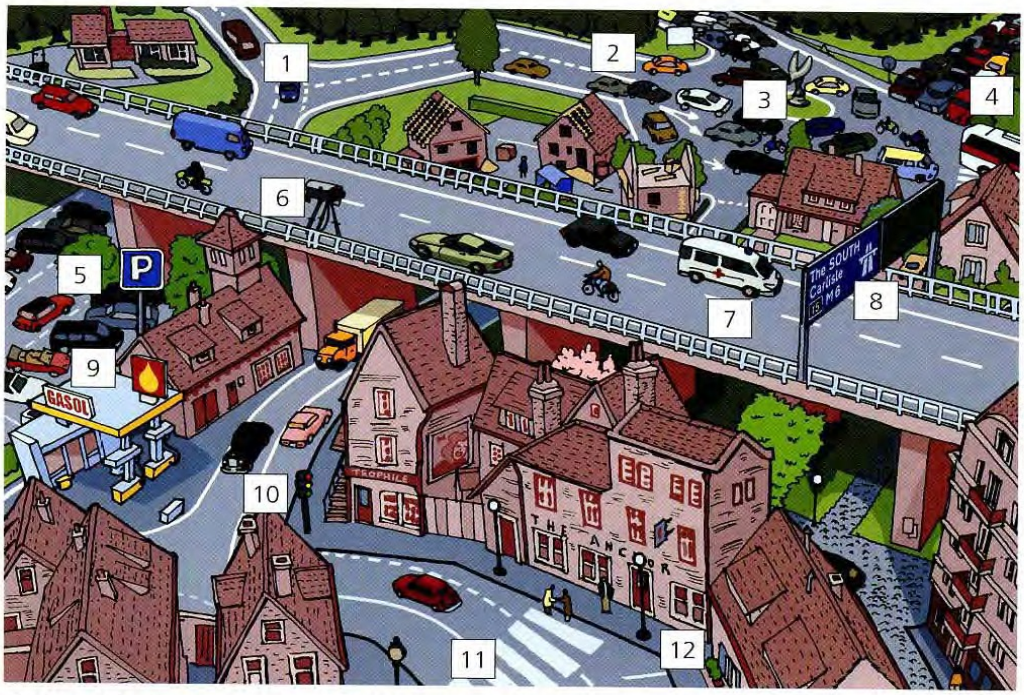
32 I can talk about roads and traffic

A In town



1 **junction**	4 **traffic jam**	7 **main road**	10 **traffic light(s)**
2 **traffic** U	5 **car park**	8 **road sign**	11 **pedestrian crossing**
3 **roundabout**	6 **speed camera**	9 **petrol station**	12 **pavement**

1 **Circle the correct answer.**

- ▶ traffic park/light
- 1 petrol station/jam
- 2 main sign/road
- 3 speed light/camera
- 4 road camera/sign
- 5 pedestrian crossing/park
- 6 car road/park
- 7 traffic jam/crossing

2 **Complete the sentences.**

- ▶ You can go – the traffic light is green.
- 1 Where's the nearest petrol _____ ?
- 2 We live on a noisy _____ road.
- 3 Can you read that road _____ ?
- 4 The car _____ was full, so we parked on the street.
- 5 Drivers have to stop at a pedestrian _____ .
- 6 Be careful! There are _____ cameras on the main road.
- 7 At the _____ , do we go left, right or straight on?
- 8 The _____ is always bad between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- 9 Walk on the _____ , not in the road!
- 10 Drive slowly and turn left at the next _____ .

3 **Test yourself. Cover the words and name the things in the pictures.**

B Out of town

Beth (B) and Marco (M) are talking.

M **How far is it** from London to Bath?
B It's about 115 miles. That's 185 kilometres.
M And what's the best way to get there?
B Right. **Take** the M4 **motorway** from London. At junction 18, take the A46. It's ten miles from there.
M Thanks. And what's the **speed limit** on motorways here?
B 70 **miles an hour**. That's about 110 **kilometres an hour.**
M OK. And are they very **busy**?
B Yes, and you get traffic jams in the **rush hour** – especially when there's an **accident**.
M But you still use the motorway?
B Yes, because there are three **lanes** on most motorways in Britain, so it's easy to **overtake.** Oh, and Marco – remember to **drive** on the left!

