

# 51 Vehicles and roads

## A Vehicles and public transport



car



bus



coach



van



lorry/truck



bicycle/bike



motorbike/  
motorcycle



taxi



the underground

### GLOSSARY

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

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

#### 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