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*.

1 I go *for / to* work by bus.
2 She often drives her brother's *car / bike*.
3 He's just bought a new *motorcycle / motorbike*.
4 Do you often go *by / on* foot?
5 Can you *ride / drive* a motorcycle?
6 We often use *public transport / the underground*.
7 My uncle drives a *lorry / truck*.
8 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.

1 He never _____ his bike in the winter: it's too cold.
2 I can take the train from Paris to Amsterdam but the _____ is cheaper.
3 You often see very large _____ on the motorways and other big roads.
4 I like taking the bus in big cities but the _____ is usually quicker.
5 I'm too afraid to ride a big _____.
6 I could drive, but I prefer to go on _____ – and it's good exercise.
7 All _____ can be dangerous, but especially large lorries.
8 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.**

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

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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? .....

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