27 Accidents



ambulance


helicopter



We reported earlier this morning on a major **incident** on the M5 just before the Gloucester **Service Station**. **Eyewitness** reports say a large lorry **pulled out** from the **inside lane** and **collided with** a BMW that was overtaking. The lorry then **spilled** part of its **load** of wood, causing a **massive pile-up** as vehicles crashed into falling **logs**. The driver of the BMW was reported to be in a **critical condition** and has been taken by **helicopter** to Bristol Southmeads Hospital, while **ambulances** have taken a further six or seven **casualties** to a nearby Gloucester hospital. We understand a passenger in the BMW died **at the scene** of the accident.

Two **lanes** of the motorway are now completely **blocked** and will be for some time, according to accident investigators. 'Vehicles are **scattered** all over the motorway and the damage is **extensive**,' said one. 'It's just **chaos** at the moment.' The police are advising motorists to **exit via Junction** 12, or avoid the area completely, if at all possible.

GLOSSARY

incident	sth that happens, especially sth unusual or unpleasant
service station	a place at the side of a motorway where there is a restaurant, toilets, petrol, etc.
eyewitness	a person who has seen a crime, accident, etc. and can describe it afterwards SYN **witness**
pull out	(of a car, etc.) move away from the side of a road
lane	a section of a road that is marked by white lines to keep traffic separate: ***inside lane***; ***overtaking lane***
collide (with sth/sb)	crash into sth; hit sth very hard while moving **collision** *n*
spill	go over the edge of a container by accident; make sth do this
load	sth that is being carried (usually in large amounts) by a person, vehicle, etc. **load** *v* put a large amount of sth into sth else
massive	very big SYN **huge**
pile-up	a crash that involves several cars
log	a thick piece of wood that has fallen or been cut from a tree
critical	dangerous or serious: *a patient in a* ***critical condition***
casualty	a person who is killed or injured in an accident or a war
scene	the place where sth happens: ***at the scene of the crash/crime***
block	make it difficult or impossible for sth/sb to pass
scatter	spread over a large area
extensive	large in area or amount: ***extensive damage***
chaos	a state of great confusion and a lack of order **chaotic** *adj*
exit	a place where traffic can leave a road or motorway **exit** *v*
via	through a place
junction	a place where roads meet; here, the place where a road goes off a motorway

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **The pronunciation of the letter 'i' is the same as in *bit* in eleven of the cases underlined. Which four are different? Use the APP to help you.**

incident service witness collide spill critical collision pile-up massive extensive via exit

....

2 **How many syllables are there in each of these words? Use the APP to help you.**

blocked casualty via exit scattered chaos ambulance helicopter

....

3 **Divide these words into the four groups below. A word may go in more than one group.**

lane eyewitness collide ambulance exit junction pile-up helicopter casualties

TRANSPORT	PEOPLE	ROADS	ACCIDENT
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

4 **What can you remember from the text? Write *T* (True) or *F* (False). Correct any sentences that are wrong.**

1 The incident happened in the morning. .....
2 Nobody saw what actually happened. .....
3 A lorry collided with a BMW. .....
4 The lorry spilled a load of bricks. .....
5 One person died on the way to hospital. .....
6 An ambulance took the driver of the BMW to hospital. .....
7 There were two or three other casualties. .....
8 Two lanes of the motorway are now open. .....
9 There is a lot of damage to vehicles. .....
10 Police are now advising motorists to enter via junction 12 of the motorway. .....

5 **Right or wrong? Write *R* or *W*, and correct any definitions that are wrong.**

1 If you ***pull out*** in a car, you get out while it is moving. .....
2 A ***junction*** is a place where you turn left or right. .....
3 ***Massive*** means very big. .....
4 A ***lane*** is the side of a road. .....
5 ***Casualties*** are people walking by when an accident happens. .....
6 ***Scattered*** means in lots of different places. .....
7 If you ***collide with*** something, you almost hit it. .....
8 ***Chaos*** is complete confusion. .....
9 An ***ambulance*** takes ill or injured people to hospital. .....
10 If you ***block*** somebody, you hit them. .....

6 **Complete the sentences.**

1 We stopped at a _____ on the M4 for petrol and to get something to eat.
2 If the road is clear, you should stay in the inside _____ of a motorway.
3 We passed one lorry carrying a _____ of material to one of the building sites.
4 Lorry drivers, protesting against the rising cost of fuel, _____ two lanes of the M32 today. The protest ended after an hour, and police described it as only a minor _____.
5 I was going to go on the motorway, but then decided to go _____ the smaller villages, which was a nicer route. Unfortunately, there was an accident, with vehicles everywhere. It was _____.
6 Keep going until you get to a large _____ with the A420. Turn right there.
7 It was a bad accident and several cars suffered _____ damage.
8 The car crashed into a pile of _____ at the side of the road. The wood went everywhere.
9 There was a huge _____ on the M3 this morning involving half a dozen vehicles. One person died and several are in a _____ condition.
10 If you're going to Bristol, take the M4 and _____ at Junction 19 or 20.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS