8 Transport

Switch on

1 Identify the different forms of transport in pictures A–F.

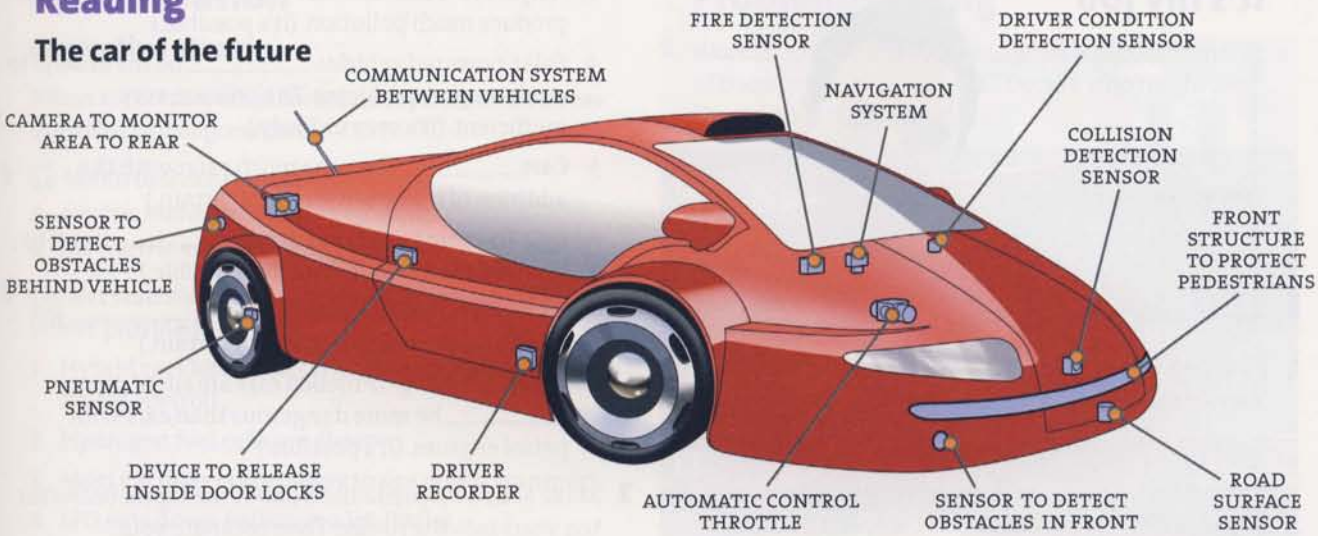
2 Work in small groups. List other types of land, sea, and air transport.

In this unit

- key terms for different forms of transport
- how to make predictions using *will, may, might*
- how to use corrective stress
- reading and listening for detail
- using your search skills to find out more about cars of the future

Reading

The car of the future



1 Look at the diagram and answer the questions.

1 How is this car different from a typical car of today?

2 What do you think ASV means?

3 What are the aims of the designers of this car?

4 What further improvements could you make to this car?

2 Read the text and check your answers to questions 1–3 in **1**.

3 Read the last paragraph of the text again and note the advantages and disadvantages of the forms of power in the table.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
1 electric		
2 hybrid (petrol and electric)		
3 LPG		
4 hydrogen fuel cell		

ASVs

Road traffic is increasing worldwide. This increase brings problems: road accidents, congestion, and pollution. However, engineers are working on Advanced safety vehicles (ASVs) which will be much safer for drivers, other road users such as cyclists, and for pedestrians. They are also working on new engines which use cleaner fuels.

ASVs will be equipped with electronic sensors to prevent accidents and to make it safer for people when accidents do happen. One sensor will stop the driver falling asleep. Others will warn drivers when they are too close to other vehicles.

The car of the future might be electric. Electric motors are very efficient and produce no pollution, but they need heavy batteries and their range is limited with current technology. Hybrid cars have both a petrol engine and an electric motor. They save about 15% of fuel. They need batteries but they don't have to be charged overnight as the motor acts as a generator when the car brakes. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is already used as a fuel. Cars can be converted easily but LPG only cuts down pollution a little. Hydrogen fuel cells may be the long-term answer. They provide clean power but each cell is very expensive.

Gadget box

The world's first hydrogen-powered motorbike can reach 80 kph in 12 seconds. It produces no pollution and is almost silent. However, the hydrogen fuel cell costs £15,000 and motorbike fans don't like the idea of a 'noise-free' bike!

How could you make this motorbike more attractive to bikers?

It's my job

1 Listen to Jan Bronec, a Mechanical Engineer, and answer the questions.

1 What kind of transport is he concerned with?
2 How does his work improve life in cities?
3 What other product does his company make?
4 What kind of fuel does this product use?
5 Why might he have more opportunity to use English?

• Language spot

Prediction: *will, may, might*

• Study these examples:
Advanced safety vehicles (ASVs) will be much safer.
The car of the future might be electric.
Hydrogen fuel cells may be the long-term answer.

