

COMMUNICATION

Rules of the road

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1051X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall vocabulary related to driving and traffic laws.
- I can discuss the rules of the road in my country and my experiences with driving.



Warm-up

**Have you ever driven in
a foreign country?
What was it like?**



**Have you ever done a
road trip? Describe it.**



On the autobahn

Mike and Eleanor are best friends. They decide to go on a European road trip. Read the first part of the conversation and answer the questions below.

Eleanor: Oh my goodness! We're running very low on petrol.

Mike: I saw a road sign for a rest stop in a few kilometres. We can fill up the tank and get a coffee there.

Eleanor: I'm afraid we won't make it. I'll have to stop at the side of the road.

Mike: Careful! Make sure to indicate before you slow down. They drive so fast here. What are we going to do?

Eleanor: Don't worry, the rental company gave me a number to call for assistance. We'll be fine.

Mike: Look, here comes the police. Perhaps they'll be able to help. Excuse me! Do you speak English?



1. What's happening?
2. What is Mike's first suggestion?
3. What does Eleanor have to do instead of following Mike's suggestion? Why?



On the autobahn

Read the second part of the conversation and answer the questions below.

Officer: Is there a problem here? It's illegal to stop on the autobahn. There are plenty of rest stops along the way for this purpose... Can I see your licence, please?

Eleanor: Of course– here you go... We've run out of fuel, unfortunately.

Officer: Yes, that *is* quite unfortunate. But are you aware that it's against the law? There's a €35 fine for that!

Mike: We're very sorry. It was a silly mistake. We're not from around here, you see, and we didn't realise–

Eleanor: We're happy to pay the fine, officer.

Officer: In the future, please do your research before driving in a foreign country! Stay safe and enjoy the rest of your trip.



4. In which country do you think this dialogue is taking place? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Which traffic laws have Mike and Eleanor broken?
6. How does the police officer react?



We're **running low on** petrol.

We've **run out of** fuel, unfortunately!

Which expression means that you **still have** something left?

Which expression means that you **don't have** anything left?



Match each phrase to their definition

1 The driver **indicated** before they turned left.

2 You should **fill the tank** before going on long trips.

3 The car **broke down** outside the town.

4 They **fined** him for speeding.

5 You should always **pay a fine** as soon as possible, or it might increase.

a You should **pay the money you owe to the authorities** because you broke a law.

b The authorities **told the driver they had to pay money** for breaking a law.

c The driver **let other road users know** what they were planning to do.

d You should **put plenty of fuel in the tank**.

e The vehicle **stopped working**.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the **gaps** using the verbs in the box. Make sure to use the correct verb form.

- 1 Please _____, dear! I feel a bit sick.
- 2 I parked my car in a bus lane and when I came back from shopping, I saw that I had _____ a fine from the traffic warden.
- 3 We're _____ on fuel. I hope there's a rest stop soon!
- 4 We've _____ of fuel. We'll have to walk to the nearest petrol station!
- 5 Did you _____? There won't be anywhere to stop and refuel for a long time.

get
run low
run out
fill the tank
slow down



speeding ticket



What's the speed limit on motorways
in your country? Have you ever received a
speeding ticket?



Rules of the road from around the world

It's illegal to break down for any reason on the motorway in Germany – including running out of fuel! But if you think that's strange, take a look at some of these traffic laws from around the world...

Have you ever been walking down the street on a rainy day when suddenly a car passes by and ruins your new outfit? In Japan, luckily, it's illegal for drivers to splash pedestrians. They aren't so lucky in China, however. Be careful in Beijing, where it's against the law to stop for a pedestrian!

You should keep your car clean when you drive around Moscow, or you run the risk of getting a fine. But in Switzerland, you might get into trouble if you wash your car on a Sunday. And don't even think about driving a camel on the motorway in Nevada, because you're breaking the law if you do!





Rules of the road

Read the sentences below and **fill in the gaps** in the blue box.

You can get into a lot of trouble if you drink and drive.

You're breaking the law if you drive without insurance.

It's against the law to go through a red light.

- Identify the different phrases used to say that something is **illegal**:

to _____ into trouble

to _____ the law

(It's) _____ the law to + infinitive





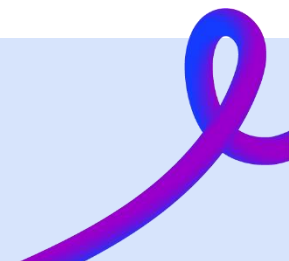
Rules of the road

Read the sentences below and fill in the gaps in the blue box.

I got caught driving over the speed limit and had to pay a fine.

If you drive too fast, you run the risk of getting a fine... or worse!

- to _____ doing something means you did something illegal or wrong and there was a negative consequence.
- to _____ doing something means there might be negative consequences to your actions.





Interview a partner in breakout rooms

Be prepared to **share one interesting thing** you learned about your partner.

