

Man swims to work every day to beat traffic

14th August, 2017



A German man has started swimming to work after he got fed up with commuting. Benjamin David, 40, got tired of being stuck in traffic every day in the German

city of Munich. He now beats the traffic by swimming 2km down the city's Isar River. He puts his laptop computer, mobile phone and his business suit in a waterproof bag that he drags behind him. Mr David got the idea by watching the river flow right past his apartment. He looked on a map and realized the river went past his office. He then decided to swim to work and get some exercise, instead of battling other commuters in buses and trains or breathing fumes from traffic while on a bicycle.

Mr David told reporters that his river commute has changed his life. He is much fitter and less stressed. He spoke about the stress his commute used to cause him. He said: "I'm not a monk. When I was on my bike, I would yell at cars. When I was on foot, I would yell at cyclists, and so on and so forth." He described how the river has changed things. He said: "Just a few metres to the side of [all the traffic] is the river, and if you just swim down that, it's completely relaxing and refreshing." David also spoke about the dangers of river swimming. He always checks the temperature before diving in. Not everyone can swim to work in the city. In Central London, it is illegal to swim in the River Thames.

Sources: metro.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk / zeenews.india.com

Writing

We all need to try healthier ways to get to work / school. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

swimming / commuting / traffic / city / laptop / business suit / waterproof / apartment / river / stressed / cyclist / relaxing / refreshing / temperature / danger / diving / illegal

True / False

- A man swam to work because he was fed up with commuting. T / F
- The man swims just 200 metres to his office from his apartment. T / F
- The man takes his computer and mobile phone into the river T / F
- The man said swimming was better than breathing in traffic fumes. T / F
- Swimming hasn't really increased the man's fitness. T / F
- The man used to be a monk. T / F
- The man said swimming to work was both refreshing and relaxing. T / F
- It is OK for people to swim to work in Central London. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. fed up with | a. in better shape |
| 2. drags | b. run |
| 3. flow | c. pollution |
| 4. battling | d. hazards |
| 5. fumes | e. sick and tired of |
| 6. fitter | f. totally |
| 7. yell | g. unlawful |
| 8. completely | h. pulls |
| 9. dangers | i. shout |
| 10. illegal | j. fighting |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of your commute to work / school?
- What do you think of swimming to work?
- Should people swim in rivers more to get from A to B?
- How is the traffic in your country?
- What do you take to work?
- Should we all exercise while we go to work?
- What do you dislike about trains and buses?
- Should everyone cycle around cities?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A German man has started | a. and refreshing |
| 2. he got fed | b. flow |
| 3. in a waterproof | c. before diving in |
| 4. watching the river | d. up with commuting |
| 5. breathing fumes | e. less stressed |
| 6. He is much fitter and | f. at cyclists |
| 7. I would yell | g. swimming to work |
| 8. it's completely relaxing | h. to work in the city |
| 9. He always checks the temperature | i. bag |
| 10. Not everyone can swim | j. from traffic |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What makes you stressed on your way to work / school?
- Do you ever get angry with car drivers and cyclists?
- What other interesting ways could you use to get to work?
- Would people work better if they swam to work?
- What do you think of swimming?
- What are the dangers of everyone swimming to work?
- What questions would you like to ask Benjamin David?

Spelling

- he got fed up with nmgctuiom
- got tired of being ukcst in traffic
- in a ofprowetar bag
- right past his nattarmpe
- asendit of battling other commuters
- breathing fusme from traffic
- He is much ttreif and less stressed
- I would yell at yitclscs
- He ideredsbc how the river has changed
- it's yemcolelpt relaxing
- He always checks the reptaemteru
- it is lgelial to swim

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Car

You think cars are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the helicopter, the bicycle or trains.

Role B – Helicopter

You think helicopters are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cars, bicycles or trains.

Role C – Bicycle

You think bicycles are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): helicopters, cars or trains.

Role D – Train

You think trains are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): helicopters, bicycles or cars.

Speaking – Transport

Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| • car | • bus |
| • motorbike | • subway |
| • ferry | • tuk-tuk |
| • helicopter | • train |

Answers – True False

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