

EPISODE 25
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



DRIVING



Almost every family has a few cars nowadays. There are too many cars in the streets and that is why accidents happen very often. Drivers try to **overtake** (= come from behind and move in front of) other cars because they are in a hurry. They **speed up** (= go faster) and they often **exceed the speed limit** (= go faster than they officially can). If they want to **slow down** (= drive more slowly), they have to **brake** (= make a car go slower or stop). Sometimes their cars **skid** (= drivers lose control because they drive on something slippery), especially if the road is icy, and they **crash into** (= hit) other cars. **Head-on collisions** (= accidents in which the fronts of two vehicles hit each other) are the most dangerous situations on the road.

More contexts for the new words:

- I have to **fill my car up**.
(= I have to go to the petrol station because I have no gas.)
- She **reversed** the car into the parking space.
(= She drove backwards)
- Does your car have four or five **gears**?
(= something that controls how much power from an engine goes to the moving parts of a machine)



EXERCISE 1

Use the words from the text to complete the story.

I was driving not too fast, careful not to (1) e..... the speed limit, when I saw a car in front of me which was going much slower. I decided to (2) o..... it (its speed was much too slow for me), and I shifted into a higher (3) g..... in order to go speed (4) Suddenly I saw a big truck coming towards me. I tried to (5) b....., but I couldn't slow down because there was lots of water on the road. I (6) s..... and crashed (7) a tree. I was lucky I did not have a head-(8) collision with the truck!



EXERCISE 2

Match phrases from the two columns to make questions and then answer them.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. How much does it cost | a. does your/ your friend's car have? |
| 2. Have you ever seen | b. to fill up a car in Poland? |
| 3. How many gears | c. to brake? |
| 4. Which pedal do you use | d. a head-on collision? |

ENGLISH IN USE



Let's look at the first sentence of the text:

Almost every family has **a few** cars nowadays.

"**A few**" is an expression which is used only with countable nouns and it means "between 2 and 5". Here are some more examples for you to look at:

There are **a few chairs** in the room.

There are **a few cars** in the street.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ My flat mate is making lots of mess, throwing loud parties, smoking and drinking in his room!

B/ Oh my, he must be **DRIVING YOU UP THE WALL!**

If you **drive someone up the wall**, you make them extremely angry.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **DRIVE AT** something, you try to say something.

*I can see what you're **driving at**.*

2. When you **PULL OVER**, you move to the side of the road and stop.

*Just **pull over** here, and I'll get out and walk the rest of the way.*



EXERCISE 3

Put the phrases into the correct order.

1. is driving me/ childish behavior/ My sister's/ up the wall
2. driving at?/ What/ are you
3. He just/ saying goodbye/drove off/ without/

NEWS



ROAD RAGE

More and more people are becoming **victims** of road rage – angry, and often violent behavior of car drivers. Frustrated drivers not only use **swear words** to comment on driving skills of the others, but also often get out of their cars and start fighting with those who got in front of them on their **lane**, or who – in their opinion – parked **inappropriately**.

Psychologists are wondering what causes this **bizarre** aggression, and think that the modern, fast **pace** of life is **to blame**. We are used to getting everything without waiting, so being **delayed** by another driver is really frustrating. What is the cure for road rage? Sit back, relax, take a few deep breaths, and simply try to calm down. Remember that stupid road behavior might happen to you, too.

GLOSSARY

- a **victim** – someone who has been hurt
- a **swear word** – a rude or offensive word
- a **lane** – part of a road that is separated from the other parts, usually by a painted line
- **inappropriately** – wrongly
- **bizarre** – strange
- **pace** – tempo
- **to blame** – guilty
- **delayed** – slower/ later

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. exceed | 5. brake |
| 2. overtake | 6. skidded |
| 3. gear | 7. into |
| 4. up | 8. on |

Ex.2

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

Ex.3

1. My sister's childish behavior is driving me up the wall.
2. What are you driving at?
3. He just drove off without saying goodbye.