

## Transport going forward

1 You are going to read about environmentally-friendly forms of transport for cities in the future. These phrases from the articles are not complete. Before you read, work in pairs to guess what they are.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) traffic .....      | e) cycle .....        |
| b) urban .....        | f) fossil .....       |
| c) ..... of transport | g) rechargeable ..... |
| d) rush .....         | h) ..... emissions    |

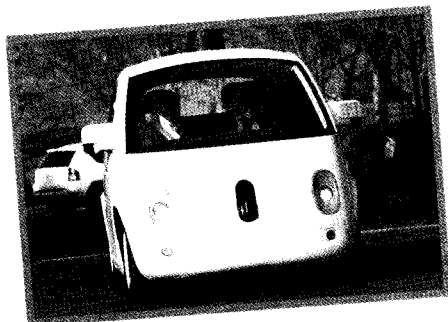
2 Read the texts. Were your guesses correct?

### Cycling

In urban areas, the fastest and most efficient way of getting around is often by bicycle. The average speed of cars in Mexico City, for example, is 4 kph in the rush hour, while bicycles average 10 kph. But cycling in a city can be dangerous. No bike helmet will protect you from a careless driver of a lorry. In the Danish city of Copenhagen, however, one-third of all commuters get to work by bike. There are 350 km of cycle paths which are raised from the road and safe to cycle on.

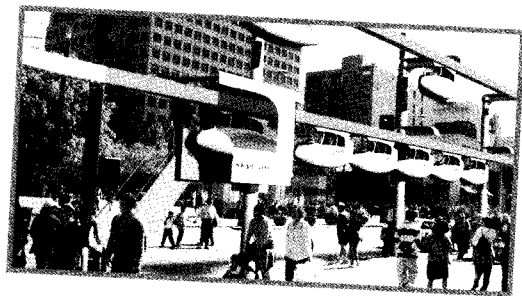
### Self-driving cars

Google engineers in the USA have already started testing self-driving cars on the roads. By using a combination of lasers, radars and GPS, the cars can analyse information about their surroundings faster than a human can. Even taking into account the risk of the car computer malfunctioning, self-driving cars could make transport safer by eliminating the cause of 95 per cent of today's accidents: human error. Some experts believe we'll see this new means of transport on the market by 2025, but self-driving cars are likely to be very expensive.



### Eco-friendly cars

Electric cars are a great step forward in the race to find alternatives to fossil fuels and cut down on pollution. The electric vehicle (or EV) gets its power from rechargeable batteries. No need to buy petrol and no need to feel guilty about carbon emissions or noise pollution. However, electric charging points are still new and are not found in many places. If you run out of charge, you're going nowhere. Charging your car at home is convenient, but it could leave you with a high electricity bill.



### SkyTran

SkyTran is a system of high-speed commuter pods which is being considered in places as diverse as Tel Aviv in Israel, Toulouse in France and Kerala in India. SkyTran uses the power of electromagnets to float above guide rails. This cuts down on friction, allowing much quicker and quieter travel than on conventional trains. SkyTran will produce zero emissions and operate above the city, avoiding traffic congestion. The main disadvantage is the cost of the infrastructure. SkyTran could cost as much as \$10 million per mile to construct.