When we are talking about future developments, we use *will* for things which are certain. We use *may* and *might* for things which are possible. (There is little difference between *may* and *might* in written English.)

Note these short forms used in spoken English:
won't = will not
mightn't = might not

NOT ~~mayn't~~

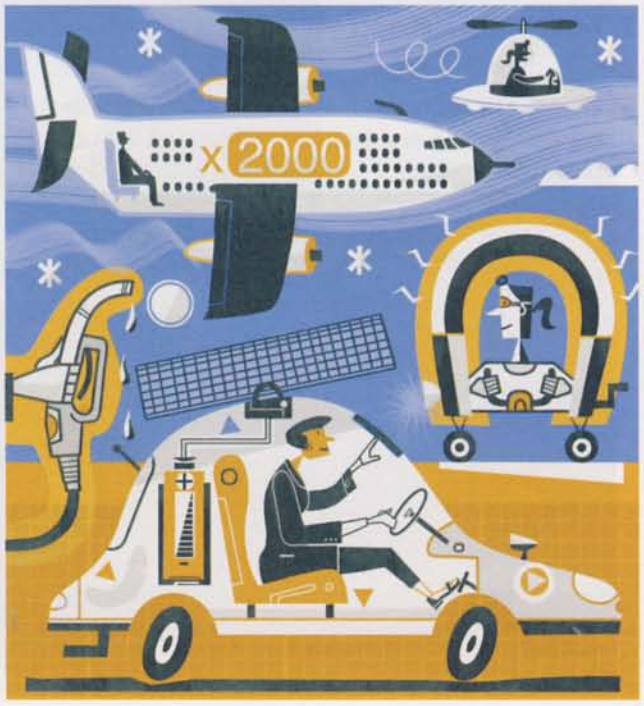
» Go to **Grammar reference** p.119

1 Complete the sentences using *will, may / might*, or their negative forms. The phrases in brackets will help.

1 We _____ use petrol engines in the future. There are better alternatives. (I'm certain.)
2 Hydrogen fuel cells _____ get cheaper as technology improves. (I'm certain.)
3 A hybrid car _____ be the best choice. It doesn't produce much pollution. (It's possible.)
4 Solar-powered vehicles _____ be the answer to our transport problems. The cells are very inefficient. (It's very unlikely.)
5 Cars _____ become much safer with the addition of many sensors. (I'm certain.)
6 By 2015 more people in Europe _____ travel to work by train than by car. (It's possible.)
7 As world oil supplies dry up, petrol _____ get more and more expensive. (I'm certain.)
8 Because hydrogen-fuelled cars are silent, they _____ be more dangerous than cars with petrol engines. (It's possible.)

2 Make your own predictions about the topics below for ten years into the future. Then compare your predictions with your partner. Try to reach agreement.

- the number of cars in your country
- the price of oil
- the size of passenger aircraft
- the most popular way to travel to work
- the use of electric cars



Pronunciation

Corrective stress

When we correct what someone says, we often stress the point of disagreement.

1 Listen to this example.

A *Electric motors aren't very efficient.*

B *No, electric motors **are** very efficient.*

2 Correct statements 1–8. Use the words in brackets where provided.

1 Hybrid cars have a diesel engine and an electric motor. (petrol)

2 Hydrogen fuel cells are cheap.

3 Most car drivers are happy to use public transport.

4 LPG cuts down pollution a lot. (little)

5 ASVs are more dangerous for pedestrians. (safer)

6 Solar-power is the answer to our transport problems.

7 Air travel is good for the environment.

8 Trains and cars are examples of public transport. (buses)

3 Work in pairs. Take turns to correct each other using the statements above.

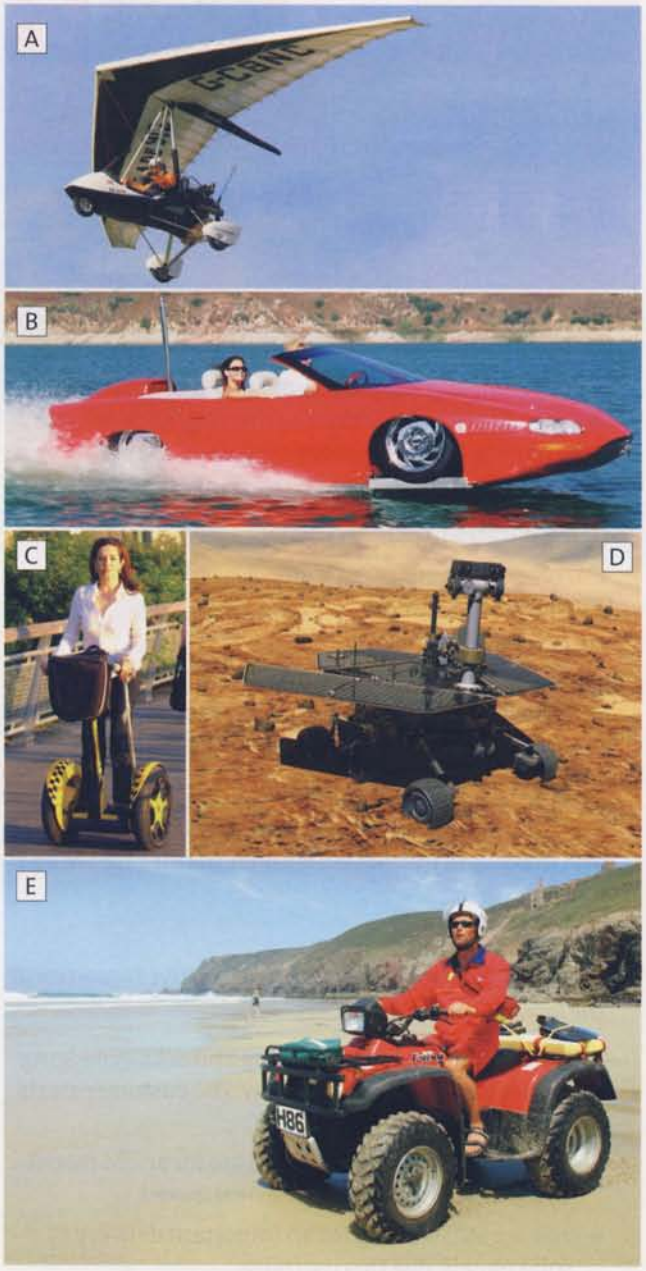
4 Listen and check your answers.

