

UNIT 12

Language focus

1 Reporting spoken language

Read the newspaper story and underline all the examples of reported speech.

Capital hit by total gridlock

For four hours yesterday morning, every road into, out of, in, and around the capital was totally gridlocked. When a series of accidents occurred at critical points early in the morning rush hour, chaos quickly followed and an estimated five million vehicles came to a standstill.

Chief Police Officer David Cross explained that once the crisis had started, it had been impossible to prevent it from spreading. Police notices, broadcast on all TV and radio channels from 8a.m. onwards, instructed people to stay at home and not to try to go anywhere by road.

Independent transport adviser Gemma Branstone of TransLink Planning said that the emergency services had done as well as possible in a bad situation, but wanted to know why the Government had allowed the situation to develop during the past few years. 'The "Great Gridlock" is a scenario that we have warned about for several years,' she said.



An estimated five million vehicles came to a standstill yesterday.

2 Reporting statements

A few days after the 'Great Gridlock' Robin Burke, the Government Transport Minister, gave a speech at a national Party Conference. Put his statements into reported speech.

- 1 Robin Burke began by saying, 'The Government tried to solve the growing traffic crisis several years ago.'

Robin Burke began by saying that the Government had tried to solve the growing traffic crisis several years before.

- 2 'We did this through higher fuel and road taxes,' he reminded his audience.

- 3 He admitted, 'Vehicle numbers have continued to rise.'

4 'Following the "Great Gridlock" last week, we are bringing forward new plans to reduce traffic,' he said.

5 'Roadside cameras will record every vehicle on the roads, and owners will pay for the distance that they travel,' he explained.

6 He concluded by saying, 'We can and we will reduce unnecessary traffic on the roads.'

3 Reporting questions

At the Opposition Party Conference, the 'shadow' Transport Minister, Helen Price, responded to Robin Burke's road-pricing announcement with a series of questions. Put her questions into reported speech.



'Is Robin Burke's "plan" a real plan, or just a panic reaction?¹ When did the Government first start developing it?² Can the Government be sure that the technology for this huge network will work?³ How much will all this cost, and how long will it take?⁴ Of course, in the end, it's always the poor driver who pays, so here's my final question: Why can this Government think of nothing more intelligent than more and more taxes on drivers?⁵

1 Helen Price wanted to know if Robin Burke's 'plan' was a real plan, or just a panic reaction.

2 She asked _____

3 And she went on to ask _____

4 She wanted to know _____

5 Finally, she wanted to know _____



Local hero rescues tanker driver

Local bus driver Fred Tamblin from Sunninghill was first on the scene when a petrol tanker crashed into the North Hill roundabout and rolled, leaking hundreds of litres of fuel across the road and adding to yesterday's 'Great Gridlock'.

Fred left his bus at a safe distance and ran to help, closely followed by other drivers and passengers.

4 Reporting orders and requests

Read the start of this newspaper story, and then report the requests and orders that followed the accident.

- 1 'Can you help me pull the driver out?' Fred asked the others.

Fred asked the others to help him pull the driver out.

- 2 'Make sure the engine is switched off,' one of the others warned him.

- 3 'Can you call the emergency services?' Fred asked a woman with a mobile.

Ten minutes later, the police arrived ...

- 4 'Close the road in both directions,' the police chief ordered two of his officers.

- 5 'Move your vehicles back fifty metres,' he told some drivers.

- 6 'You must get the tanker driver to hospital quickly,' the nurse begged the police officer.

5 Practice drills: Reported statements and questions

🔊 12.1, 12.2 Follow the instructions on the students's CD/Cassette. If necessary, refer to the Listening scripts on p. 87.



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Pronunciation Intonation of *or* questions

🔊 12.3 Listen to the questions and mark the intonation.

- 1 *Is it a real plan, or is it just a panic reaction?*
- 2 *Is she going to Rome, or is she going to Brussels?*
- 3 *Is she on the left wing of her party, or is she on the right wing?*
- 4 *Do you want to go on Thursday, or do you want to go on Friday?*
- 5 *Would you like wine, or would you prefer something else?*

🔊 12.3 Listen again and repeat the questions.

1 Politics: word groups

Voice of the People is a TV programme that goes out and collects ordinary people's views on topics in the news. Choose from the words and collocations in the boxes to complete the views.

