

LESSON 4

READ ABOUT SUPER COMMUTING



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Zoey gave me a cool article on super commuters. How far would you travel for work?

1 BEFORE YOU READ

- A PAIRS** Describe how your friends commute. Do they have a short or long commute? Do they drive? Walk? Take a train or bus?



- B VOCABULARY** ▶01-20 Listen. Then listen and repeat.

frequent: happening very often
disadvantage: a bad part of something
successful: A successful business makes money.
distance: the space between two places



2 READ

- A READING SKILL** Read the Reading Skill. Answer the questions.

1. What do you think the article will be about?

2. What do you think a *super commuter* is?

- B** ▶01-21 Listen. Read an article about super commuters. Why do people choose to be super commuters?

READING SKILL

Make predictions

Predicting makes it easier to understand articles. Before you read this article, read the title and subtitles. Then look at the pictures. Can you guess what this article will be about? How does the title help you? How do the pictures help you?

SUPER COMMUTERS

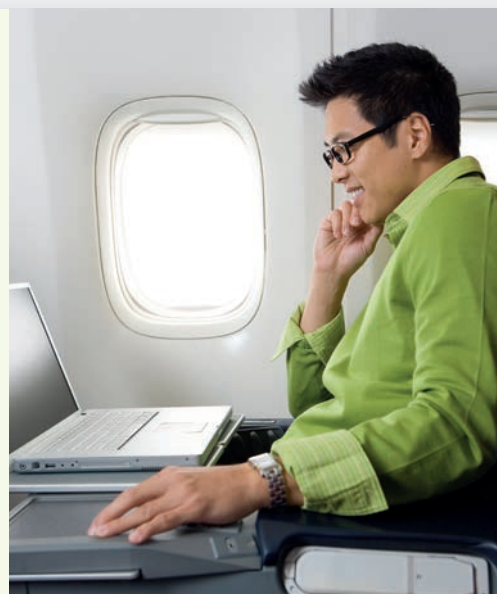
Akio Fujikawa has a long commute. His office is far from his home—almost five hours away by plane! He works in Tokyo, but he lives in Hanoi. Martha Connor's commute is even longer—more than 5,000 miles (about 9,000 km) from London to Mexico City. They are both super commuters—people who travel more than 180 miles (290 km) between their home and office. Why do they do it?

The Fujikawas: A great life at a good price

"The cost of living in Tokyo was too high," explains Akio. "Hanoi is always exciting, but nothing is very expensive," he says. "Also, flights between the two cities are frequent and cheap!" So, five years ago, the family moved to Vietnam. He and his family love Hanoi, especially the Vietnamese food. Every Monday, Akio flies to Tokyo and returns on Thursday night. He stays with his sister while he is in Tokyo. He works from his apartment in Hanoi on Fridays. There is one big disadvantage, though. He misses his children during the week. "I can never go to their school concerts or sports activities."

The Connors: Technology helps a family stay together

Two years ago, Martha Connor's office moved from London to Mexico City. She loves Mexico City, but her family doesn't want to live in another country. Her husband owns a successful restaurant. Her children like their school in London, and they don't want to leave their friends. So Martha became a super commuter. She spends only about ten days a month in Mexico City. She and her coworkers talk face-to-face and share ideas at video meetings almost every day. All the company's documents are available online. "I can live in London and stay up to date with work in the office in Mexico City," she explains. "The only problem is the time difference. My workday starts in the afternoon and ends at midnight!"



▲ Super commuters travel long distances to get to work.

3 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A Circle the correct answers.

- Why does Akio super commute?
 - He doesn't want to leave his family during the week.
 - It was too expensive to live in Tokyo.
 - He likes to work from home.
- Why does Martha super commute?
 - Mexico City was too expensive. London is cheaper.
 - The frequent flights from London to Mexico make super commuting easy.
 - Her husband and children wanted to stay in London.

B Who probably said it? Write A (Akio) or M (Martha) in the blanks.

- "My kids' school is great!"
- "My co-workers are far away, but technology makes it easy for us to work together."
- ___ "I don't see my children enough."
- ___ "My apartment was too expensive."
- "I am so tired in the mornings."
- ___ "It's so easy to travel between the two cities."

C **FOCUS ON LANGUAGE** Read. What do the underlined words mean?

- The cost of living in Tokyo was too high.
 - the price of food, clothes, an apartment, etc.
 - money that you get every week or every month from working
- I can live in London and stay up to date with work in the office in Mexico City.
 - know if something is late
 - know about everything that is happening

D **PAIRS** What is the article about? Retell the most important ideas in the article. Use your own words.

The article is about two super commuters ...

Search for stories about other super commuters.



4 MAKE IT PERSONAL

A What is good about super commuting? What is bad about it? Make two lists. Review the advantages and disadvantages listed in the article and add some of your own.

B **PAIRS** Imagine you are a super commuter. What do you like about it? What do you dislike? Use the information in the chart from A to explain your answer.

I like super commuting because I save money.

Advantages	Disadvantages
saves money	far from family