

A

Roads



traffic lights



(road) junction

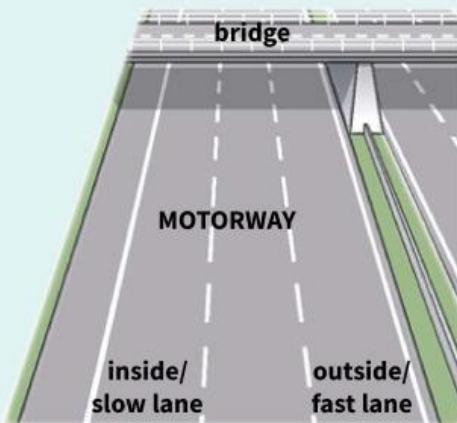
a **bend** in the road
(this road **bends** to the right)

pedestrian crossing

road signs

no overtaking
[you can't pass
another car]

speed limit



B

Finding your way

“Yesterday, I got lost¹ on my way to² the airport. I decided to use side roads and go via³ the village of Pensford, but I took the wrong turning⁴ just before I got there, and I ended up⁵ in a supermarket car park. Fortunately I was able to ask someone the way⁶, and a very kind woman directed⁷ me to the A38, where I could then follow signs for the airport.”

¹ didn't know where I was² while I was going to (the airport)³ go through somewhere to get to a destination⁴ corner where one road meets another⁵ found myself in a place I didn't expect to be in⁶ ask how to get to a place⁷ told me how to get to a place

C

An accident

“I saw an accident this morning on the main road¹ into town. A pedestrian² – a young boy – stepped off the pavement³ and into the road just as a car was approaching⁴. The driver braked⁵, but the car swerved⁶ and crashed into a parked car⁷ on the opposite side of the road. Fortunately the driver wasn't injured but both cars were quite badly damaged.”

¹ important road² a person walking³ the place where pedestrians walk⁴ coming closer⁵ put his foot on the brake to stop the car⁶ changed direction suddenly and without control⁷ a car next to the pavement, not moving

Language help

You **damage** a thing [harm or break it] but **injure** a person [hurt them]. The related nouns are **damage** and **injury**, e.g. *There was a lot of damage to the bike, but the cyclist only had minor injuries.*

Exercises

29.1 Which words are being defined?

- 1 part of a road that is separated from other parts by a line *lane*
- 2 people who are walking *pedestrians*
- 3 the place where people usually walk *sidewalk*
- 4 the place where people can cross the road *crossing*
- 5 the place where two roads meet *junction*
- 6 the thing you put your foot on to stop a car *pedal*
- 7 a message or symbol beside the road that gives information *sign*

29.2 Complete the information for these road signs.



1 50 mph *speed* limit



3 *.....*



5 end of *.....*



7 a *.....* in the road



2 there is only one *.....*



4 no *.....*



6 low *.....*



8 *.....*

29.3 Rewrite the sentences on the left starting with the words given. Keep a similar meaning.

- 1 I asked him how to get to the bank.
- 2 I didn't know where I was in the town centre.
- 3 You can ask someone to tell you how to get here.
- 4 I went through Ledbury to get to Malvern.
- 5 I was going to the station.
- 6 We arrived unexpectedly by the river.
- 7 I turned left instead of right.

I asked him the *way* to the bank.
I got *.....* in the town centre.
You can ask someone to *.....* you.
I went to Malvern *.....* Ledbury.
I was on my *.....* to the station.
We *.....* up by the river.
I took the wrong *.....*.

29.4 Complete the text.

I was on the ¹ *main* road into town today and I saw an ² *.....*.
I was ³ *.....* a roundabout when the guy behind tried to ⁴ *.....* me and the driver in front of me. He was driving too fast – over the ⁵ *.....* limit – and he lost control of the car. He had to ⁶ *.....* to avoid a car on the other side of the road, and in the end he ⁷ *.....* into a tree. The car was badly ⁸ *.....*, but to my surprise, the man got out of the car with no ⁹ *.....* at all.

29.5 Over to you

Answer the questions about your own country. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 Do you have a speed limit on motorways? If so, what is it?
- 2 How many lanes do motorways usually have?
- 3 Do drivers usually stop for pedestrians at pedestrian crossings? If not, why not?
- 4 Do many people park their cars on the pavements? Why? / Why not?