Topic 1: The next election

candidate	manifesto	constitution	democratic	election
government	liberal	minister	Parliament	party

- REPORTER Who do you think is going to win the election ¹ here next week?
- WOMAN The _____ ² I like is that young _____ ³, Mary Larkin. I think she would make an excellent Member of _____ ⁴. In fact, I think that one day she'll get one of the top jobs and become a _____ ⁵.
- MAN The trouble is, you can't believe what any of the political _____ ⁶ write in their _____ ⁷. They forget half their promises as soon as they get into power.
- WOMAN If they behave like that, we'll vote them out. After all, we've got a _____ ⁸ system in this country!
- MAN But it's not as simple as that, is it. If it has enough support, a _____ ⁹ can stay in power for years. In my view, we need to reform our _____ ¹⁰.

Topic 2: Developments after the election

budget	taxation	fresh elections	inflation
interest rates	international aid	nationalization	public spending
recession	terrorism	stock market	taxation

- REPORTER How do you think the new government is doing?
- WOMAN Well, they keep on telling us that _____ ¹ is still quite low, but I don't agree. Lots of prices in the shops are going up.
- MAN And you know what will happen next? _____ ² will go up to make people borrow less and spend less. Then when that happens, businesses will close down and people will lose their jobs. And then we'll suddenly find ourselves in a nasty _____ ³.
- WOMAN Yes, I'm worried about this government. They want to raise _____ ⁴ on things like schools and hospitals. That's fine, but they want to raise it so much that I'm sure they'll have to raise _____ ⁵ as well. That's what I'm sure will happen when they introduce their first _____ ⁶. And, as you say, that will mean less money in people's pockets and a harder time for business, and then the _____ ⁷ will suffer.
- MAN But one good thing about them is their foreign policy. I'm really pleased that they're going to increase _____ ⁸ to poorer countries. It won't be easy to do that if we're facing harder times in this country, but it might help to reduce the danger of _____ ⁹.

2 Politics: opposites

Complete the sentences with the correct pairs of words from the box.

boom – recession
democracy – dictatorship
government – opposition

left-wing – right-wing
~~majority~~ – ~~minority~~

- 1 The majority of Americans speak English, but quite a large minority speak Spanish as their main or only language.
- 2 During the _____ of the 1980s, the Japanese stock market rose to nearly 40,000, but during the long _____ of the 1990s, it fell to below 10,000.



- 3 The end of World War II brought a change from _____ to _____ in Germany, Japan, and Italy.
- 4 In a democracy, it is the job of the _____ to question the decisions and actions of the _____.
- 5 A _____ government is likely to try to help poorer members of society more than a government that is _____.


Social responses and common expressions

During the buffet supper at the end of the Opposition Party Conference, 'shadow' Transport Minister, Helen Price, talked with many people. Complete the conversations. Use the phrases in the box.

Black, no sugar, please.
 I'd love to, but I'm afraid I'll be ...
 I'm afraid I didn't catch your name.
 Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.
 Thanks, I'd love some more wine.
 Thanks. The same to you.
 That's very kind of you, if you're sure it's no trouble.
 Yes, I think I should get an early night tonight.

- GUEST 1 Helen, would you like another drink? _____ 1
 HELEN _____
- GUEST 2 We're having a small lunch party next Friday. Would you like to come? _____
 HELEN _____ 2
 away at a conference in Brussels.
- GUEST 3 Would you like me to email you a copy of the report I told you about? _____
 HELEN _____ 3
- GUEST 3 No, none at all. It'll only take a moment.
- GUEST 4 My husband wanted to be here too, but he's been doing too much and the doctor's told him to rest for two weeks.
 HELEN _____ 4
- GUEST 5 I'm so pleased to meet you at last. My name's Juliette Rotherham.
 HELEN I'm sorry, it's rather noisy. _____ 5
- GUEST 5 It's Juliette. Juliette Rotherham.
- GUEST 6 So I'm off to Rome next week, and you're going to Brussels, aren't you? I hope you have a good trip.
 HELEN _____ 6
- GUEST 7 How, do you like your coffee?
 HELEN _____ 7
- GUEST 8 Do you have to leave so soon?
 HELEN _____ 8
 I'm leaving at 6.00 in the morning.

 12.4 Listen to the conversations and check your answers.

 Pocket Book pp. 23-4