5 Work in pairs. Make statements of your own about the topics below. Disagree with your partner's views and give reasons to support your case. Use the dialogues in **4** as a model.

- the best car made in Europe
- the safest way to travel
- travelling by air
- studying English
- travel by train in the past and now
- the best motorbike
- the answer to traffic problems
- the most interesting job in technology

Problem-solving

1 Work in pairs. Can you identify the less common forms of transport in pictures A–E? Decide who might use them and for what purpose.



2 In your pairs, decide what special features these forms of transport require to operate effectively.

328.767 mph / 529.33 kph
JCB breaks the land-speed record for a diesel engine vehicle (August 2006)

Customer care

Making and acknowledging apologies

If your company supplies faulty goods or if there is a delay in providing a service or meeting an order, you may have to apologize to the customer.

We can apologize face-to-face, by phone, or by email using phrases like these:

I'm sorry that *your order is late. We've been very busy but I'll see to it at once.*
Sorry about *the delay with your order.*

We can acknowledge the apology using phrases like these:

That's alright. / OK. *It's not a problem.*
Don't worry about it. *No problem.*

Sometimes we want to acknowledge the apology and make sure that action is taken. In this case we add *but* ... .

EXAMPLE
It's not a problem ***but*** *I'd like them to arrive tomorrow at the latest.*

Work in pairs. Take turns making and acknowledging apologies for the problems below. The customer starts by explaining the problem.

- The car batteries you received are for an old model – you wanted the ones for the new model.
- You are still waiting for an important delivery of solar panels, due this morning.
- One of the office telephones you received yesterday is faulty.

Vocabulary

Recording new expressions

In Unit 1 you studied useful ways of recording new vocabulary by grouping words according to **subjects**. It is also useful to group expressions by **function** – what they are used for.

1 Study the expressions for apologizing in the table of functions.

Function	Expression
Apologizing	*I'm sorry that ...* *Sorry about ...* *I / We apologize for ...* *I / We regret ...*
Opening a letter or email	
Closing a letter or email	
Referring to previous contact	
Giving reasons	
Promising action	

2 Now complete the table with the expressions below used for writing emails.

a Hi ...
b We will ...
c I'm writing to you because ...
d Regards ...
e Dear ...
f I wrote to you on (date) ...
g We're going to ...
h We spoke (last week) ...
i Best wishes ...
j The reason I'm getting in touch is ...
k I can assure you that ...

3 Write a short email to a customer apologizing for sending five air-conditioning units instead of the six he / she ordered. In your email, you should refer to the telephone conversation you had yesterday and provide a reason for the error and tell him / her you will send the remaining unit by express delivery.

Webquest

Search the sites for details of cars which do not have conventional petrol or diesel engines. Copy the details into this table for each model.

Make	Model	Price	Engine type	CO_2 emissions

- www.bmw.com
- www.daihatsu.com
- www.ford.com
- www.gm.com
- www.automobiles.honda.com
- www.mercedes-benz.com
- www.smart.com
- www.suzuki.com
- www.toyota.com
- www.volvo.com

Checklist

Assess your progress in this unit.
Tick (✓) the statements which are true.

- ☐ I know key terms for different forms of transport
- ☐ I can make predictions using *will, may,* and *might*
- ☐ I know how to use corrective stress
- ☐ My reading and listening are good enough to understand most of each text in this unit

Key words

Adjectives
automatic
efficient
liquefied
pneumatic

Nouns
congestion
delay
fuel cell
hybrid
production
public transport
throttle

Verbs
convert
detect
give up
monitor

Note here anything about how English is used in technology that is **new** to you.