

Travelling to School

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Children in Africa sometimes have to walk a long way to get to school.

Different Ways to Travel

Every day, millions of children all around the world travel to and from school. Many of them walk, ride a bicycle or travel in a car. Other children use buses, trains, trams, tuk-tuks or ferries. Some children take more unusual types of transport, such as mountain gondolas, aerial trams or outdoor escalators.

Walking

Many children live close to a school, so it is easy for them to walk there. However, in some places, children have to walk long distances each day. There is usually no other way for them to get to and from school.

Cycling

A lot of children around the world ride bikes to school. In the Netherlands, almost half of all primary-age children ride bikes from their home to school.

Cars

In some places, children are driven to school in cars. Sometimes, parents drive children to school on their way to work.

Buses and Trains

Children often take buses or trains to school. Some children have to walk to get to the bus stop or train station.

Trams

Many cities around the world have trams. Trams are vehicles that are about the same size as a bus. They travel along tracks in the road. A lot of children and older students use trams in Melbourne, Australia. Trams are often the quickest and easiest way for them to get to school.



Many children in Melbourne take trams to school each day.

Ferries and Boats

Children who live near water often travel to school by ferry or by boat. In Sydney, Australia, some children catch ferries to school each day.

In the city of Bangkok, Thailand, children can ride to school in water taxis along the river. People who live near rivers in Vietnam sometimes take their children to school in small boats.



People who live near water can take their children to school by boat.

Tuk-Tuks

Tuk-tuks are three-wheeled motor scooters with a cabin at the back for passengers. Many children in Asia and Africa ride in a tuk-tuk to get to school. Tuk-tuks can be large or small. There are even tuk-tuk school buses.



A tuk-tuk is a good way for children in India to get to school.

Aerial Trams and Mountain Gondolas

Aerial trams and mountain gondolas are the best types of transport for children who live in hilly places. People travel in small boxes or pods that are attached to cables high above the ground.

An aerial tram is larger than a mountain gondola and can carry up to 150 people. It travels up and back on the same line. A mountain gondola is smaller and usually only holds about eight people.

Aerial trams and mountain gondolas are used in South America and Europe.

In hilly places like Colombia, South America, mountain gondolas carry children to and from school.



Outside Escalators

Hong Kong is a hilly country in Asia. One of the ways that children can travel to school in Hong Kong is by riding on an escalator. Escalators are like moving stairs. There are 20 escalators to help people travel up and down the steep hills in the middle of the city.

Some cities in South America and Europe also have outdoor escalators. Children can move quickly up and down hills on these escalators, on their way to school.

Travelling to School Around the World

There are many interesting ways to travel to and from school. While some children walk or cycle, others take different types of transport. All over the world, children travel on land, water and through the air to get to their classrooms and home again.

Retell this Description

Read this description again.

Record yourself as you retell the description.

Listen to the recording.

Check! Did you remember most things in the description?

Questions about *Travelling to School*

- 1 What are two unusual forms of transport?
- 2 Why do many children in the Netherlands ride bicycles to school?
- 3 Why do many school children in Melbourne use trams?
- 4 What are water taxis?
- 5 Why are tuk-tuks popular in many places in Asia and Africa?
- 6 Why does an aerial tram travel up and down on the same line?
- 7 Why are escalators used in Hong Kong?
- 8 What would it feel like to travel on an outdoor escalator? Why?
- 9 What would be the safest type of transport in a very busy city? Why?
- 10 What is the best way to travel to your school? Why?