

English Language for

# TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

**-ANTONIO JAVIER VILLAR BALAGUER-**



**Primera edición, 2024**

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**Edita:** Educàlia Editorial

**Imágenes:** Freepik

**Imprime:** Grupo Digital 82, S. L.

**ISBN:**978-84-128386-7-1

**Depósito Legal:** en trámite

Printed in Spain/Impreso en España.

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# TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

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# 1 THE CONCEPT OF TRANSPORT





## THE PRESENT SIMPLE



### USES:

To express actions or states that are habitual, regular, or general truths. It is commonly used to describe routines, facts, and general statements that are true in the present, without emphasizing when the action occurs.

In the context of logistics and transportation, the Present Simple Tense is employed to discuss regular schedules, procedures, and timeless truths about these industries.

### STRUCTURE:

- **Positive (Affirmative) Form:** Subject + base form of the verb + s (only for He, She and It) (e.g., "I drive a truck.")
- **Negative Form:** Subject + do/does not + base form of the verb (e.g., "She does not handle customs clearance.")
- **Question Form: (Interrogative)** Do/Does + subject + base form of the verb? (e.g., "Do they transport goods internationally?")

### EXEMPLES DEPENDING ON THE DIFFERENT USES:

#### General Facts:

"Planes fly faster than ships."

"Trucks transport goods overland."

#### Schedules and Timetables:

"The train departs at 9 AM every day."

"Our logistics team meets weekly to discuss new strategies."

#### Habitual Actions:

"The company always uses eco-friendly packaging."

"The courier service regularly updates customers on shipment status."

#### Scientific or Technical Information:

"Electric trucks save energy compared to traditional ones."

"This software accurately tracks the movement of goods."

1. Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in the Present Simple Tense. Choose from the provided verbs, and pay attention to the subject-verb agreement.

- The company ..... (use) eco-friendly packaging.
- Our logistics team ..... (meet) weekly to discuss new strategies.
- Does she ..... (handle) customs clearance?
- Electric trucks ..... (save) energy compared to traditional ones.
- Do they ..... (transport) goods internationally?
- Planes ..... (fly) faster than ships.
- The courier service ..... (regularly/update) customers on shipment status.
- The train ..... (depart) at 9 AM every day.
- Trucks ..... (transport) goods overland.
- This software ..... (track) the movement of goods.

2. Rewrite the sentences using the given prompts, making the necessary changes to shift between positive, negative, and question forms.

- General Facts: Transform "Planes fly faster than ships" into a negative sentence.  
.....
- Schedules and Timetables: Turn "The train departs at 9 AM every day" into a question.  
.....
- Habitual Actions: Change "The courier service regularly updates customers on shipment status" into a positive statement.  
.....
- Scientific or Technical Information: Rewrite "This software tracks the movement of goods" as a question.  
.....

3. Using the given structure for the Present Simple Tense, create three sentences related to logistics and transportation. Include one sentence for each of the following categories: General Facts, Schedules and Timetables, and Scientific or Technical Information.



# TRANSPORT (Vehicles and types of transport)

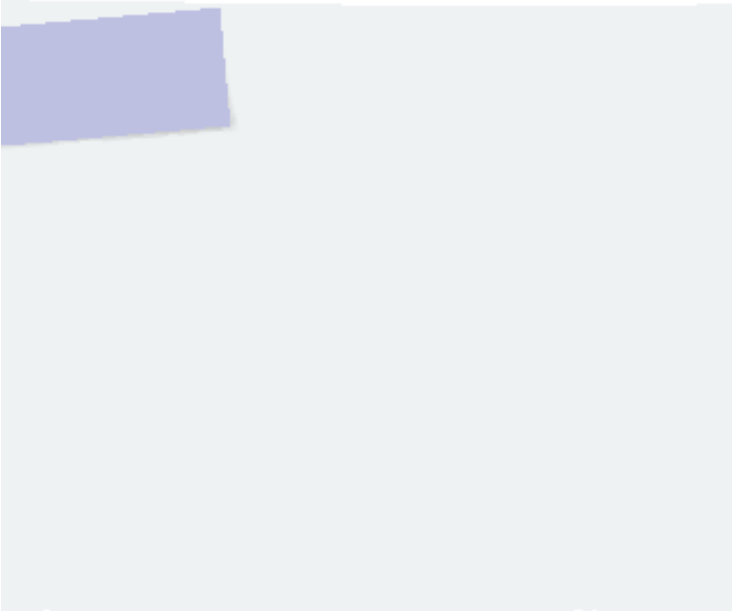
1. Translate the following list of words into your own language, then match six of the words with six images



- Car
- Lorry
- Motorbike
- Bicycle
- Bus
- Ambulance
- Fire Engine
- Police Car
- Taxi
- Van
- 4x4 (Four by Four)
- Tractor
- Bulldozer
- Forklift
- Electric Scooter
- Segway
- Skateboard
- Helicopter
- Aeroplane
- Boat
- Ship
- Submarine
- Train
- Monorail

2. Classify the previous vehicles in a classification depending on the primary means of transportation they are designed for, whether it's through the air, sea, on the ground, or on rail.

