

# BEARING TIME

## 1. READ

**A:** Excuse me, could you tell us where we can get some gas?  
**B:** Did you say gas?  
**A:** That's right.  
**B:** You're American, right? I can tell by your accent.  
**A:** Yes, we're from the States.  
**B:** Are you here on holiday?  
**A:** Well, I wouldn't exactly call our anniversary a holiday.  
**B:** Sorry?  
**A:** My wife and I have always wanted to take a vacation in England, so here we are!  
**B:** Well, you've chosen the best season to go camping. The weather is beautiful. There's a shop around the corner that sells...  
**A:** Who mentioned camping? We're staying at a hotel. I'm not sure I get what you mean. Anyway, where can we find some gas?  
**B:** Well, why do you need gas if you aren't going camping?



**A:** I think you misunderstood me. We need gas for the car. Do you know if there's a gas station nearby?  
**B:** Ah! You need a petrol station. Right, just go straight and after the bend, you'll see a zebra crossing. After that...  
**A:** Excuse me? A zebra doing what?  
**B:** A zebra crossing. You know, where people can cross from one pavement to the other?  
**A:** Pavement? I'm not following you.  
**B:** The thing I'm standing on now.  
**A:** Oh, you mean the sidewalk and crosswalk. Now, I understand.  
**B:** Great. After the crossing, you'll see a petrol station on the right. But at this time of day, you can expect a queue.  
**A:** A what? Oh, never mind. Thank you so much!  
**B:** No problem.  
**A:** Betty, let's just find the gas station and we can deal with whatever a 'Q' is when we get there. Oh, and honey, I think we should buy a phrasebook.



## 2. Read the dialogue again and find

1. three questions the American man uses to ask where he can find gas.

**2. four phrases the American man uses to show he doesn't understand.**

**3. three questions the British man uses to show he doesn't understand.**

3. Read the dialogue again and find sentences to prove the following.

1. The British man realizes the other man is not from the UK.

2. The American man misunderstands the word "holiday".

3. The British man believes the American man is going camping.

4. The British man realizes what the American man is referring to when he says "gas".

5. The British man explains what "pavement" means.

6. The American man doesn't know what "queue" means.