

Vocabulary

Cars drive along the **highway**.

In your country, do people drive on the **right-hand side** or **left-hand side** of the highway?

On the street, people walk along the **sidewalk** at the side of the street.

If you need to leave your car, you can park it in a **parking lot**.

The place where two streets/highways come together is called an **intersection**.

An **expressway** or **freeway** is a highway divided into two parts, where the cars on one side go in one direction and the cars on the other side go in the opposite direction.

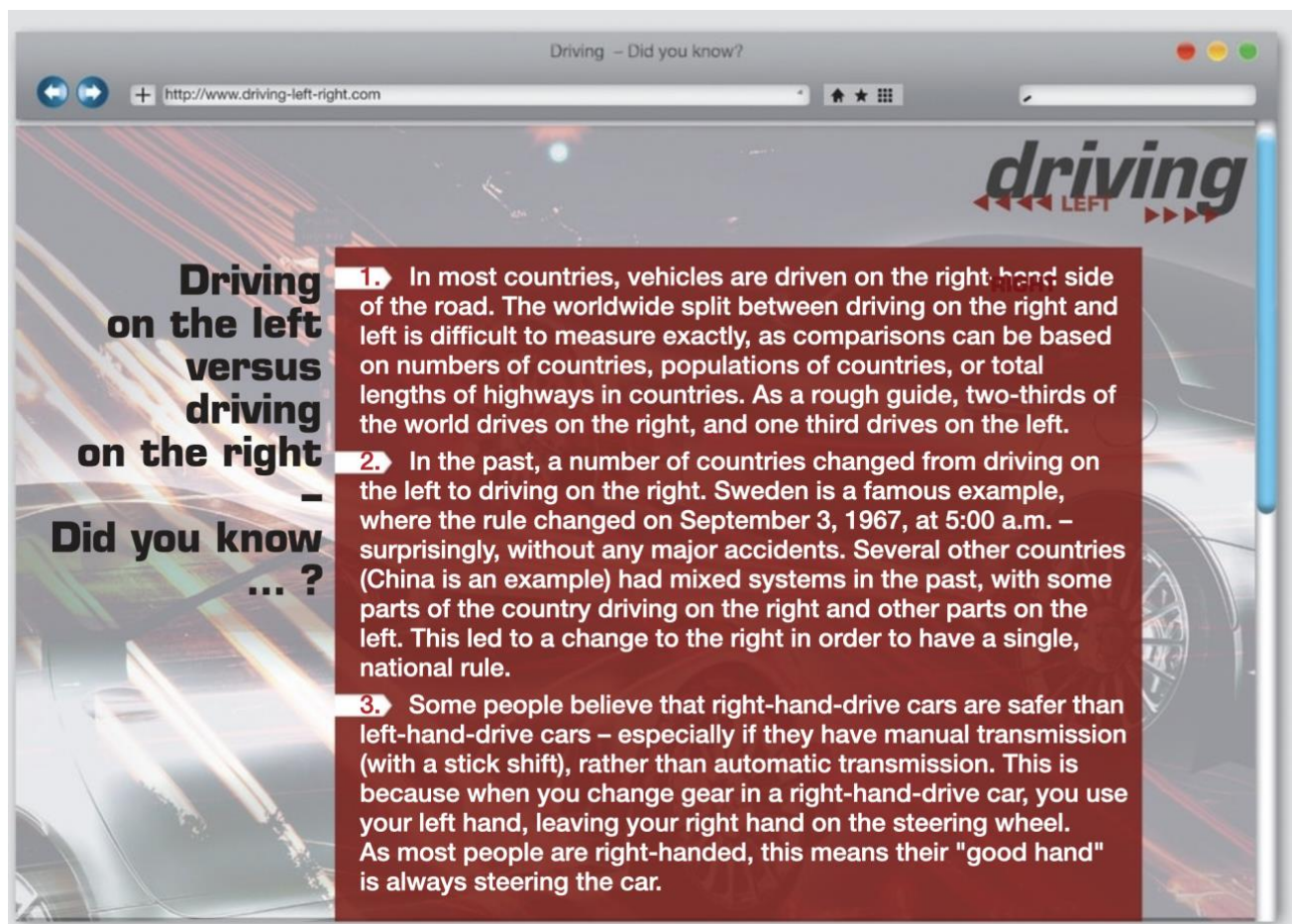
Some intersections have circles that cars drive around, called **traffic circles**.

