

Do millennials¹ have a lower rate of car ownership than older generations? [...]

Answer by Quora² contributor Rebecca Massey (*1984), October 16, 2017

I don't know what the actual numbers are, but I could easily believe that they're proportionally lower than previous generations. [...]

No, it's not because we're so environmentally conscious we're electing to go carless in order to save the world. I love my car -- my trusty little econobox is one of the best things I've ever owned. And I live in an exurb³ with no public transit. [...]

And it's also not because we're spoiled brats who want our parents to chauffeur us everywhere, as part and parcel of never growing up, never learning any responsibility, never getting a job, and living at home forever. Very few people of any age want to live like that. [...]

There's no big, inscrutable philosophical shift that's gone on. It really comes down to two very simple things.

Lots of us don't need cars. Many of us are moving to where the jobs are -- big cities. So, many of us live in places where a car is unnecessary or even a liability. Even in places where public transportation isn't an option, carshare services like Zipcar and rideshare services like Lyft and Uber make it easier than ever to use a car only when you need one, and not worry about it when you don't. Shopping online can bring almost any good imaginable straight to our doorsteps. [...] We used to have to go out somewhere to hang out with friends; technological advances now make it possible to hang out with friends on opposite sides of the world from the comfort of our own homes. [...]

Lots of us can't afford cars. Most of us are underemployed, if we're employed at all. Many of us who went to college are drowning under huge student loan payments. The dollars we do earn don't go as far as they would have gone even ten years ago. A significant proportion of us simply don't have the money to take on the cost of buying a car outright or making a car payment, plus gas, insurance, maintenance, and repairs.

As with so many other things -- it's the economy. You used to need your own car to do almost anything, but no longer, thanks to innovations in goods and services. And, cars cost a lot of money [...]. That's all there is to it. Many of us still happily buy and drive cars, but now that there are viable alternatives, many of us simply choose to do otherwise.

Adapted from: <https://www.quora.com/Do-millennials-have-a-lower-rate-of-car-ownership-than-older-generations-If-so-why> (Letzter Zugriff: 02.04.2020)

¹ The term millennial applies to individuals born between 1982 and 2000, also known as the Generation Y.

² Quora is a question-and-answer website where questions are asked, answered, edited, and organized by its community of users in the form of opinions.

³ to live in an exurb – to live beyond the city's outskirts

Tasks on the text:⁴

Do the following tasks in English. Complete sentences are not required.

1 Complete the following sentences either with „increased“ or „decreased“ to compare millennials with previous generations.

- a) The share of young people who own a car has _____ .
- b) Rideshare services have _____ .
- c) The real value of the money young people earn has _____ .

2 Millennials do not necessarily need to own cars. Add three more reasons.

- there are varied mobility options
-
-
-

3 Choose the three correct statements about millennials. Write the corresponding letters into the boxes.

Many millennials

- a) Are afraid of taking responsibility.
- b) Do not expect their parents to drive them.
- c) Are unwilling to leave home.
- d) Do not want to go out to meet friends.
- e) Have to repay debts.
- f) Cannot finance car ownership.

4 Tick the sentence that matches the text's message best.

- a) Environmental concerns and leisure activities prevent millennials from purchasing cars.
- b) Financial reasons and available means of transport prevent millennials from purchasing cars.
- c) Millennials are couch potatoes and do not need to drive a lot.
- d) Millennials do not fancy driving as much as older generations.

⁴ Vergleichsarbeit Berufliches Gymnasium, Sachsen, Klassenstufe 11, Englisch, 2018/19

Mediation⁵

Als Mitglied des Redaktionsteams des Schülerblogs an Ihrer Schule sind Sie verantwortlich für die Rubrik „Was geht sonst noch so?“. Von Ihrem Physiklehrer haben Sie einen Hinweis für ein naturwissenschaftliches Jugendcamp erhalten. Bei Ihrer anschließenden Recherche stoßen Sie auf folgendes Infoblatt des Veranstalters.

Verfassen Sie auf Grundlage des Infoblatts einen deutschsprachigen Blogeintrag. Informieren Sie über den diesjährigen Austragungsort und das Ziel des Camps, die Teilnahmevoraussetzungen, die Arbeitsweise und die konkreten Aufgaben jedes Teilnehmers. Verweisen Sie auch auf die Homepage des Veranstalters.

The International Astronomical Youth Camp (IAYC) is a three-week long summer camp aiming to promote knowledge of astronomy and related sciences in a unique international atmosphere. It is organised by an international team of students and young scientists and it takes place somewhere else in Europe every year – the IAYC 2019 will be taking place in Klingenthal, Germany.

To participate in the IAYC you must be between 16 and 24 years old. As all the participants come from many different countries, be prepared to use English as the camp language.

Since the IAYC is an astronomy camp, you should be interested in science and astronomy. So remember: Interest is what counts – it does not matter whether you are studying science or have ever seen a telescope before.

During the camp you will work on a project of your choice. Taking into account each participant's previous knowledge, telescope introduction and projects at all levels will be offered. Collaboration between participants is encouraged as projects aren't usually carried out alone. Throughout the camp, the IAYC provides several telescopes which are suitable for observing and taking of astro-pictures.

You and your project partners will also work independently. This means you will read up on the topic by yourselves, explain things to each other, carry out necessary observations, calculations, measurements, etc. In short, you should not expect a school-like environment where a teacher provides all the information and tells you what to do. Finally, participants document their projects in a report.

After the camp all reports will be collected and compiled into a report book, which will then be sent to you. The report book will enable you to find out more about the other projects that were done at the camp.

For more information – including prices and deadlines – please visit <https://www.iayc.org/>.

⁵ Vergleichsarbeit Berufliches Gymnasium, Sachsen, Klassenstufe 11, Englisch, 2018/19