

# On the road

## Task 1. NOUNS

Complete the sentences with an appropriate word or expression from the box.

cyclists • speed limit • traffic • stop • motorway • junction  
pedestrians • roundabout • pedestrian crossing • one-way • bus lanes  
petrol station • traffic lights • bridge • roadworks • car park

1. We need to get some fuel. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ just up the road.
2. The fastest way of getting from London to Oxford is to take the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There's always a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ on the roads in the morning and evening.
4. The High Street is closed because of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Go over the \_\_\_\_\_, turn left at the first \_\_\_\_\_, and then take the third exit on the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. You can't leave your car here. You'll have to use the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Many towns have \_\_\_\_\_ so that people using public transport can get into and out of town more quickly.
8. Wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ to turn green before you continue.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ in most towns and cities is 30 miles per hour.
10. Many \_\_\_\_\_ fail to keep their bicycles in good condition or obey the rules of the road.
11. You can't turn right into that street. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ street.
12. When you're driving through town, be careful of \_\_\_\_\_ crossing the street.
13. This road is very busy and dangerous. If you want to get to the other side, use the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. I need to get a bus into town. Is there a (bus) \_\_\_\_\_ near here?

## Task 2. VERBS

Complete the story below with an appropriate word or expression from the box.

crashed • accelerated • indicate • reverse • overtake  
smashed • skidded • started up • braked • fasten • swerve  
adjust • sounded • check • stalled • release • pulled away

I've just finished my driving test and I think it went quite well. OK, so I made a few mistakes, but nothing too serious. For example, I forgot to 1. \_\_\_\_\_ the mirrors, with the result that I couldn't see anything behind me. Then, when I 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the car, I forgot that I had left it in first gear, so I 3. \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, and I forgot to 4. \_\_\_\_\_ my seatbelt. And 5. \_\_\_\_\_ the handbrake. When I eventually 6. \_\_\_\_\_ from the side of the road, I forgot to 7. \_\_\_\_\_ my mirrors; the driver of the car that almost 8. \_\_\_\_\_ into me as a result 9. \_\_\_\_\_ his horn and shouted something at me, but I didn't hear what. I nearly went through a red light, but saw it at the last second and tried to stop. Unfortunately, I lost control and my car 10. \_\_\_\_\_ across to

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the other side of the road - fortunately, the cars coming in the opposite direction managed to 11. \_\_\_\_\_ out of the way. At one point, I 12. \_\_\_\_\_ when I should have 13. \_\_\_\_\_, so instead of stopping, the car just went faster! Fortunately, the police car that I 14. \_\_\_\_\_ into the back of wasn't badly damaged and the policeman driving it didn't shout at me too loudly. At another time I had to 15. \_\_\_\_\_ somebody who was driving a bit slowly, but I forgot to 16. \_\_\_\_\_, so the drivers behind me had no idea what I was going to do. Finally, I managed to 17. \_\_\_\_\_ into a wall which I couldn't see behind me. I don't know if I've passed yet, because the examiner is still being treated for shock in the local hospital.

### Task 3. IDIOMS, COLLOQUIALISMS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS

**The worst driver in the world?** Read the following story and decide which of the words and expressions in bold correspond to the dictionary definitions 1 - 14.

My brother Ted must be the world's worst driver. It started when he was young and used to go for **joyrides**, causing **pile-ups** which resulted in **traffic jams** and **gridlocks** for other drivers. As a young adult, he was a real **boy racer**, **putting his foot down**, driving **like the clappers** and then **jamming on the brakes**. I reckon he must have **written off** at least six of the **bangers** he used to drive. He's still a real **road hog**, **tailgating** other cars and getting involved in **road rage** incidents. He's offered to **give me a lift** home tonight, but to be honest, I'd rather **thumb a lift**. He's **picking me up** in a few minutes; maybe I'd better have **one for the road**. At least it's **rush hour** and the roads will be **chock-a-block** so he won't be able to drive too fast! Honestly - sometimes he **drives me round the bend**!

1. To follow very closely behind another vehicle.
2. An old car, usually in poor condition.
3. To hitch-hike, to ask a car driver or a truck driver to take you as a passenger.
4. A person who drives fast and dangerously.
5. To accelerate very quickly.
6. To make someone angry or crazy.
7. A young man who drives fast and dangerously.
8. A trip for pleasure, usually in a stolen car.
9. To stop a vehicle very suddenly.
10. A final drink before leaving a bar or pub.
11. A violent attack by a driver on another car or its driver.
12. To damage a car so badly that it can no longer be repaired.
13. A crash involving a series of vehicles which have smashed into one another.
14. The time of the day when traffic is very bad, trains are crowded, etc.