

Nigeria declared car horn-free day

22nd October, 2014



Nigeria's largest city Lagos declared a car "Horn-Free Day" last week in an attempt to raise awareness of noise pollution. People are constantly

bombarded with an endless cacophony of screeches, sirens and high-pitched honking from impatient motorists. The Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola told reporters that the extent of the noise from car horns was now serious enough to be a danger to people's hearing. Governor Fashola told reporters: "It is for our own good. It is for our own health, it is for our own life." The World Health Organization said high-decibel noise pollution was a critical health hazard that increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and high blood pressure.

Governor Fashola hoped his city's roads would be a little quieter. He contrasted the constant honking in Lagos to the relative quiet of European roads. He said he recently spent ten days in Europe and, "did not hear the sound of a horn while driving". He asked: "Can you imagine that we can drive in Lagos without horns? However, a Lagos blogger defended the use of the horn as part of the city's culture. He said: "Honking is a beautiful trend in this part of the world, and it is a trend that every class of people in the country embraces." Apart from making other drivers aware of danger, he said people honk to greet friends and celebrate weddings and other happy occasions.

Sources: AllAfrica.com / [The Guardian.com](http://TheGuardian.com)

Writing

Noise pollution is not a problem. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

largest city / raise awareness / impatient / motorists / hearing / hazard / blood pressure / quieter / honking / trend / embraces / danger / celebrate weddings / happy

True / False

- The Nigerian city of Lagos handed out free car horns last week. T / F
- The article says impatient motorists in Lagos screech and shout a lot. T / F
- Noise from car horns can damage your hearing. T / F
- Noise from car horns can lead to heart disease. T / F
- The Lagos governor wished Lagos roads were like those in Europe. T / F
- The Lagos governor said he heard horns only ten times in Europe. T / F
- A Lagos blogger said the honking of horns was a beautiful thing. T / F
- The blogger said people honk their horns to express sadness. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. attempt | a. scale |
| 2. bombarded | b. compared |
| 3. impatient | c. assaulted |
| 4. extent | d. danger |
| 5. hazard | e. events |
| 6. contrasted | f. quick-tempered |
| 7. constant | g. welcomes |
| 8. relative | h. non-stop |
| 9. embraces | i. comparative |
| 10. occasions | j. effort |

Discussion – Student A

- Do you mind people honking their horn?
- What kind of motorist are you?
- Is a horn totally necessary on a car?
- Should there be laws against using the horn too much?
- What do you think of noise pollution?
- What do you think of the level of noise in your town?
- What do you do when someone honks at you?
- How can we stop noise pollution increasing our blood pressure?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. an attempt to raise | a. good |
| 2. constantly bombarded with an | b. honking in Lagos |
| 3. It is for our own | c. to greet friends |
| 4. high-decibel | d. diseases |
| 5. cardiovascular | e. of European roads |
| 6. the constant | f. awareness |
| 7. the relative quiet | g. of people |
| 8. a Lagos blogger defended the | h. noise pollution |
| 9. every class | i. use of the horn |
| 10. he said people honk | j. endless cacophony |

Discussion – Student B

- Do different cultures have different honking behaviour?
- Where in Europe do you think people rarely use their horn?
- What do you think of what the blogger said in the article?
- In what way might honking be "a beautiful trend"?
- What would happen if no cars had horns?
- Is it OK to honk to celebrate?
- Should a city be noisy?
- What questions would you like to ask the Lagos governor?

Spelling

- raise anwerssae of noise pollution
- honking from impatient tmosstiro
- the extnte of the noise
- high-iebceld noise
- a critical health aadzhr
- the risk of rvccaaaiduolsr diseases
- He rdtecsnaot the constant honking
- the iltreaev quiet of European roads
- a Lagos blogger defdende the use of the horn
- the country maseecbr
- making other drivers raawe of danger
- weddings and other happy acicossno

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Space for cyclists

You think space for cyclists is what motorists need to be more aware of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a problem. Also, tell the others which of these needs addressing least (and why): sleepiness, ice and fog or noise.

Role B – Sleepiness

You think sleepiness is what motorists need to be more aware of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a problem. Also, tell the others which of these needs addressing least (and why): space for cyclists, ice and fog or noise.

Role C – Ice and fog

You think ice and fog is what motorists need to be more aware of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a problem. Also, tell the others which of these needs addressing least (and why): sleepiness, space for cyclists or noise.

Role D – Noise

You think noise is what motorists need to be more aware of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a problem. Also, tell the others which of these needs addressing least (and why): sleepiness, ice and fog or space for cyclists.

Speaking – Awareness

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones motorists need more awareness of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • ice and fog | • space for cyclists |
| • other drivers | • speed |
| • pedestrians | • sleepiness |
| • noise | • using indicators |

Answers – True False

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