Name:

Instructor:

Course:

Date:

A New Car Is a Bad Investment

It is possible to state that people live in a time when a car is not a luxury thing but a means of transportation, especially in big cities. At the same time, when a car ceased to be an item available for people with high incomes, it became a cause for many problems, starting from traffic congestion and ending with environmental problems. Apart from that, buying a car entails financial issues because of constant fuel consumption and the need for repair. In this way, one could argue that a potential purchase of a new car is a knowingly bad investment, and there are at least three possible alternatives: car-sharing, bicycle riding, and a self-balancing scooter.

In essence, car-sharing preserves a car as a means of transportation; however, one car is used to transport from one person to several people who might be related as neighbors, colleagues, or mere acquaintances. Turning to car-sharing services, a person (or a group of people) rents a car in a special company for a necessary time (Tyson para. 1). People can cooperate and rent a car for their group to save money; nevertheless, a location of companies and benefits for members allow complete autonomy (Tyson para. 18). At the same time, it is worth mentioning several positive aspects of the decision to use car-sharing services. In 2014, a study was conducted related to the car-sharing phenomenon, and the findings stated that "each shared car available eliminated the need for seven to 11 personal vehicles" (Sandru para. 4). A reduced number of personal cars leads to less traffic congestion and saves time. Apart from this, there is a

significant benefit for the environment and air purity that can be traced according to the following formula: fewer cars are equal to fewer gas emissions (Sandru para. 5). Whereas the benefit of saving costs is explicit, there is a latent advantage: the demand for manufacturing new cars decreases while preserving natural resources.

While being in search of an alternative to buying a car, a person can pay attention to a bicycle. It is interesting to note that the first vehicle, resembling the current bicycle, was invented as a response to the consequences of the eruption of Indonesia's Mount Tambora and the death of all the horses there (Moskvitch para. 1). Making a parallel, an appeal to bicycles might become a response to the constant financial and environmental "eruption" caused by cars. Benefits proposed by bicycles are evident: such a means of transportation requires less financial expenses and does not cause a threat to the environment because a bicycle does not need fuel—only a person will push pedals. At the same time, bicycling is highly dependent on weather conditions and the availability of necessary infrastructure (Moskvitch para. 4-6). Another issue related to the bicycle as an alternative to a car is the fact that "most modern cities are designed for the car" (Moskvitch para. 7). Nevertheless, the problem can be solved without financial costs of creating special tracks for bicycles; however, it is a question of whether people can cooperate to develop a healthy cooperation between drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Along with cars ceasing to be a luxury commodity, people live in a time of many technological innovations. One of them can be considered as an alternative to buying the car: it is self-balancing scooters, "innovations that run on batteries, and they are providing new commuting alternatives" (Bisht para. 1). Making a comparison with a car, a self-balancing scooter will not cost a great sum of money and will save even more considering the fact that conventional fuel is not required. It has a removable battery, and a person can charge it anywhere

and anytime, whereas conventional fuel is available only at a filling station (Bisht para. 4). Apart from that, a person with a self-balancing scooter will never suffer from traffic congestion because of the device's portability: there is always an opportunity to walk through a traffic jam and use a self-balancing scooter again. It is also important to mention another benefit for a person's health: whereas a car assumes a variation of a sedentary lifestyle, a scooter requires a good balance in order not to fall.

To conclude, it is possible to state that a car is an important invention made by humankind; nevertheless, over the course of time, it has ceased to be a luxury, and currently it creates a significant threat to the environment and financial well-being. Apart from that, a large number of cars in big cities is the cause of traffic jams, which in its turn, ends with being late. In this way, it is reasonable to appeal to alternatives such as car-sharing, bicycles, or self-balancing scooters. Car-sharing services reduce the number of cars in the city and allow renting a car for a necessary time. Bicycling does not need any fuel, and it is a great opportunity to support physical health. A self-balancing scooter has a removable battery and portability while allowing walking through a traffic jam. Considering their separate benefits, all of them have a common denominator: they make a city cleaner and environmentally healthy.

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