

# Prepare for {IELTS}

## Describe a time when the vehicle you were travelling in broke down

You should say:

- When it was
- Where it happened
- Who you were with at the time
- And explain what impact the breakdown had on you

I'm going to talk about an incident that occurred/happened last year and it is still quite a painful experience for me because it is very fresh in my memory. We were travelling from the UK to Italy and have made this journey before and although it is a long one, the route goes through scenic countryside and it is an enjoyable one.

However, this was certainly not the case last year. About an hour into the journey, our car started overheating. We pulled over into a lay-by and turned off the engine. My husband said that the car needed a few minutes to cool down and then we could hopefully set off again. It was an excruciatingly hot day and the traffic had been moving slowly up until this point so we thought the car had just got too hot. After a few minutes, the temperature returned to normal and the warning light on the dashboard disappeared so we thought the car would be ok to drive. Oh, how wrong we were.

In order to prevent the car from overheating again, my husband turned off the air-conditioning and turned on the heater. As I've said, it was a baking hot day and now we were travelling in a car with the heater on full. We were melting inside the car. For a while though, it worked and the warning light did not come on again. Sadly though, it did not last and the light popped up again. I could have cried. We were still 300km from our destination and we were looking forward to a much-needed holiday.

We pulled over again and the car was overheating so badly that we realised that we needed to ring a breakdown recovery service. To cut a long story short, we spent three days trying to get the car fixed and then had to get a hire car because it needed a part that was not available. We did eventually arrive in Italy, but we were three days late and everyone was in a foul mood because our holiday had been cut short. We tried to have a good time, but it did spoil the holiday, unfortunately.

## PART 3

Are there fewer people using private transport because of improved public transport?

In my experience, no. This is not the case at all.

If anything, I would say the reverse is true.

Generally, most prefer the ease and convenience of using their own cars so there has been a reduction in the numbers using public transport, in actual fact.

Sadly, the knock-on effect of this is more congestion in our cities.



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