

How will I get to where I'm going?

Chapter 30

Transportation

Chapter Objectives

After studying this chapter, you will be able to

- **identify** two forms of self-powered transportation.
- **determine** the pros and cons of driving to work.
- **describe** three types of mass transportation.
- **rephrase** the information in a mass transportation schedule.

Key Concepts

- Walking or riding a bicycle are two forms of self-powered transportation.
- Driving to work has advantages and disadvantages.
- Buses, trains, and airplanes are used for mass transportation.

Key Terms

car pool
mass transportation
schedule
carrier
transfer



Community Connections

Interview five adults to find out how they generally get to work. Document how much time these people spend traveling back and forth each day. Estimate how much it costs to use their respective modes of transportation.

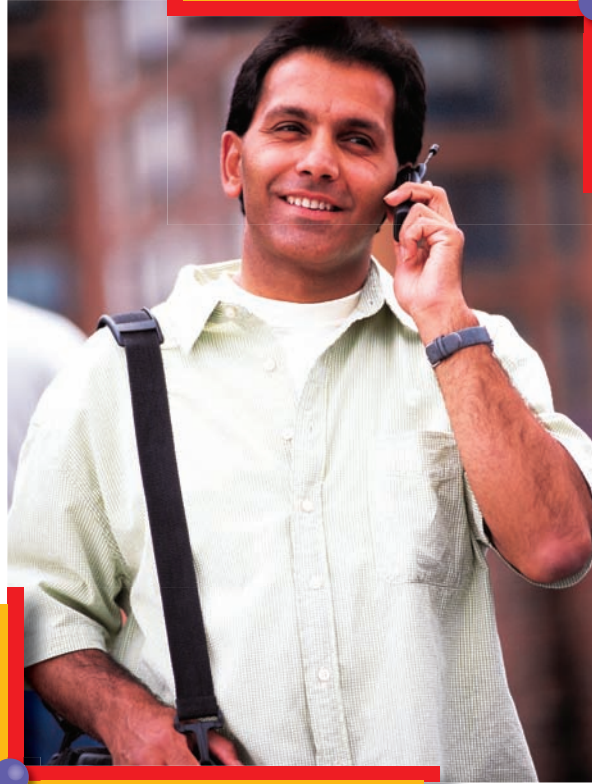
30-1

Walking to work is a good way to get exercise and save transportation costs.

Self-Powered Transportation

Choosing where you work is sometimes as important as choosing what you do. When you are looking for a job, you must consider transportation. You must think about how you will get to and from work.

Two forms of self-powered transportation are walking and riding a bicycle. If you live close to your workplace, you can walk. In that case, changes in your work schedule won't create any transportation problems for you. You are completely independent and can come and go as you please without waiting for a ride. Walking is good exercise, and it is free. As long as the area is safe and the weather is suitable, walking is a good form of transportation. See 30-1.



Riding a bicycle is another option. It is best in areas with good weather, light traffic, and short distances to work. In areas with heavy traffic, it may be too dangerous.

Automobile Transportation

Many people choose to drive to work in their own cars. This option provides great flexibility. Drivers who have their own vehicles can travel whenever and wherever they want.

Driving has some drawbacks, too. If you choose to drive to work, you must have a driver's license. You must also have a car. Many new workers cannot afford to buy a new car. Even used cars are very expensive.

Buying a car is not the only expense involved. You must also consider insurance. Car insurance premiums vary. In general, premiums are usually higher for younger drivers, new cars, and urban areas. The cost of gasoline should also be considered. How much you spend will depend on the type of car you drive and how far you travel.

Be careful not to overlook maintenance and repair costs. Even new cars require some maintenance, such as oil changes. The maintenance and repair bills for older cars can be expensive and unpredictable.

If you own a car, you must also think about where you will park it. A garage is the best place to keep a car to protect it from accidents, theft, and bad weather. However, some apartments do not have garages or parking lots. If parking is not available where you live, you may have to park on the street. Renting garage space may be another option, but this would add to the cost of owning a car.

Driving a car gives you flexibility and independence, but it is expensive. See 30-2. Before you accept a job that would require you to drive, think carefully. Decide if you can afford to drive a car. Decide if you want to pay the costs related to driving. Also decide if you want the responsibility of driving.

Car Pools

One way to cut driving costs is to join a car pool. A **car pool** is a group of people who take turns driving, usually to work. In this arrangement, you drive your car less. You still have the costs involved in owning a car. However, you can save money on fuel, maintenance, and repairs.



Your Reading

What are examples of self-powered transportation?

