

Car-Free Urban Utopias

🔦 C1+ Level

🔦 Duration: 1 h

🔦 Individual lesson

🔦 Age: adults

🔦 Lesson goals

Can understand with ease virtually any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, delivered at fast natural speed.

Can exploit a comprehensive and reliable mastery of a very wide range of language to formulate thoughts precisely, give emphasis, differentiate and eliminate ambiguity.

1

Warm-up

Exercise 1: Discuss the following questions.

1. What motivations underlie people's advocacy for car-free urban landscapes?
2. Do you think it's feasible for urban cities to become completely car-free? Why or why not?

2

Listening

Exercise 2. Watch the video and fill in the blanks in the video notes:



Oslo's Car-Free Initiative

Many car-free streets especially around _____ (1).

Remarkable safety record: _____ (2).

Europe's Move to Car-Free Cities

Focus: _____ (3)

EU goal: _____ (4)

Arguments Against Switching Only to Electric Vehicles

_____ (5)

_____ (6)

Strategies to Reduce Cars

Oslo's parking approach: _____ (7)

Barcelona's _____ (8)

Example neighborhood strategy: _____ (9)

Innovative Car-Free Developments

Calatasama, Helsinki: _____ (10)

Houten, Netherlands: _____ (11)

twee

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3

Vocabulary

Exercise 3. Explain each of the following phrases in your own words:

to reap benefits from =

While Oslo reaped pedestrian safety benefits from going car-free, it wasn't the only reason for the dramatic transportation policy.



to sign on to =

The European Union's 27 member states have signed on to the goal to be carbon neutral by 2050.



to undersell something =

And just fine may be underselling it, because once you start getting rid of cars, it makes all other forms of transportation better.

bereft of =

Other conveniences like mixed land uses, child care centers every 300 meters, and robust mass transit means the neighborhood streets are pretty bereft of vehicles.

to confer certain benefits =

Clearly, building a city or part of a city from scratch with a car-free goal in mind confers certain benefits.

to be a blip in the timeline =

If European cities completely eliminate cars from their borders, the auto era will only be a blip in the centuries or millennia-long timeline of human habitation.

Exercise 4: Think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences.

As a strategy to attract more customers, the new shopping mall decided to _____ its products compared to other retail establishments in the city.

1

Don't _____ yourself - you have a lot to offer a company.

My boss has a tendency to _____ my abilities, but I am confident in my skills.

After listening to the terms, all members of the board agreed to _____ on to the proposed deal.

2

To access the city Wi-Fi, you need to _____ on to the network with your credentials.

As soon as I arrived in the city, I decided to _____ on to a guided tour of the urban art installations.

Last month's rise in inflation was described by the chancellor as only a _____.

3

The satellite had a brief _____ in its data transmission before restoring communication with the ground station.

The discovery of penicillin was a significant _____ in the timeline of medicine, which revolutionized the treatment of infections.

As a prelude to the upcoming summit, world leaders will _____ on various issues that affect global governance.

4

The judge will _____ with her legal team before delivering the final verdict on the controversial case.

Many studies have shown that regular exercise can _____ benefits such as increased longevity and improved mental health.

The poor child was suddenly bereft _____ all hope when he found out he failed his final exam.

5

The judge's ruling will deprive the defendant _____ his freedom for many years to come.

Our boss has a habit _____ arriving late for meetings.

4

Creative task

Exercise 5: Create an exercise similar to the one above, appropriate for advanced students, where each of the following words is the answer. All the sentences should match the topic of the lesson.

benefits

face

out



Correct answers

Exercise 1.

Created in the “Discussion Questions” tool.

Exercise 2.

Correct answers:

- (1) Schools and parks
- (2) No pedestrian and cyclist deaths in 2019
- (3) Emission reduction and climate change.
- (4) Carbon neutral by 2050 with a focus on cities.
- (5) European cities' old structure and space considerations.
- (6) Enhanced pedestrian experiences with fewer cars.
- (7) Eliminated over 700 on-street parking spaces.
- (8) Superblock program.
- (9) Transform intersections into public plazas.
- (10) Pneumatic tubes for waste disposal and other advanced amenities.
- (11) Car-free with 129 kilometers of bike paths and a unique transit system.

Exercise 3.

The example sentences were taken from the video transcript generated in the “Youtube Video to Text” tool.

Possible answers were created in the “Word-Definition matching” tool.

Possible answers:

to reap benefits from - to gain advantages or rewards from something

to sign on to - to agree to participate in or support something

to undersell something - to not give enough credit or recognition to something, often resulting in it being undervalued or underestimated

bereft of - lacking or without something, usually something important or desirable

to confer certain benefits - to grant specific advantages or privileges to someone or something

to be a blip in the timeline - to have a small or insignificant impact within a larger context or period of time

Exercise 4.

Created in the “Create sentences with target vocabulary” + “Fill in the gap” tools.

Correct answers:

1. undersell
2. sign
3. blip
4. confer
5. of