The car has **manual transmission**. You have to shift the gears yourself.

It's easier to drive a car with **automatic transmission**.

To make a car turn left or right, you turn the **steering wheel**.

Reading 13.1



Driving – Did you know?

http://www.driving-left-right.com

driving

◀◀◀ LEFT ▶▶▶

Driving on the left versus driving on the right – Did you know ... ?

1. In most countries, vehicles are driven on the **right-hand side** of the road. The worldwide split between driving on the right and left is difficult to measure exactly, as comparisons can be based on numbers of countries, populations of countries, or total lengths of highways in countries. As a rough guide, two-thirds of the world drives on the right, and one third drives on the left.
2. In the past, a number of countries changed from driving on the left to driving on the right. Sweden is a famous example, where the rule changed on September 3, 1967, at 5:00 a.m. – surprisingly, without any major accidents. Several other countries (China is an example) had mixed systems in the past, with some parts of the country driving on the right and other parts on the left. This led to a change to the right in order to have a single, national rule.
3. Some people believe that right-hand-drive cars are safer than left-hand-drive cars – especially if they have manual transmission (with a stick shift), rather than automatic transmission. This is because when you change gear in a right-hand-drive car, you use your left hand, leaving your right hand on the steering wheel. As most people are right-handed, this means their "good hand" is always steering the car.

13.1 Follow-up

First, read the article in Reading 13.1. Then look at 1–5. Are the sentences true or false? Try to complete the task without looking back at the article.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 In most countries, vehicles drive on the right. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2 Roughly three-quarters of the world drives on the right. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3 Sweden changed from driving on the left to the right in 1967. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4 Today, all parts of China drive on the left. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5 It is thought that left-hand-drive cars are safer. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Practice Exercise 1

Fill in the missing words to complete the sentences about highways and cars.

- Which side of the highway do they drive on?
They drive on the r h s.
- The s, at the side of the street, is for pedestrians to walk on.
- At the end of this street, you'll come to an i with the main street.
- Is there a p l near here, where I can leave my car?
- Three highways come together at the t c.
- When you're driving, it's obviously best to have both hands on the s w.

Practice Exercise 2


Audio link: <https://www.inlingua.com/audios>

13.1 Listening (Track 48-49)



Part A You're going to hear an interview with an American man who has never driven "on the wrong side of the road" (for him, the left). He has ranked five situations in order of how confusing he imagines they would be.


Driving situation

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | in a parking lot | least
confusing |  |
| 2 | _____ | | |
| 3 | _____ | | |
| 4 | _____ | | |
| 5 | around a traffic circle | most
confusing | |

1 and 5 are done, what are 2, 3 and 4?

Part B You're now going to hear an interview with a British woman with experience of driving "on the wrong side of the road" (for her, the right). She has ranked the situations in order of how confusing she found them

Driving situation

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | on a small road | least
confusing |  |
| 2 | _____ | | |
| 3 | _____ | | |
| 4 | _____ | | |
| 5 | in a car park | most
confusing | |

1 and 5 are done, what are 2, 3 and 4?

Practice Exercise 3

Match words with similar meanings>

1. Roundabout	A. Sidewalk
2. Pavement	B. Intersection
3. Car park	C. Traffic circle
4. Junction	D. Parking lot

ANSWERS

Follow up 13.1

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F

Practice Exercise 1

1. right hand side
2. sidewalk
3. intersection
4. parking lot
5. traffic circle
6. steering wheel

Practice Exercise 2

Part A

2. on a freeway
3. on a small highway
4. at an intersection

Part B

2. on a motorway
3. around a roundabout
4. at a junction

Practice Exercise

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. B