Are you able to drive? If not, would you like to learn?

Do people drive safely in your country or not?

What things are against the law when driving in your country?

In your opinion, how can we make roads safer for everyone?



End of the lesson

Idiom

He's a backseat driver – I hate going on road trips with him!

Meaning: A backseat driver is a passenger who tries to tell you how to drive.



Additional practice



Vocabulary review

Review vocabulary from the lesson. Which words or phrases are new? Which did you know already?



be allowed to

to get a fine

rest stop

speeding ticket

road sign

to get into trouble

to run out of fuel

**to get caught
doing...**

to fill the tank

**to run the risk of
doing...**



Multiple choice

- 1 It's important to _____ before turning right or left, to let other drivers know what you are going to do.
- a. slow down b. indicate c. break down d. pay a fine
- 2 My friend got a _____ for parking on a double yellow line.
- a. speeding ticket b. fine c. road sign d. passenger
- 3 The _____ stopped me to check that my insurance was up to date.
- a. autobahn b. fuel c. police d. drivers
- 4 I prefer being a _____. You get to relax and watch the world go by!
- a. driver b. passenger c. police d. cop



Discuss



**Imagine you are teaching
a teenager to drive...**

**What advice would you give them at the start
of the very first lesson?**



Transform the sentences

Replace the part in bold with a noun, verb or phrase you learned during the lesson.

Eg: Please **stop driving so fast!** → Please **slow down!**

1 Please **stop driving so fast!** You're over the speed limit.



2 Oh look! Here's a **place where we can get a coffee!**



3 Make sure you **put plenty of fuel in** the tank. We have a long journey ahead.

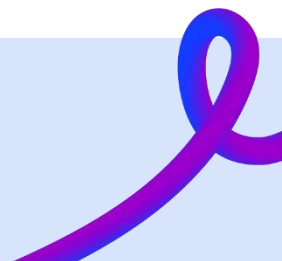


4 If you **are found** driving without headlights, you'll have to pay a fine.



5 Make sure to pay the **money you owe the authorities for breaking the law!**







Unscramble the sentences

1

Julie

the

got caught

yesterday

speed

over

limit

driving



2



the

It's

to

against

go through

law

a

red light



Discuss



**Is the type of car you
drive important to you?
Why or why not?**



**What is your favourite
thing about driving?
What is your least
favourite thing?**



Discuss

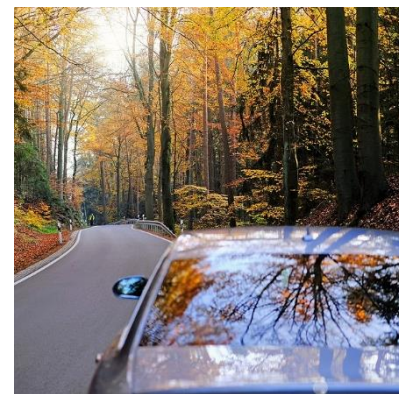


It's not about the destination, it's about the journey.

What do you think this phrase means?

Do you agree?

Have you ever gone on a drive without a destination in mind?





Answer key

P.4:

1. Eleanor and Mike ran out of petrol.
2. Mike suggests driving a few kilometres further to a rest stop.
3. She must pull over because there is not enough fuel

P.5:

4. Germany – the title is “On the autobahn”
5. Running out of fuel; stopping on the autobahn
6. Not very friendly, explains the rules.

P.6:

The first speaker still has some fuel left. The second speaker didn't have any fuel left.

P.7:

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (e) 4. (b) 5. (a)

P.8:

1. slow down 2. got/gotten 3. running low 4. run out 5. filled the tank

P.11:

1. To get into trouble 2. to break the law 3. (It's) against the law

P.12:

1. to get caught doing something 2. to run the risk of doing something



Answer key

P.18:

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (b)

P.20:

1. Slow down 2. rest stop 3. fill the tank 4. get caught 5. fine

P.21:

Julie got caught driving over the speed limit yesterday.

It's against the law to go through a red light.



Summary

Verbs related to driving

- to indicate, to break down, to fill the tank, to slow down
- to run out of fuel, to run low on fuel
- to get a fine, to pay a fine

Driving vocabulary

- rest stop, road sign, passenger, red light, traffic jam, tyre, seat belt, speeding ticket

Rules of the road

- to break the law
- (It's) against the law to + infinitive
- to get into trouble

Phrases

- to run the risk of + verb *-ing*
- to get caught + verb *-ing*



Vocabulary

to run out of

to run low on

to break down

to fill up the tank

to slow down

to indicate

rest stop

road sign

at the side of the road

It's against the law

to get a fine

to pay a fine

tyre

red light

traffic jam

passenger

seat belt

illegal

to get into trouble

to run the risk of (+ verb -ing)



Vocabulary

to get caught (+ verb -ing)

speeding ticket



Notes

