

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: a patient in a critical condition
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: at the scene of the crash/crime
collide (with sth/sb)	crash into sth; hit sth very hard while moving collision n	block	make it difficult or impossible for sth/sb to pass
spill	go over the edge of a container by accident; make sth do this	scatter	spread over a large area
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	extensive	large in area or amount: extensive damage
massive pile-up	very big SYN huge a crash that involves several cars	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

- 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

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.....			
.....			
.....			

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

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

- 6 Complete the sentences.

- We stopped at a on the M4 for petrol and to get something to eat.
- If the road is clear, you should stay in the inside of a motorway.
- We passed one lorry carrying a of material to one of the building sites.
- 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
- 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
- Keep going until you get to a large with the A420. Turn right there.
- It was a bad accident and several cars suffered damage.
- The car crashed into a pile of at the side of the road. The wood went everywhere.
- There was a huge on the M3 this morning involving half a dozen vehicles. One person died and several are in a condition.
- If you're going to Bristol, take the M4 and at Junction 19 or 20.



TEST YOURSELF