

Yellow -lexical cohesion
Green - discourse connectives
Teal - Anaphora
Pink - Coherence relations

The motor car

Increase in motor vehicles usage during the last years

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    There are now over 700 million motor vehicles in the world - and the  
    number is rising by more than 40 million each year. The average  
    distance driven by car users is growing too - from 8 km a day per  
    person in western Europe in 1965 to 25 km a day in 1995.  
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Environmental consequences of vehicle pollution

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    [This - can be omitted] dependence on motor vehicles has given rise  
    to major problems, including environmental pollution, depletion of  
    oil resources, traffic congestion and safety. While emissions from  
    new cars are far less harmful than they used to be, city streets and  
    motorways are becoming more crowded than ever, often with older  
    trucks, buses and taxis, which emit excessive levels of smoke and  
    fumes. This concentration of vehicles makes air quality in urban  
    areas unpleasant and sometimes dangerous to breathe.  
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Examples of cities affected by vehicle pollution

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    Even Moscow has joined the list of capitals afflicted by congestion  
    and traffic fumes. In Mexico City, vehicle pollution is a major  
    health hazard.  
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Transportation before invention of motor vehicles

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    [Until a hundred years ago], most journeys were in the 20 km range,  
    the distance conveniently accessible by horse. Heavy freight could  
    only be carried by water or rail.  
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Importance of modern vehicles

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    Result [The invention of the motor vehicle brought personal mobility  
    to the masses and made rapid freight delivery possible over a much  
    wider area. Today about 90 per cent of inland freight in the United  
    Kingdom is carried by road.]  
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Negative effects of vehicles increase

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    Adaptation of the landscape to increase of vehicles  
    {  
        Clearly the world cannot revert to the horse-drawn wagon. Can  
        it avoid being locked into congested and polluting ways of  
        transporting people and goods? In Europe most cities are still  
        designed for the old modes of transport. Adaptation to the  
        motor car has involved adding ring roads, one-way systems and  
        parking lots. In the United States, more land is assigned to
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car use than to housing. Urban sprawl means that life without a car is next to impossible.

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Other social effects of motor vehicles increase

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Mass use of motor vehicles has also killed or injured millions of people. Other social effects have been blamed on the car such as alienation and aggressive human behaviour. A 1993 study by the European Federation for Transport and Environment found that car transport is seven times as costly as rail travel in terms of the external social costs it entails such as congestion, accidents, pollution, loss of cropland and natural habitats, depletion of oil resources, and so on.

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Human preferences towards personal cars

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[Yet-can be omitted] cars easily surpass trains or buses as a flexible and convenient mode of personal transport. It is unrealistic to expect people to give up private cars in favour of mass transit.

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Difficulties in increasing fuel efficiency

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Technical solutions can reduce the pollution problem and increase the fuel efficiency of engines. But fuel consumption and exhaust emissions depend on which cars are preferred by customers and how they are driven. Explanation [Many people buy larger cars than they need for daily purposes or waste fuel by driving aggressively. Besides, global car use is increasing at a faster rate than the improvement in emissions and fuel efficiency which technology is now making possible.]

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Ways of decreasing the number of motor vehicles

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Effective city planning as a solution to decrease the number of vehicles

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One solution that has been put forward is the long-term solution of designing cities and neighbourhoods so that car journeys are not necessary - all essential services being located within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport. Not only would this save energy and cut carbon dioxide emissions, it would also enhance the quality of community life, putting the emphasis on people instead of cars. Good local government is already bringing this about in some places.

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A mass transit system and low emission cars as a more feasible solution for decrease in the number of vehicles

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But few democratic communities are blessed with the vision - and the capital - to make such profound changes in modern lifestyles. [Therefore - hidden] A more likely scenario seems to be a combination of mass transit systems for travel into and around cities, with small 'low emission' cars for urban use and

larger hybrid or lean burn cars for use elsewhere. Electronically tolled highways might be used to ensure that drivers pay charges geared to actual road use.

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Better integration as another possible solution to decrease the number of motor vehicles

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Better integration of transport systems is also highly desirable - and made more feasible by modern computers. But these are solutions for countries which can afford them. In most developing countries, old cars and old technologies continue to predominate.

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