Air	Sea	Ground	Rail
-----	-----	--------	------



3. Complete the following sentences with the names of the previous vehicles:

1. In emergencies, the sound of a siren often indicates the approach of an \_\_\_\_\_ rushing to the scene.
2. To transport goods over long distances, companies often use a large vehicle called a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. For heavy-duty construction work, a \_\_\_\_\_ is a powerful machine used to move large quantities of earth.
4. To move heavy pallets and goods within a warehouse, a \_\_\_\_\_ is commonly used.
5. If you need to transport a large group of people, you might consider hiring a \_\_\_\_\_.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANSPORT

1. Read the following text about the history of transport:



Human civilization has been shaped by the evolution of transportation, a journey that spans millennia and has undergone transformative changes. The story of transport reflects our ingenuity, adaptability, and the constant quest to overcome the constraints of distance.

### **Early Human Transportation (Prehistoric-3500 BC):**

In prehistoric times, humans relied on their own physical abilities for transportation. Walking was the primary mode, followed by the domestication of animals such as horses and donkeys, marking the beginning of animal-powered transport.

### **Ancient Waterways (3500 BC-500 AC):**

The emergence of watercraft was a pivotal moment in history. Ancient civilizations like the Egyptians and Mesopotamians harnessed the power of rivers, using boats and rafts for trade and exploration. The Phoenicians, renowned seafarers, established trade routes across the Mediterranean.

### **Land Transport and the Roman Roads (500 BC-476 AC):**

The Romans played a crucial role in advancing land transportation. Their extensive network of roads, such as the famous Roman Roads, facilitated military movements, trade, and communication across the vast Roman Empire.

### **The Age of Exploration (15th-17th Century):**

The discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus and others ushered in an era of maritime exploration. Sailing ships became the primary means of long-distance travel, connecting continents and cultures.

### **The Industrial Revolution (18th-19th Century):**

The 18th century witnessed the Industrial Revolution, transforming transportation with the invention of the steam engine. Steam locomotives revolutionized land transport, enabling faster and more efficient movement of goods and people. Steamships took over maritime travel, and the first public transportation systems, like horse-drawn buses, appeared in cities.

### **The Age of cars and Aviation (Early 20th Century):**

The early 20th century brought about the mass production of cars. Henry Ford's assembly line made cars accessible to the general public, reshaping personal mobility. Simultaneously, aviation pioneers like the Wright brothers achieved powered flight, opening new frontiers in air travel.

### **Mid to Late 20th Century:**

The mid-20th century saw the rise of jet engines, making air travel faster and more widespread. The development of highways and the interstate system further transformed land transportation, connecting cities and fostering economic growth.

### **21st Century and Beyond:**

The 21st century has witnessed rapid advancements in transportation technology. Electric cars, high-speed trains, and innovations in aviation continue to redefine the way we move. Emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles and hyperloop systems hold the promise of further revolutionizing transportation in the future.

In tracing the history of transport, from humble footpaths to the vast networks of today, it becomes clear that our ability to traverse distances has been a driving force in shaping societies, economies, and the interconnected world we inhabit.



1. Read the following statements and determine whether they are true or false based on the information provided in the text.

	True	False
1. The Industrial Revolution had no impact on land transportation.		
2. Roman Roads were primarily used for military movements.		
3. The Wright brothers were pioneers in the development of steam locomotives.		
4. The Age of Exploration was characterized by the extensive use of sailing ships.		
5. The 18th-century steam engine had a significant impact on maritime travel.		

2. Answer the following questions based on your understanding of the text:

1. What role did the steam engine play in the transportation revolution during the Industrial Revolution?

.....

2. How did the Age of Exploration contribute to the development of transportation?

.....

3. In what ways did the invention of the steam locomotive transform land transportation?

.....

4. Why were Roman Roads significant in ancient times?

.....

5. What are some of the advancements in transportation mentioned in the 21st century?

.....