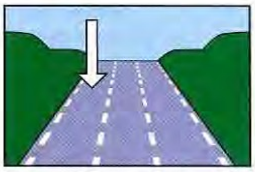
Glossary

How far is it? = How many kilometres or miles is it?
take the M4 go on to and travel on the M4
motorway a large, fast road between towns
speed limit the fastest speed you are permitted to go
busy A busy road has a lot of cars on it. OPP **quiet**
rush hour the time when a lot of people are travelling to and from work

accident



lane



overtake pass another car by going faster
drive go somewhere in your car

4 Cover the glossary. Write the words for the meanings.

► The part of the road where cars travel, with white lines. lane
1 A large, fast road between two towns. _____
2 The busy time when people go to work. _____
3 Pass another car by driving faster. _____
4 The fastest speed you are permitted to go. _____
5 When something bad happens, e.g. cars crash. _____
6 The opposite of *a busy road*. _____

5 Complete the sentences.

► You can take a country road, but the motorway is quicker.
1 It's a very _____ road in the rush hour.
2 Go into the fast _____ when you _____ other cars on the motorway.
3 How _____ is it from Paris to Marseille? ~ It's 740 kms.
4 The best way to get to the airport is to _____ the M25. Oh, remember to _____ on the left!

6 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY **Write your answers or ask another student.**

1 How many lanes do motorways have? _____
2 What's the speed limit on motorways? _____
3 Do you have speed cameras on roads? _____
4 Do you drive on the left in your country? _____
5 When's the rush hour? _____

Středa post-beginners hodina 8 2026 Unit 32 roads and traffic

English	Czech	English	Czech	English	Czech
Junction	Křižovatka (*jakýkoli typ)*	**traffic**	doprava / provoz	**roundabout**	kruhový objezd
crossroad(s)	*(2 křížící se cesty)*				
traffic jam	dopravní zácpa	**car park**	parkoviště	**speed camera**	radar
main road	hlavní silnice	**road sign/ traffic sign** */sajn* /	dopravní značka	**petrol station**	čerpací stanice
traffic lights	semafor	**pedestrian crossing**	přechod pro chodce	**pavement**	chodník
It is allowed	je dovoleno				

Student A	**Student B**
Is a crossroad a type of junction?	Are there traffic lights on the crossroad near Kokos?
Are there traffic lights on the crossroads in Habešovna?	When you drive out of Ostravská street to Cyrila Boudy street, are you on the main road?
Is there a car park in Sítná?	How many car parks are there in Sítná?
Is there a roundabout in Sítná?	How many roundabouts are there in Sítná?
Is the traffic bad at 6 p.m. on weekdays?	Is the traffic bad on Sunday evenings?
Are there any speed cameras in your neighbourhood?	Do speed cameras help road safety?
How many petrol stations are there near your home?	Is there a petrol station near Sítná?
Is the pavement in Ostravská street wide or narrow?	Is the pavement in Ostravská street clean or dirty?
Is it allowed to cycle on the pavement?	Is it allowed to park a car on the pavement
Is there a pedestrian crossing in Ostravská street?	Is the pedestrian crossing in front of your school safe?
Are there too many traffic signs in our town?	Are traffic signs in Europe the same?
Do you prefer crossroads or roundabouts?	Are roundabouts safer than crossroads?

What about you?

When you drive, do you always stop for pedestrians to cross?

When you want to cross the street at a pedestrian crossing, do you always look left and right?

When you are crossing the street, do you always stop looking at your mobile?

Do you think that it is dangerous for children an teenagers to cross the street with headphones?

Are you sometimes afraid to cross the street?

In your opinion, are pedestrian crossings in Kladno safe?

Word bank: pavement · traffic jam · petrol station · junction · pedestrian crossing · roundabout

1. Be careful when you cross the road. Always use the _____.
2. There are many cars and buses. We are in a _____.
3. Turn left at the next _____.
4. You can buy petrol at a _____.
5. Walk on the _____, not in the road.
6. Turn right at the _____ and take the second exit.

Word bank: speed camera · main road · car park · road sign · traffic lights · pavement

1. You must stop when the _____ are red.
2. We left our car in the _____ near the shopping centre.
3. Look at that _____. It tells us where to turn.
4. Be careful! There is a _____ on this road.
5. We live on a busy _____.
6. Turn right at the traffic lights and follow the _____.