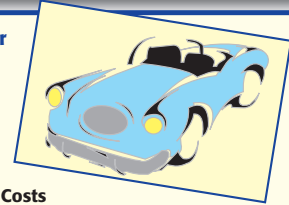
car pool

A group of people who take turns driving, usually to work.

30-2

All the costs of owning and operating a car must be counted when considering the option of driving to work.

Annual Car Costs at 15,000 Miles Per Year			
Ownership Costs		Operating Costs	
Depreciation (15,000 miles annually)	\$ <u>3,392</u>	Gas (15,000 total miles per year)	\$ <u>1,335</u>
Insurance	<u>985</u>	Maintenance, repairs, and miscellaneous	<u>840</u>
License, registration, taxes	<u>538</u>		
Finance charge	<u>733</u>		
Total Ownership Cost	\$ <u>5,648</u>	Total Operating Cost	\$ <u>2,175</u>
Total Driving Cost (Total Ownership Costs + Total Operating Costs)		\$ <u>7,823</u>	



Car pools are as reliable as the people who form them. Members of a car pool must cooperate with each other. Each member must do his or her fair share to get everyone safely to work on time.

If you join a car pool, remember that members of a car pool can get sick. They can have appointments, meetings, and other responsibilities. Be sure to have a backup transportation plan ready in case your car pool arrangements change suddenly.

As a new employee, find out if your coworkers have car pools. You can usually get information about car pools from the company's human resources office.

When you join a car pool, you give up some of the flexibility and independence you have when you drive your own car. On the other hand, you gain companionship and reduce transportation costs.



Your Reading

Before you accept a job that would require driving to work, what factors should you consider?

mass transportation
Transportation used routinely by the general public.

Mass Transportation

Mass transportation is transportation used routinely by the general public. Buses, trains, and airplanes are used for mass transportation. One or more of these types of transportation are available in almost all large towns and cities.

Some mass transportation systems are privately owned and operated. Others are publicly owned. The government supports public mass transportation systems from tax money. There are two major advantages to using mass transportation. Parking problems are eliminated and fuel costs are kept to a minimum.

Schedules

When using public transportation, plan your travel carefully. Check mass transportation schedules. A **schedule** lists the expected arrival and departure times for buses, trains, and airplanes. By reading a schedule, you can decide which ride will allow you to arrive at work on time. Schedules also list where stops are located. This allows you to find the stops that are closest to your home and your job. See 30-3.

When you use a schedule, remember that posted times are approximate. Drivers try to stay on schedule, but they can't always control delays. Choose a ride that will get you to work early. This will allow for any delays that may arise along the way.

Printed schedules are available from all carriers. A **carrier** is an organization that operates a transportation system. Carriers also provide more detailed information about schedules online or by phone.

Buses

When you take a bus, remember that drivers can't control traffic and road conditions. If traffic is heavy or the weather is bad, your bus may be late. You, in turn, may arrive late for work. Listening to traffic and weather reports will help you foresee problems. If you hear warnings of storms or traffic delays, adjust your schedule accordingly.

Buses follow specific routes. In other words, they do not go down every street and stop at every corner. You are unlikely to find a bus that will drop you off right at your home or job. You may need to walk a few blocks to get to and from the bus stop. See 30-4.

If you work in a large city, you may need to take several routes and transfer between them. To **transfer** is to change from one bus or train route to another. Usually a transfer costs nothing extra or a small fee. You should find out if you must transfer when scheduling your transportation.



Community Connections

Interview local officials regarding public transportation in your community. What transportation issues have they recently addressed? What long-range transportation plans are being considered? Report your findings to the class.

schedule

A list of the expected arrival and departure times and locations for buses, trains, and airplanes.

carrier

An organization that operates a transportation system.

transfer

To change from one bus or train route to another.

30-3

Bus and train schedules give passengers the information they need to use the system.

Prohibited on the bus

1. Smoking of any kind
2. Eating food and drinking beverages
3. Littering
4. Loud playing of radios

FLASH A PASS

NJ TRANSIT offers a variety of bus passes. For one discounted monthly price you can travel an unlimited number of times within one zone range indicated on your pass. You'll never need a transfer or have to carry exact change again. The following passes are available:

- **Interstate Bus Pass** - New Jersey to Philadelphia
- **Intrastate Bus Card** - For travel on local lines WITHIN New Jersey
- **Camden Intrapass** - For commuter travel via seashore routes to Camden

How to use this schedule

1. Select day of week desired.
2. Locate direction of travel desired.
3. Locate time check point or alter date destination nearest you.
4. Locate time desired under check point.
5. Check meaning of footnotes, IF APPLICABLE.
6. Check bus destination sign before boarding.

