

## Germany issues cheap public transport ticket

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Public transport is an important part of many peoples' lives. We need it to go to work, visit family and friends, go sightseeing and go about our daily business. However, in many countries, trains, buses and subways are very expensive. A new

scheme in Germany has been launched to make getting around easier. Transport companies have got together to create the Germany Ticket. This allows people who buy it to use all local and regional transportation across the country for just 49 euros (\$53.90) a month. The ticket is valid for all forms of public transport in Germany except for long-distance intercity trains. More than three million tickets were sold on the day of the launch.

Transportation bosses hope the new Germany Ticket will be good for the environment. They want more people to leave their cars at home and use more environmentally friendly forms of transportation. Germany's Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, welcomed the new ticket. He said it is "an easy and cheap offer that will make public transit more attractive and help us to achieve our climate goals". Germany aims to become carbon neutral by 2050. A transportation analyst said the Germany Ticket was a "revolution" for Germany. He said: "We need a scheme that puts rail before road and get passengers onto trains and buses". Another analyst hopes other countries will start a similar ticket.

Sources: [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) / [bloomberg.com](https://bloomberg.com) / [huffpost.com](https://huffpost.com)

### Writing

All public transport should be free. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

public transport / visit family / sightseeing / expensive / scheme / local / ticket / day / boss / environmentally friendly / attractive / revolution / road / rail / bus / passenger

### True / False

- 1) The article says we use public transport for our daily business. T / F
- 2) The government created the Germany Ticket. T / F
- 3) The Germany Tickets covers all buses and trains in Germany. T / F
- 4) People bought more than three million Germany Tickets in one hour. T / F
- 5) The Germany Ticket will be better for the environment. T / F
- 6) Germany's chancellor was happy with the Germany Ticket. T / F
- 7) Germany aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. T / F
- 8) An analyst hopes other countries will introduce similar tickets. T / F

### Synonym Match

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

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>important</b>  | a. big change    |
| 2. <b>scheme</b>     | b. not including |
| 3. <b>allows</b>     | c. chiefs        |
| 4. <b>valid</b>      | d. system        |
| 5. <b>except for</b> | e. lets          |
| 6. <b>bosses</b>     | f. major         |
| 7. <b>forms</b>      | g. appealing     |
| 8. <b>attractive</b> | h. comparable    |
| 9. <b>revolution</b> | i. acceptable    |
| 10. <b>similar</b>   | j. kinds         |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Will the Germany Ticket be good for the environment?
- c) Are trains and buses good for the environment?
- d) What do you think of countries becoming carbon neutral?
- e) What are the bad things about public transport?
- f) How often do you use the public transport system in your country?
- g) What do you dislike about public transportation?
- h) What questions would you like to ask transportation bosses?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Public transport is an important part | a. onto trains             |
| 2. go about our daily                    | b. subways                 |
| 3. trains, buses and                     | c. of public transport     |
| 4. use all local and                     | d. friendly forms          |
| 5. The ticket is valid for all forms     | e. of many peoples' lives  |
| 6. the new Germany Ticket will be good   | f. neutral by 2050         |
| 7. use more environmentally              | g. for the environment     |
| 8. help us to achieve our climate        | h. business                |
| 9. Germany aims to become carbon         | i. goals                   |
| 10. get passengers                       | j. regional transportation |

## Discussion – Student B

- How important is public transport?
- What's public transportation like where you live?
- Do you prefer buses or trains?
- Do you think public transportation is expensive?
- Should we use bicycles instead of public transportation?
- What do you think of the Germany Ticket?
- Where would you go if public transportation was free?
- How can we make public transportation better?

## Spelling

- go hetgnesqsii
- A new cmehes in Germany
- all local and airgloen transportation
- ialdv for all forms of public transport
- except for long-antcdise intercity trains
- tickets were sold on the day of the naulch
- good for the mevtneroni
- make public transit more etaatritcv
- Germany aims to become carbon elunart
- the Germany Ticket was a vioeltunro
- get paerngsse onto trains
- other countries will start a amirsil ticket

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Trains

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

### Role B – Bicycles

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

### Role C – Airplanes

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

### Role D – Buses

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

## Speaking – Transport

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

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| • Trains    | • Motorbikes |
| • Airplanes | • Ferries    |
| • Bicycles  | • Buses      |
| • Taxis     | • E-scooters |

### Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.