- - -

How far is it?	Jak daleko to je?	**motorway**	dálnice	**lane**	jízdní pruh
take the M4	jet po dálnici M4	**speed limit**	nejvyšší povolená rychlost	**overtake**	předjíždět
busy	rušný, frekventovaný	**rush hour**	dopravní špička	**drive on the left**	jezdit vlevo
quiet	klidný, málo frekventovaný	**accident**	nehoda	**kilometres an hour**	kilometrů za hodinu

Word bank: speed limit · lane · accident · motorway · overtake · How far is it?

1. Be careful! There has been an _____ on the main road.
2. You mustn't drive faster than the _____.
3. _____ from Prague to Brno?
4. Don't _____ another car if you can't see the road clearly.
5. There are three _____ on this road.
6. We usually take the _____ because it's faster.

Word bank: quiet · take the M4 · kilometres an hour · rush hour · drive on the left · busy

1. In Britain, you have to _____.
2. The roads are very _____ in the morning, when everyone goes to work.
3. We usually _____ when we travel to Bath.
4. The speed limit is 110 _____.
5. The roads are much quieter outside _____.
6. We live in a small village with very _____ roads.

Monica's Drive to Work

Monica drives to work every morning. She lives in a quiet village outside the city, but she works in a busy office in the town centre. It usually takes her about 30 minutes to get there.

1. Where does Monica live?
2. Where does she work?
3. How long does her journey usually take?

First, she drives along a country road and then joins the main road. There isn't much traffic early in the morning, so she can drive quite fast. However, she must always watch the speed limit because there is a speed camera near the village.

1. What kind of road does Monica drive along first?
2. Why can she drive quite fast?
3. Why must she be careful about her speed?

When she gets closer to the city, the roads become busier. She takes the motorway for a short distance and then leaves it at the next junction. She has to drive through two roundabouts before she reaches the city centre.

1. What happens to the traffic when Monica gets closer to the city?
2. Where does she leave the motorway?
3. How many roundabouts does she drive through?

Today, the traffic is terrible. There is a long traffic jam because there has been an accident at a busy crossroads. Two cars have crashed, and one of them has damage to the front. The police are already there, and other drivers have to drive slowly.

1. Why is there a traffic jam?
2. How many cars have crashed?
3. Which part of one car is damaged?
4. Who is already at the accident?

Monica looks at the road signs and turns left at the next set of traffic lights. She sees a bus, several motorbikes and lots of cars. At one point, a driver tries to overtake her, but there isn't enough space between the lanes.

1. Where does Monica turn left?
2. What kinds of vehicles does she see?
3. Why can't the other driver overtake her?

Finally, Monica arrives at her office. She finds a space in the car park and parks her car. She is ten minutes late, but she is happy to be at work safely.

“Tomorrow I'll leave home earlier,” she thinks. “Perhaps I'll avoid the rush hour!” *avoid – vyhnout se*

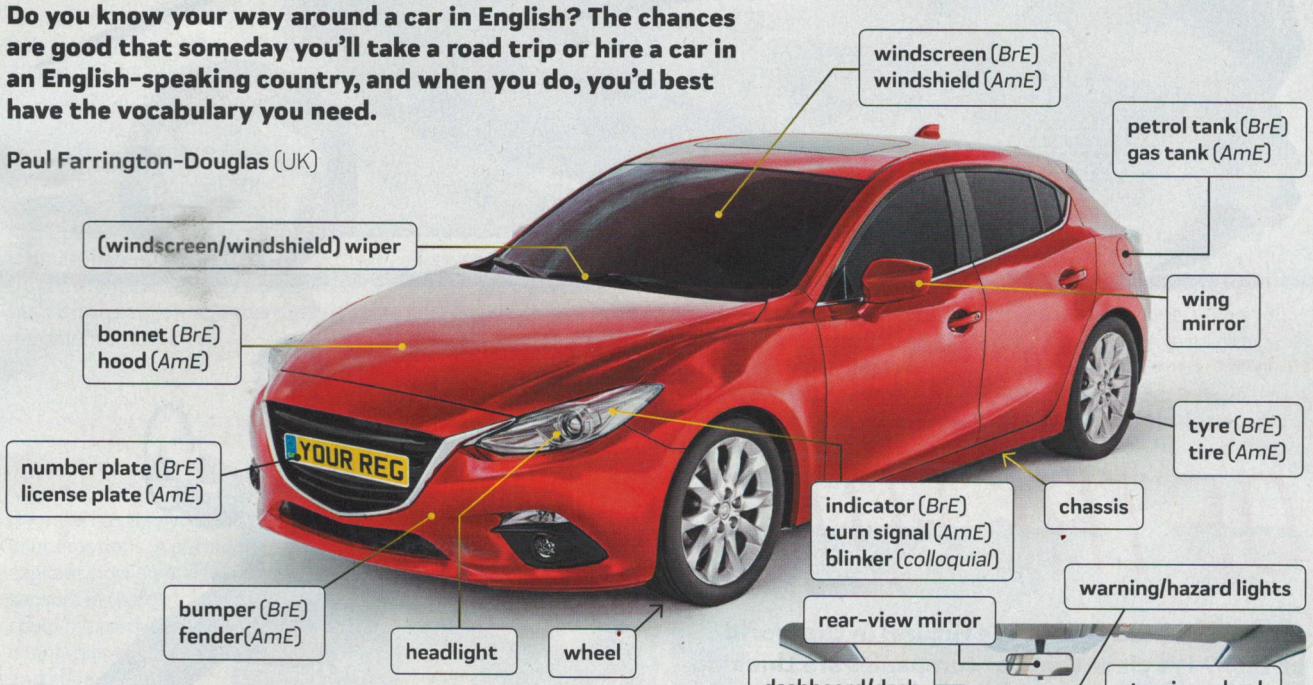
1. Where does Monica park her car?
2. How late is she?
3. What does she decide to do tomorrow?
4. Why does she want to leave earlier?