Exact fare line

Passengers are required to have exact fare in coins no larger than a quarter when boarding buses on this line. Drivers do not carry money and cannot make change.

To Trenton

Weekdays			Saturdays		
Including the following Holidays Lincoln's Birthday Veterans Day			Including the following Holidays Martin Luther King Jr. Day Presidents Day Good Friday Columbus Day Election Day		
EAST TRENTON Gonski Rubber	EAST TRENTON Walsh St. & Kings Ave.	TRENTON Blair & Warren Sts.	EAST TRENTON Walsh St. & Kings Ave.	TRENTON Blair & Warren Sts.	
A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	
- 6:00	6:13		6:00	6:13	
- 6:30	6:43		6:30	6:43	
- 7:00	7:13		7:00	7:13	
- 7:30	7:43		7:30	7:43	
- 8:00	8:13		8:00	8:13	
- 8:30	8:43		8:30	8:43	
- 9:00	9:13		9:00	9:13	
- 9:30	9:43		9:30	9:43	
- 10:00	10:13		10:00	10:13	
- 10:30	10:43		10:30	10:43	
- 11:00	11:13		11:00	11:13	
- 11:30	11:43		11:30	11:43	
- P.M.	P.M.		P.M.	P.M.	
- 12:00	12:13		12:00	12:13	
- 12:30	12:43		12:30	12:43	
- 1:00	1:13		1:00	1:13	
- 1:30	1:43		1:30	1:43	
- 2:00	2:13		2:00	2:13	
- 2:30	2:43		2:30	2:43	
- 3:00	3:13		3:00	3:13	
P.M.	-		3:30	3:43	
3:30	-		4:00	4:13	
- 4:00	4:13		4:30	4:43	
- 4:30	4:43		5:00	5:13	
- 5:00	5:13		5:30	5:43	
- 5:30	5:43		6:00	6:13	
- 6:00	6:13		6:30	6:43	
- 6:30	6:43		7:15	7:28	

30-4

Bus stops are located every few blocks along most city routes.



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Most bus lines require a ticket purchase in advance. Many bus companies offer reduced fares if you purchase a monthly pass or a quantity of rides. A monthly pass may also save you money by allowing you to make unlimited transfers at no extra cost. In some cities, monthly passes can save you as much as 25 percent. A 25 percent savings means that you get one free ride after three rides. Usually a ticket expires on a certain date.

You can call the bus company for information about using the bus system. You can get information about schedules, routes, and transfer locations. You can also find out about fares and possible discounts.

Trains and Subways

Large cities often have high-speed transportation systems. Subways and trains are not subject to traffic jams and other delays that slow buses. See 30-5. As a worker in a large city, you may be able to choose among different types of transportation. Plan your route just as you would if you took a bus. People who live in the suburbs and commute to large cities often find trains to be the best way to get to work.



30-5

Many large cities run trains as well as buses for mass transportation.

Airplanes

People on business trips often travel by airplane. Airplane schedules are like other mass transportation schedules. They give approximate arrival and departure times. However, airplanes are subject to many delays. It is a good idea to call and check on your flight before going to the airport.

Plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before your flight is scheduled to depart (earlier for international flights). This will allow you time to check in, go through security, and arrive at your departure gate. See 30-6. Airport security has been tightened due to terrorist threats. All passengers are subject to baggage restrictions and security screening. When traveling by air, you should be aware of security regulations and be prepared to get through airport security with the least amount of difficulty. Regulations and restrictions change. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site at www.tsa.gov will provide you with up-to-date information. You may also check the Web site of the airline you will be flying, as airlines may have additional regulations and restrictions.

Airline passengers must also plan how they will get to and from the airport. Perhaps they drive to the airport or a friend drops them off. In addition to these options, various forms of ground transportation exist. These include buses, trains, limousines, taxis, and rental cars.

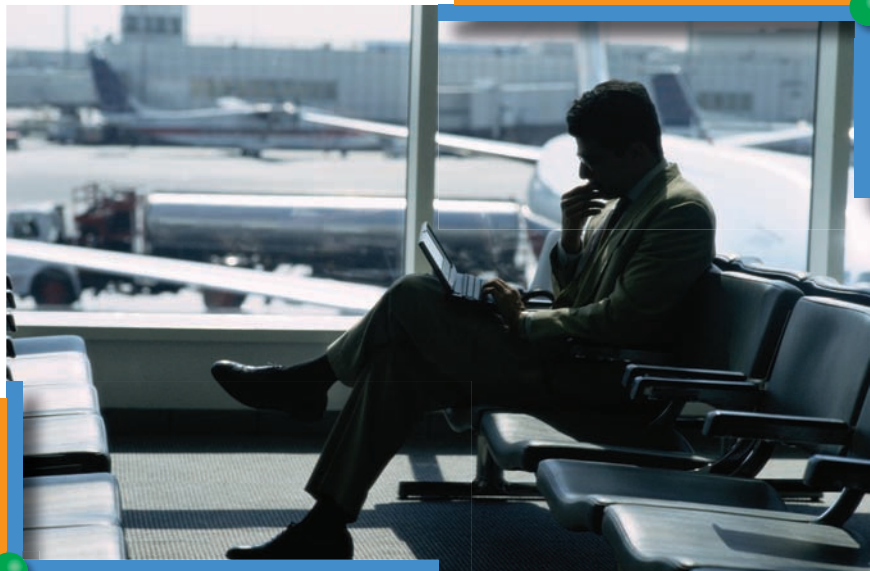


Your Reading

What are some examples of mass transportation?

30-6

Airplanes provide fast transportation for people traveling long distances for work.



Summary

As an employee, you must be able to get to work on time. You should plan your transportation when you plan your job search. You must find a reliable form of transportation to and from your workplace.

You may be able to walk or ride a bicycle. You may choose to drive your own car or to join a car pool. Depending on where you live, mass transportation may be an option for you. In that case, you would need to read the schedules and plan your routes.



Reviewing Key Concepts

1. Name two advantages of walking to work.
2. When would riding a bicycle be a good option for getting to work?
3. List three expenses related to driving a car to work.
4. How can joining a car pool reduce transportation costs?
5. True or false. The government uses tax money to support public mass transportation systems.
6. What can a traveler learn by reading a mass transportation schedule?
7. Changing from one bus, train, or subway to another to take a different route is a _____.
8. If you ride a bus every day, what is the benefit of buying a ticket for the month or a quantity of rides?
9. Why are subways and trains often much faster than buses?
10. Why should a traveler plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before scheduled departure time?

Building Academic Skills

1. **Writing.** Write a paper in favor of using mass transportation. Include all the options a person could use to get to work and the advantages of each method.
2. **Speaking.** Hold a debate on the topic of driving versus flying to a business meeting, using the following assumption: The location of the meeting is four hours away by car. You could drive this distance, but flying would save you some time. Based on the costs in terms of time and money, which option is the best?

Building Technology Skills

1. Investigate buying a car online using the following Web sites: autoweb.com, carsmart.com, and vehix.com. Document helpful hints you learn about buying a car. Give specific examples of used cars available online.
2. Research the most popular methods of transportation in other countries. Find out what methods of transportation are used in China, Russia, or some other country of your choice. Write a short report on your findings.
3. Investigate high-speed methods of mass transportation currently being planned or considered. What technologies are involved? What special features will these “people movers” have? Write a report on your findings. Include pictures, if possible.

Building Career Knowledge and Skills

1. Identify a place where you would like to work. Prepare a written comparison of three different ways of getting there and back. Consider the following factors: time, cost, convenience, and reliability. State which method of transportation you think would be best for you.

2. Talk to someone who is in a car pool. What are the pros and cons of this method of transportation? Share your findings with the class.
3. Using your home as the starting point, plan a bus (and/or train) route to the nearest shopping mall. Assume that you are scheduled to begin working as a salesclerk at 9 a.m. Where and when would you catch the bus? What time would the bus arrive at the stop nearest the shopping mall?
4. Plan how you would travel to an interview at your dream job. In an oral report, describe the trip from your home to the job site. List all forms of transportation you would use. Estimate how long the trip would take and how much it would cost.
5. Interview people who travel by air regarding their experiences of going through airport security. Visit the TSA Web site at tsa.gov for a current list of regulations and restrictions. Share your findings with the class.
6. Brainstorm lifestyle changes you would experience if you were to change to a different mode of transportation other than what you rely on now. Note advantages, disadvantages, and personal thoughts regarding the change.

Building Workplace Skills

Prepare a budget that lists the complete costs of owning a car. Find out all other costs of owning the car. These may include the sales and/or state tax, license cost, registration fees, and city sticker fee. Also figure the operating costs by interviewing parents and others about gas and maintenance costs and service fees. Present your findings to the class.