

# Air Pollution - Facts

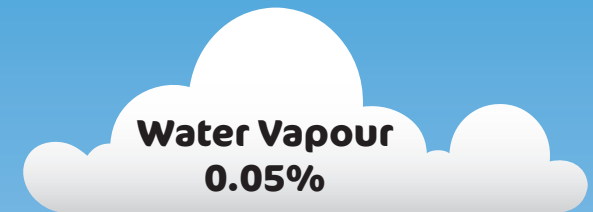
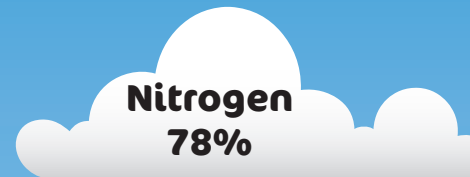
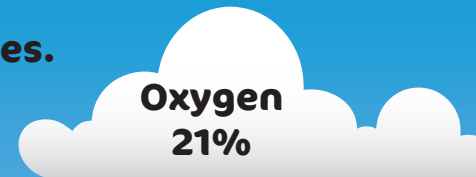
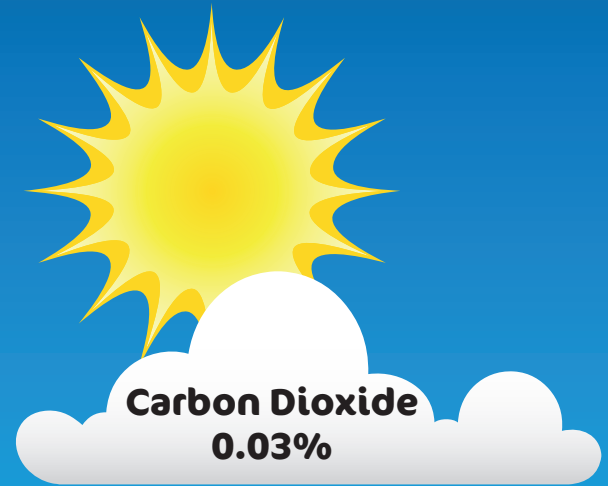
**Air is a mixture of gases that we breathe:**

**There are also small amounts of other gases and dust particles.**

- All plants and animals must take in oxygen to stay alive – they need clean air to remain healthy.
- Adults breathe about 360 litres of oxygen a day.
- Air becomes polluted when other gases or particles become mixed with it.

## Common pollutants

- Sulphur dioxide from burning coal and oil.
- Nitrogen oxide and Nitrogen dioxide from **car exhausts** and factories.
- Carbon monoxide from **car exhausts**.
- Particles from **vehicle exhausts** and industries.
- Volatile Organic Compounds from industries, chemicals and paints.
- Lead [Pb] from petrol **car exhausts** and industries.



# Car exhaust emissions are a major contributor to air pollution

## **Particulates**

Tiny carbon particles cause  
smell and dirt near roads

Cancer-forming chemicals  
are carried deep into the  
lungs on particulates

## **Carbon monoxide**

Deprives the body  
of oxygen

Can cause drowsiness

90% of carbon monoxide  
is produced by traffic

## **Nitrogen oxides**

Cause breathing  
difficulties

Damage buildings

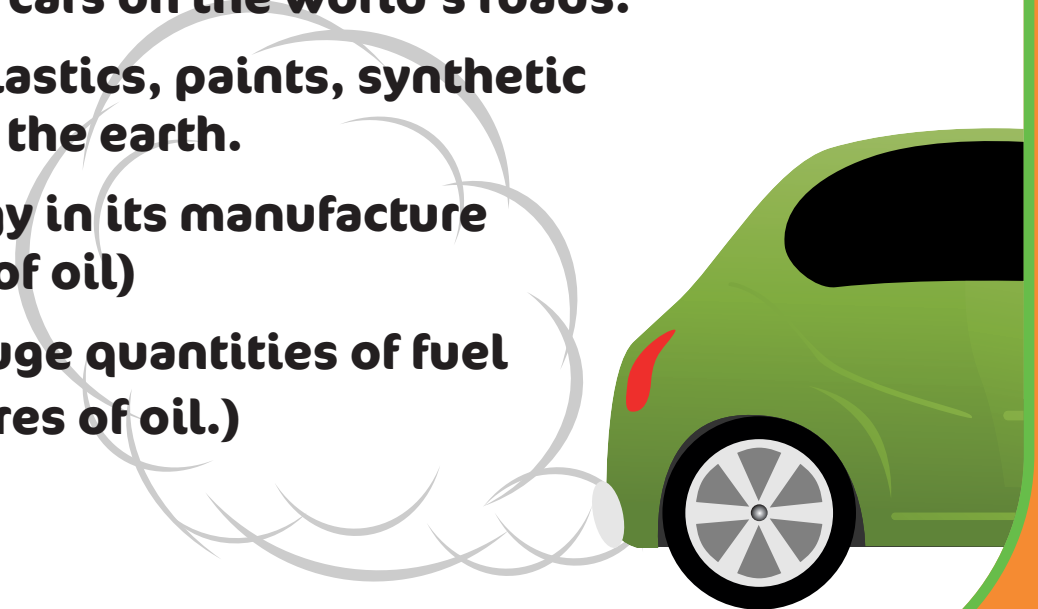
Cause acid rain

Lead to low level ozone



## **Environmental impact of cars - FACTS**

- **Each day about 100,000 new cars leave factories around the world - over one a second.**
- **There are currently around 400 million cars on the world's roads.**
- **Each new car uses steel, aluminium, plastics, paints, synthetic rubber and other resources taken from the earth.**
- **Each new car uses a great deal of energy in its manufacture (equivalent to 335 gallons/1500 litres of oil)**
- **In its lifetime each car will consume huge quantities of fuel and oil (about 2,250 gallons/10,000 litres of oil.)**





## Did you know...?

- If the rest of the world used resources at the same rate as Britain, **we would need 3 planets to survive.**
- At only **22 weeks old**, a British person has been responsible for the same amount of carbon emissions as a person in Tanzania generates in a **lifetime.**
- If the world's resources were shared equally, the average British person would have used up their yearly carbon allowance **by February.**
- **A car** uses approximately **21** times more fuel per person than **a bus.**