3. Match the vocabulary items (number) with their definitions (letter):

## VOCABULARY ITEMS

1. Roman Roads
2. Industrial Revolution
3. Steam Locomotive
4. Age of Exploration
5. Steamship
6. Hyperloop
7. Assembly
8. Maritime Exploration
9. Wright Brothers
10. Steam Engine

## DEFINITIONS

- A. A pivotal moment in history marked by Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World.
- B. The process of putting together parts to create a whole.
- C. A large vehicle used for transporting goods over long distances.
- D. Extensive network of roads facilitating military movements, trade, and communication.
- E. Land transportation transformed by the invention of the steam engine.
- F. A machine that uses the power of steam to propel a vehicle on tracks.
- G. A revolutionary period that reshaped personal mobility with the mass production of cars.
- H. An advanced mode of ground transportation in a vacuum or low-pressure tube.
- I. Pioneers in aviation, achieving powered flight.
- J. A mode of travel characterized by the use of sailing ships



## THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS



The present continuous tense is a verb form used to express actions happening at the present moment or around the present time. It is often employed to describe temporary actions, ongoing processes, or events taking place right now.

In the context of transportation and logistics, the present continuous tense is valuable for discussing activities, movements, and processes that are currently underway. It is particularly useful for reporting live events, describing ongoing activities, and discussing temporary situations within the realm of supply chain management, transportation operations, and logistics planning.

### STRUCTURE:

The present continuous tense is formed using the present tense of the verb "to be" (am, is, are) combined with the present participle (the base verb + -ing). The structure is as follows:

- **Affirmative:** Subject + am/is/are + present participle. Example: The truck is delivering goods to the warehouse.
- **Negative:** Subject + am/is/are + not + present participle. Example: The shipment is not arriving until tomorrow.
- **Interrogative:** Am/Is/Are + subject + present participle + ? Example: Are you tracking the package online.

### EXAMPLES DEPENDING ON THE DIFFERENT USES:

#### Temporary Actions:

"I am inspecting the vehicles for maintenance."

#### Ongoing Processes:

"The construction of the new logistics hub is progressing smoothly."

#### Scheduled Events:

"The conference call with the international suppliers is happening now."

#### Changes in State:

"The prices of fuel are increasing, that affects transportation costs."

### 1. Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the present continuous tense.

- The cargo plane ..... (deliver) goods to various international destinations.
- Our team ..... (implement) the new automated inventory system this week.
- Unfortunately, the shipment ..... (not arrive) until next month due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Are you aware that the logistics company ..... (host) live webinar on supply chain optimization?
- Fuel prices ....., (increase) impacting the overall transportation costs for the company.

### 2. Construct negative statements using the present continuous tense.

- The delivery truck / not / arrive / until / tomorrow.  
.....
- The construction of the railway station / not / progress / smoothly.  
.....

- The cargo ship / not / currently / transport / any goods.  
.....

- The logistics team / not / work / on / a new project.  
.....

- Our company / not / participate / in / the industry conference this year.  
.....

### 3. Form interrogative sentences using the present continuous tense.

- ..... you / currently / track / the shipment online?
- ..... the new distribution centre / be / set up / according to the plan?
- ..... the company / organize / a live webinar on logistics optimization?
- ..... the electric vehicles / replace / traditional delivery trucks in the future?
- ..... the maintenance crew / inspect / the fleet this week?



**1. Determine if the following statements are true or false.**

	True	False
1. Mr. James Turner has been working in the transport industry for 15 years.		
2. The host describes Mr. Turner as a highly experienced transport professional.		
3. Mr. Turner's responsibilities have never included overseeing fleet operations.		
4. Technological advancements discussed by Mr. Turner include GPS tracking, real-time data analytics, and automation.		
5. According to Mr. Turner, sustainability is not a significant aspect of modern transportation.		

**2. Listen to the dialogue again and choose the correct option for each question.**

- How many years has Mr. Turner dedicated to the transport industry?
  - 10 years
  - 15 years
  - 25 years
- What is one responsibility Mr. Turner mentions in his career?
  - Social media management
  - Fleet operations oversight
  - Marketing strategy development
- Which technological advancements does Mr. Turner mention?
  - Fax machines and pagers
  - GPS tracking, real-time data analytics, and automation
  - Typewriters and rotary phones
- What does Mr. Turner emphasize regarding the future of sustainable transport?
  - It's irrelevant to the industry.
  - Companies are not focusing on it.
  - It's a pivotal aspect with a reduced carbon footprint.
- How has the transport industry adapted to recent disruptions, according to Mr. Turner?
  - By ignoring challenges
  - By diversifying suppliers, optimizing inventory, and using technology
  - By avoiding collaborative efforts within the supply chain

**3. Listen to the dialogue once more and answer the following questions briefly.**

- What does Mr. Turner say about the influence of technology on the transport industry?
- According to Mr. Turner, what initiatives are companies taking in response to sustainability concerns?
- How does Mr. Turner describe the impact of recent disruptions on the transport industry?
- What advice does Mr. Turner offer to individuals aspiring to enter the transport and logistics field?
- How does Mr. Turner respond to the host's appreciation at the end of the dialogue?



