they hated being stuck in traffic jams.

Our plan is to help start 100 walking-bus schemes all over Britain and to help achieve this we have surprisingly enlisted the support of a car company. "Kia Cars UK is delighted to be a founding supporter of the Express Walking Bus campaign," said managing director Mark Quinn.

Former Coronation Street actress Rebecca Sarker launched our campaign at a walking-bus scheme in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. She said: "It's an amazing idea that will give young children the skills to be safe on the streets."

The schemes are run by volunteers who receive road safety training from police. Other parents share "driving" duties and act as bus co-ordinators. [...]

The Government has produced an information pack outlining how to operate the programme. Transport Minister Keith Hill said: "We have established the School Travel Advisory Group to work with parents, teachers and governors to come up with safe and practical ways for more youngsters to walk to school."

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