

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

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  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  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