

## Online deliveries clogging up city streets

6th January, 2018



The huge surge in the popularity of online shopping is creating chaos on the streets of our cities and on our road networks. As the number of online deliveries is skyrocketing, the number of delivery

trucks making sure we get our parcels has also increased. The result is that hundreds more trucks are clogging up city streets. This is increasing congestion and adding to levels of pollution. There are literally hundreds more delivery trucks in cities around the world all trying to get parcels delivered on time. Delivery drivers are battling for often non-existent parking spaces. Many are forced to park illegally, or double park, adding to the gridlock for other road users. And the problem is set to intensify.

The BBC reports that the volume of parcel deliveries surged by almost 50 per cent between 2014 and 2016. It said this could continue to increase by up to 28 per cent a year over the next three years. Many cities have taken tough measures to counteract the problems associated with the increasing number of deliveries. Many cities in Europe and Asia have barred deliveries during times when roads are busiest. London is looking at the possibility of using buses for parcel deliveries. Some areas of London are also cracking down on food delivery motorbikes after their streets were being 'swarmed' by scooter riders. Food delivery companies in one London district must now apply for permission to operate.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) / [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk)

## Writing

Online shopping is better than shopping at a store. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

surge / popularity / online shopping / online deliveries / city streets / parcels / gridlock / increase / tough measures / possibility / food delivery / motorbikes / permission

## True / False

- The article said online shopping is causing chaos on city streets. T / F
- The article said deliveries may soon be delivered by rocket. T / F
- The article said cities are making parking available for delivery trucks. T / F
- The article said the problem of more delivery trucks will soon disappear. T / F
- Parcel deliveries will rise by as much as 28% next year. T / F
- Many cities have taken action over to deal with delivery trucks. T / F
- London is thinking about using buses for parcel deliveries. T / F
- London is trying to increase the use of motorbike deliveries. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>surge</b>            | a. amount        |
| 2. <b>chaos</b>            | b. blocking      |
| 3. <b>result</b>           | c. stamping out  |
| 4. <b>clogging up</b>      | d. havoc         |
| 5. <b>intensify</b>        | e. actions       |
| 6. <b>volume</b>           | f. escalate      |
| 7. <b>measures</b>         | g. authorization |
| 8. <b>barred</b>           | h. increase      |
| 9. <b>cracking down on</b> | i. banned        |
| 10. <b>permission</b>      | j. outcome       |

## Discussion – Student A

- How important is online shopping for you?
- How do you feel about online deliveries?
- Are online deliveries making us lazier?
- How much do you worry that online shopping is killing small stores?
- How can we stop delivery trucks clogging up streets?
- Are drone deliveries better than truck deliveries?
- What should happen to trucks that park illegally?
- How can we end gridlock on the roads?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The huge surge                     | a. up city streets         |
| 2. hundreds more trucks are clogging  | b. permission              |
| 3. battling for often non-            | c. to intensify            |
| 4. adding to the gridlock             | d. by almost 50 per cent   |
| 5. the problem is set                 | e. existent parking spaces |
| 6. volume of parcel deliveries surged | f. when roads are busiest  |
| 7. cities have taken tough            | g. in the popularity       |
| 8. barred deliveries during times     | h. on food delivery        |
| 9. cracking down                      | i. for other road users    |
| 10. apply for                         | j. measures                |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you prefer online shopping or going to a store?
- What do you think of barring truck deliveries at busy times?
- What do you think of using buses to deliver parcels?
- What do you think of food deliveries?
- What do you think it's like to be a delivery driver?
- What can we do about overconsumption?
- What questions would you like to ask a truck delivery boss?

## Spelling

- The huge rugse in the popularity
- creating sahco on the streets
- iqcnlggo up city streets
- This is increasing onntegosci
- non-nxtesiet parking spaces
- the problem is set to fnsneytii
- the uomlev of parcel deliveries
- measures to tonccetrau the problems
- the problems toaccessi with the increasing number
- being 'aerdwsm' by scooter riders
- companies in one London crtsiitd
- apply for isospnierm to operate

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Clothes

You think clothes are the best things to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, furniture or English teachers.

### Role B – Food

You think food is the best thing to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): furniture, clothes or English teachers.

### Role C – Furniture

You think furniture is the best thing to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, clothes or English teachers.

### Role D – English Teachers

You think English teachers are the best things to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, clothes or furniture.

## Speaking – Deliveries

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to get delivered at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| • ice cream        | • clothes   |
| • electrical goods | • furniture |
| • coffee           | • food      |
| • English lessons  | • books     |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.