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Bicycles and Motorcycles

In busy cities, bicycles and motorcycles are useful. They are narrow, so they can go past cars and buses in traffic jams. Can you ride a bicycle?

Bicycles

The first bicycles were made of wood. Then after 1850 they were made of metal. Early bicycles, called high-wheel bicycles, were uncomfortable because they had no tires. The front wheel was very big, and there were no gears or brakes. Cyclists often crashed.

Modern bicycles are safer because they have brakes and their wheels are both the same size. They also have rubber tires so they are comfortable. People cycle to work or school, and for fun and sport. Bicycles are good because they don't produce pollution.



There are 1,000 million bicycles in the world, and only 600 million cars.

A High-Wheel Bicycle

How Bicycles Work

The cyclist sits on the saddle and turns the pedals. The pedals move the chain, and the chain powers the back wheel. Gears help the bicycle to go faster, or to go up hills. The cyclist stops the bicycle with the brakes. It's good for cyclists to wear a helmet and gloves. These protect their head and hands in a fall or a crash.

