On the road

1 Choose the most suitable explanation or interpretation, A or B, for the following sentences. Use the words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. People enjoy the **mobility** that owning a car gives them.
   A. *People enjoy being able to travel easily from one place to another.*
   B. *People enjoy being able to drive very fast.*

2. What's your **destination**?
   A. *Where have you come from?*
   B. *Where are you going to?*

3. **Congestion** in the city centre has increased dramatically.
   A. *It is now easier to drive around the city centre than it was before.*
   B. *It is now more difficult to drive around the city centre than it was before.*

4. The local council wants to reduce the risks to **pedestrians**.
   A. *The local council wants to make it safer for people to walk along the street.*
   B. *The local council wants to make it safer for drivers and their passengers.*

5. The **pollution** in my city is terrible.
   A. *The air quality in my city is very poor.*
   B. *There is a lot of crime in my city.*

6. **Traffic-calming** measures are becoming increasingly common throughout the country.
   A. *People have to drive more slowly because of the increased number of police in villages and towns.*
   B. *People have to drive more carefully through towns and villages because of specially-built obstacles in the road.*

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7. The centre of Camford has been designated a **traffic-free zone**.
   A. *You cannot take your car into the centre of Camford.*
   B. *You can park your car for free in the centre of Camford.*

8. Container lorries and other large vehicles **dominate** our roads.
   A. *There are a lot of large vehicles on the roads.*
   B. *There aren't many large vehicles on the roads.*

9. Young drivers have a higher **accident risk** than older drivers.
   A. *Young drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in a crash.*
   B. *Young drivers are less likely than older drivers to be involved in a crash.*

10. Public transport is heavily **subsidised** in most areas.
    A. *The government has made public transport cheaper to use by giving money to bus and train companies.*
    B. *The government has made public transport more expensive to use by increasing the price of road tax.*

11. The junction of London Road and Holly Street is an accident **black spot**.
    A. *A lot of traffic accidents happen here.*
    B. *Not many accidents happen here.*

12. The city council needs to adopt an effective **transport strategy** within the next five years.
    A. *The city council needs to find a better way for people to get into, around and out of the city.*
    B. *The city council needs to encourage more drivers to bring their cars into the city.*

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2 Look at sentences 1 – 10 and decide what has, or hasn't, happened (sentences A – J). Use the words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. Ambulance driver to policeman: 'The ***pedestrian's injuries*** are very severe and he has to go to hospital.'
2. Judge to driver: ***'Drink-driving*** is a serious offence and I therefore ban you from driving for a year.'
3. Driving instructor to student driver: 'Stop! That's a **pedestrian crossing!'**
4. Examiner to student driver: 'You don't know enough about **the Highway Code** yet to pass your theory test.'
5. Policeman to driver: 'Do you realise you were **speeding** back there, sir?'
6. Driver to a friend: 'I can't believe it! He gave me a heavy **fine** and six points on my licence.'
7. Police officer to radio interviewer: **'Joyriding** has increased by almost 50 per cent and I am urging everyone to think twice before they get involved in this stupid activity.'
8. Television news presenter: 'So far this year there have been 27 **fatalities** on Oxfordshire's roads.'
9. City council officer to journalist: 'As part of our new transport strategy, we are going to construct **cycle lanes** in and around the city.'
10. City council officer to journalist: 'The **"Park and Ride"** scheme has been very successful over the last year.'

A. Somebody is unfamiliar with the government publication containing the rules for people travelling on roads.

B. More people have been leaving their cars in designated areas outside a city and catching a bus into the city centre.

C. A lot of cars have been stolen, mainly by young people who want some excitement.

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D. A person walking in the street has been hit and badly hurt by a vehicle.
E. Somebody has decided to make it safer to use bicycles.
F. Somebody has almost driven through a red light and hit a person walking across the road.
G. Somebody has had to pay money because of a driving offence.
H. Somebody has consumed an illegal amount of alcohol before driving their car.
I. A lot of people have been killed in traffic-related accidents.
J. Somebody has been driving too fast.

3. Complete this article with the words and phrases in Exercises 1 and 2. In some cases, more than one answer is possible, and you will need to change some of the word forms.

1..... and 2..... on Britain's roads are increasing from year to year: last year, 2,827 people were killed and almost 300,000 hurt in traffic-related accidents. Most of these were caused by drivers 3..... in built-up areas, where many seem to disregard the 30mph limit, or 4....., especially around Christmas, when more alcohol is consumed than at any other time. In many cases, it is 5..... who are the victims, knocked down as they are walking across the street at 6..... by drivers who seem to have forgotten that the rules of the 7..... order you to stop at red lights.

But these innocent victims, together with the help of the police and local councils, are fighting back. In Oxford, a city plagued by 8..... and 9..... caused by traffic, and a notorious accident 10..... for pedestrians and cyclists, the city council has recently implemented its new 11....., which has improved the flow of traffic to the benefit of those on foot or on two wheels. 12..... measures such as bollards and speed humps have slowed traffic down. 13..... schemes have helped reduce the number of cars in the city, as office workers and shoppers leave their cars outside the city and bus in instead. Cornmarket Street, the main shopping thoroughfare, has been designated a 14....., closed to all vehicles during the day. There are more 15..... on main routes into the city, making it safer for the huge number of students and residents

who rely on bicycles to get around. And 16..... public transport has helped to keep down the cost of using buses. Meanwhile, the police and the courts are coming down hard on drivers who misuse the roads, handing down large 17..... on selfish, inconsiderate drivers who believe it is their right to 18..... the roads.

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