

51 Vehicles and roads

A Vehicles and public transport



car



bus



coach



van



lorry/truck



bicycle/bike



motorbike/
motorcycle



taxi



the underground

GLOSSARY

vehicle	A car, a bus, a lorry, etc. are all types of vehicles .
public transport	buses, trains, etc. that everybody can use
coach	in Britain, a comfortable bus that takes people on long journeys
truck	is more common than lorry in American English.
motorcycle	is more common than motorbike in American English.
the underground	is called the subway in America.

SPOTLIGHT verbs used with vehicles

We **drive** a car, bus or taxi, but **ride** a bike or motorbike.
We often use **go** and **take** when we say how we travel.
■ I **go to work by bus or by car**. (BUT I **go to work on foot**. = walk)
■ My children **take the bus or the underground to school**.

1 Underline the correct answer(s). Sometimes both answers are correct.

- You don't see much if you take the bus / the underground.
- I go for / to work by bus.
 - She often drives her brother's car / bike.
 - He's just bought a new motorcycle / motorbike.
 - Do you often go by / on foot?
 - Can you ride / drive a motorcycle?
 - We often use public transport / the underground.
 - My uncle drives a lorry / truck.
 - I went from London to Scotland by bus / coach.

2 Complete the sentences.

- When it's late, I take a taxi but they can be very expensive.
- He never his bike in the winter: it's too cold.
 - I can take the train from Paris to Amsterdam but the is cheaper.
 - You often see very large on the motorways and other big roads.
 - I like taking the bus in big cities but the is usually quicker.
 - I'm too afraid to ride a big
 - I could drive, but I prefer to go on – and it's good exercise.
 - All can be dangerous, but especially large lorries.
 - Workmen often have so they can carry everything they need for their work.

3 ABOUT YOU Complete the sentences. If possible, ask someone else the questions.

- Can you drive? If so, when did you learn?
- When did you learn to ride a bike?
- How do you get to school, college or work? Are there different ways you can go?
- Can you ride a motorbike? If not, would you like to ride one?
- Is public transport good in your country? Is it expensive?
- Do you go anywhere by coach? Why? / Why not?



TEST YOURSELF

B On the road

Beth and Marco, who is from Italy, are talking about a **journey**.

Marco Beth, **how far is it** from London to Bath?

Beth Oh, about 110 miles. That's about 180 kilometres, Marco.

Marco And what's the best way to **get there**?

Beth I think the best way is the M4 **motorway** from London. Then, at **exit** 18, keep on the **main road**, the A46 – and that goes all the way to Bath. It's about ten miles.

Marco Right. And are the motorways very **busy**?

Beth Yes, **unfortunately** they are – there's a lot of **traffic**, especially in the **rush hour**, or if there is an accident.

Marco OK. And how fast can you go on motorways here?

Beth Well, the **speed limit** is 70 **miles per hour**, but lots of people go faster.

GLOSSARY

journey	an act of travelling from one place to another
How far is it?	= How many kilometres/miles is it?
get there / to a place	arrive at a place
motorway	a large and wide fast road between towns
exit	the place where you leave, e.g. a motorway, a cinema, etc.
main road	a large, important road
busy	A busy road has a lot of cars on it. OPP quiet
unfortunately	a word that shows you are not happy about sth
traffic [U]	all the cars and vehicles that are on a road
rush hour	the busy time when people are going to and from work
speed limit	the fastest that you are allowed to travel on a road
miles per hour (mph)	how fast sb is travelling (ALSO kilometres per hour OR kph)

4 Cover the glossary, then write your answers.

- ▶ the place where you leave somewhere such as a motorway exit
- 1 all the cars and vehicles that are on a road
- 2 a busy time when people go to and from work
- 3 an important road in or around a town
- 4 What does *mph* mean?
- 5 the fastest you can travel on a road
- 6 the opposite of a *busy road*
- 7 a very large fast road between big towns and cities

5 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ You can take a country road, but the motorway is quicker.
- 1 It's a very road in the rush
- 2 I saw an accident this morning on the road into town.
- 3 How is it from Paris to Marseille? ~ It's 740 kms.
- 4 Does it take long to there? ~ Yes, it does. It's very tiring.
- 5 It's a long and takes about five hours.

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

- 1 Is there a lot of traffic on motorways? If so, why?
- 2 How fast can cars travel on motorways?
- 3 Do you use motorways a lot? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Do you drive on the left in your country?
- 5 What time is the rush hour in the morning and evening?
- 6 What was the last long journey you went on?



TEST YOURSELF