## A PHONE CONVERSATION ON A LOGISTICS ISSUE

1. Have a look at the following telephone conversation and look for the words in bold to understand their meaning:

 Hello, this is Sarah from logistics. Am I speaking with Mark, the warehouse manager? *Sarah*

*Mark* Yes, this is Mark. How can I help you, Sarah? 

 Mark, we're currently **facing a delay** with the shipment of goods scheduled for delivery tomorrow. I wanted to inform you about the situation and discuss possible solutions.

 Oh, that's a problem. Can you provide more details on the nature of the delay?

 Certainly, Mark. It appears there's been an **unexpected issue** with the transportation provider. Their truck broke down, and they're unable to make it to our facility on time.

 I see. Thanks for letting me know. Do we have an **estimated time** for when they'll be able to resume the delivery?

 Unfortunately, they're anticipating a delay of at least 24 hours. I understand this might cause some inconvenience, and I **sincerely apologize for the disruption**.

 It's not ideal, but these things happen. Let's work together to find a solution. First, can we explore the possibility of using an **alternative transportation provider** for this particular shipment?

 Absolutely, Mark. I've already initiated contact with a few local providers, and I'm awaiting their availability and pricing. I'll keep you updated on that.

 Great. Additionally, let's inform our clients about the delay as soon as possible and assure them that we are actively working on resolving the situation. Communication is key in these situations.

 Agreed, Mark. I'll draft a concise message to **notify our clients** about the delay and the steps we're taking to expedite the process. I'll share it with you for approval before sending it out.

 Perfect. Let's also coordinate with the warehouse team to ensure that the goods are ready for immediate loading once the new transportation provider is secured.

 Absolutely, Mark. I'll liaise with the warehouse team to make sure they're prepared for the rescheduled delivery time.

 **Thank you, Sarah, for your quick response and proactive approach to resolving this issue.** Let's stay in close communication as we work through this to

 Certainly, Mark. I **appreciate your understanding and cooperation.** I'll keep you updated on the progress.

 **Thank you, Sarah. Looking forward to solve it.**

 The same, Mark. Have a great day. Goodbye!

 **You too. Goodbye!**





## TYPES OF TRANSPORT

1. Read the following article about the different types of transport:

### THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRANSPORT

Transportation is a critical component of modern societies, enabling the movement of people and goods from one location to another. There are various modes of transport, each serving specific purposes and offering distinct advantages. Here, we explore the four primary modes: ground, sea, air, and rail.

#### 1. Ground Transportation:

Ground transportation encompasses a wide range of vehicles that move on solid surfaces. This mode is further divided into road and off-road categories.

**Road Transport:** This includes automobiles, buses, motorcycles, and trucks, making it the most common and versatile form of ground transportation. Roads facilitate easy access to various locations, providing flexibility in routes and destinations.

**Off-Road Transport:** This involves vehicles designed for specific terrains, such as construction sites, agricultural fields, and off-road recreational areas. Examples include bulldozers, tractors, and all-terrain vehicles.

#### 2. Sea Transportation:

Sea transport is vital for global trade and the movement of large quantities of goods across oceans and seas.

**Ships:** Cargo ships, container ships, and oil tankers are primary vessels used for transporting goods. Cruise ships and ferries cater to passenger transportation. Sea transport is cost-effective for bulk shipments, but it generally has longer transit times compared to air transport.

#### 3. Air Transportation:

Air transport is known for its speed and efficiency in covering long distances.

**Airplanes:** Commercial airlines carry passengers, while cargo planes transport goods quickly. Air transport is crucial for time-sensitive shipments and international travel. However, it is relatively more expensive than other modes.

#### 4. Rail Transportation:

Rail transportation involves the movement of trains on dedicated railway tracks, offering an efficient and sustainable mode of transport.

**Trains:** Trains are well-suited for transporting large volumes of goods and passengers over land. High-speed trains are common in passenger transport, while freight trains efficiently move goods across continents.

Each mode of transport has its advantages and is suited to particular circumstances. Ground transportation is versatile for short to medium distances, sea transportation is ideal for large shipments across oceans, air transportation provides speed for time-sensitive deliveries, and rail transportation offers efficiency and sustainability for land-based logistics. The combination of these modes, known as intermodal transportation, often provides a comprehensive solution for complex logistical challenges, ensuring the smooth flow of people and goods in our interconnected world.

2. Summarise the text in no more than 80-100 words.

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3. Choose a type of transport and look for specific information on the internet and classify it.

4. Following this prompt, write an article on the type of transport that you have chosen:

- TITLE
- Brief introduction
- Definition of the type of transport
- Examples of different vehicles
- Specific uses of this kind of transport and justification
- Conclusion explaining why did you chose this kind of transport