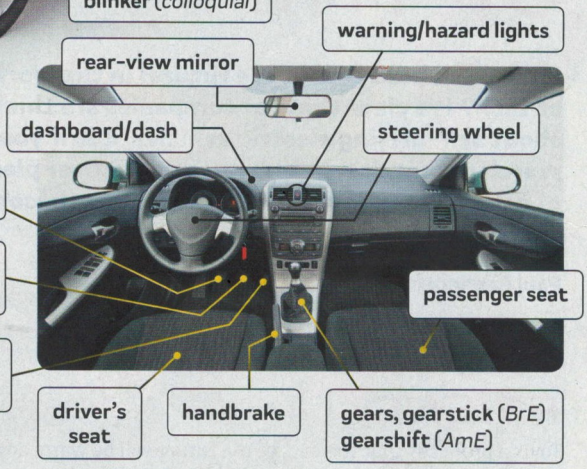
Homework : Write a few sentences about you or your family member or colleague driving to work.

TAKE THE WHEEL

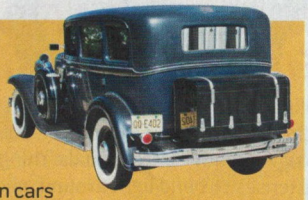
Do you know your way around a car in English? The chances are good that someday you'll take a road trip or hire a car in an English-speaking country, and when you do, you'd best have the vocabulary you need.

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)





DID YOU KNOW?



The Americans and British both invented extra storage space on cars at about the same time, but they called it different things. The Brits chose **boot** because this was the existing name for a storage box on a horse-drawn carriage. The Americans chose **trunk** because in the early days it was literally a trunk – a storage box or suitcase – attached to the back of the car.



"CAN YOU DRIVE STICK?"

Cars can have manual or automatic transmission. Manual is when you have a gearstick (*BrE*) / gearshift (*AmE*) that normally goes from 1 to 5 or 6 (plus R for reverse). Automatic is when the car changes gear on its own and the gearstick/gearshift only has "neutral", "drive", "park" and "reverse". Most people in the US learn to drive automatic cars, and only some can "drive stick" (use manual transmission).

CAR IDIOMS

What do you think these car-related idioms mean?

"We were bumper to bumper all the way from Zagreb to Brno."

"When the examiners looked at Judd, he felt like a rabbit in the headlights."

"We need to put the brakes on and figure out a new strategy."

"Politicians were asleep at the wheel when covid-19 arrived."

"When I first started my new company, my husband was a terrible backseat driver."

"The meeting was going nowhere, so Julie took the wheel."

"Come and kick the tires on this latest version of the software."

"I finally feel like I'm in the driver's seat."

"I really need a holiday – I'm running on empty."

"I got in a fender bender on the way home today."

"Our reviewer takes a look under the bonnet of the newest Apple laptop."

"The book's slow at first but the story shifts gears in the third chapter."

S **Solutions on the CD, in the TF and next month on the Bridge website**