

a blind corner: a corner around which you cannot see

Never overtake on a blind corner.

a collision: a crash in which two moving vehicles hit each other

He was injured when the car he was in was involved in a collision.

the crash barrier: strong low fence built along the side of a road or between two halves of a motorway to prevent accidents

He swerved to avoid the dog and smashed into the crash barrier.

to dent a car: to damage the metal (the door, the bumper, the bonnet, etc) of a car

I dropped a can of paint on the car roof and dented it.

to do ... kph: to drive at ... kph

He was caught doing 60 kph in a 40 kph speed zone.

to draw up: to stop in a vehicle

I drew up at the traffic lights.

A taxi drew up outside my house.

(to be on) full beam: if your lights are on full beam, they are raised so that you can see more

Dip your lights. They're on full beam and you are blinding the poor man in front of you.

to get out (of a car): to leave a car, taxi, van, lorry [Note: for all other forms of transport (plane, train, bike, etc) you use **to get off**]

Opp: to get in/into a car [Note: for all other forms of transport you use **to get on**]

Help grandma get out of the car while I unlock the front door.

You get off the bus at the next bus stop.

We got on the train, the whistle blew and we pulled out of the station.

a hairpin bend: sharp bend in road, where road turns back in opposite direction

Hairpin bends are always signposted.

heavy traffic: lots of traffic

The traffic was heavy that night.

to hit/slam on the brakes: to brake quickly and suddenly

Seeing the boy, he hit the brakes and the car screeched to a halt.

to jump a red light: to pass through a traffic light that is red

I was fined £40 for jumping a red light.

a lane: large, wide roads are divided into lanes (most motorways have 3 or more lanes)

The dual carriageway was divided into two lanes in each direction.

the lights changed: the traffic lights turned red or green

It took ages for the lights to change.

to mount the pavement: to go up on the pavement while driving

I mounted the pavement and crashed into a tree!

to overtake: to pass a car which is in front of you

Never overtake on a hill.

to pull away: to start driving, having previously stopped (e.g. at traffic lights) or having previously been parked

She checked her rear view mirror and pulled away.

to pull into somewhere: to leave the road in order to stop somewhere [Note: **to pull in:** to move to the side of the road in order to let another vehicle pass]

Pull into the next petrol station and I'll ask where the bank is.

We pulled in so that the ambulance could pass.

to pull out: to join the traffic, having previously stopped

Never pull out into heavy traffic without due care and attention.

to pull (sb) over: to stop at the side of the road

The car was making a funny noise so I pulled over, parked and looked

under the bonnet.

to pull up: to stop in a vehicle

I pulled up at the traffic lights.

to put a car into reverse: to change into reverse gear so that you can move backwards

He put the car into reverse and backed into the drive.

to skid: to slide on the road

He started skidding towards an oncoming lorry!

to speed: to go faster than the speed limit

He was fined for speeding, as he was doing twice the speed limit.

to stall: if sb/a car stalls, the engine of the car stops suddenly

She tried to pull away, but she stalled.

to swerve to avoid sth: to suddenly move one's car sideways so as to avoid sth in the road

In swerving to avoid the fox, he crashed into a telephone box.

to tow: if one vehicle tows another, it pulls that vehicle behind it, often by means of a rope or a chain

The car in front of us was towing a caravan.

to tow (sth) away: to remove a vehicle that has been illegally parked or that has been involved in an accident by towing it

I'd parked on a double yellow line and my car had been towed away by the police.

a windscreen: the front window of a car

The windscreen was so dirty that we could hardly see through it.

to write (a car) off: to damage a car so badly that repairing it would cost more than buying a new one [Note: **a write-off:** sth that has been written off]

He was fine, thank goodness, but the car was a write-off.

Practice

1. Read the two texts below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.



She had 1)
Her foot must have slipped. Either way, the five seconds it took her to restart the car had seemed an eternity. The drivers behind her had impatiently sounded their horns and she had been flustered. How it happened she didn't know, but she had put the car into reverse and driven into the car

behind her. Nothing had happened to the car behind, but she had 2) the back of her own. Her husband would be livid. Five minutes later, she was still thinking about her husband. Perhaps that was why she was not paying attention. Perhaps that's why she didn't see the boy kick his football into the road. Perhaps that's why when she saw the ball she couldn't rationalise that it was only a ball. She 3) to avoid it and then 4) the brakes as she realised she was heading for a ditch. Smash. It happened in slow motion. She watched the windscreen shatter, she heard the metal crumple. But she was okay.

She had 5) off her husband's car. Destroyed it. She watched the recovery van 6) away the wreckage of what was once her husband's pride and joy. The van, with the car rolling unsteadily behind it, disappeared. She watched it go, turned, picked up the football and started walking home.

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|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 A arrested | B halted | C stalled | D jolted |
| 2 A bruised | B dented | C creased | D snapped |
| 3 A swerved | B swung | C twisted | D spun |
| 4 A hit | B slapped | C struck | D hammered |
| 5 A dashed | B written | C cast | D signed |
| 6 A tow | B draw | C tug | D drive |

He pulled 1) at the traffic lights and a horde of children crowded round his car trying to scrub off yesterday's dirt from his windscreen. He shooed them away. His mind was running at a hundred miles an hour. What was he going to say?

The minute the policeman had pulled him 2) he knew he was in trouble. The policeman had been sitting at the side of the road and he hadn't seen him. The policeman had walked over to his car and as he wound down his window the night air had hit him. It felt like a slap. "You do realise you were 3)?" he said. "I clocked you doing 75". He found it difficult to talk. Before he knew it he had been arrested and his parents had been notified. He spent the night at the police station and was now on his way home. He 4) up outside his home. What were they going to say? He turned off the engine, got 5) the car and slowly walked towards the door.

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|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 A up | B out | C into | D away |
| 2 A over | B in | C along | D away |
| 3 A exceeding | B crawling | C dashing | D speeding |
| 4 A parked | B stopped | C crawled | D drew |
| 5 A down | B off | C out of | D away |

2. You will hear a conversation between a driving instructor and a learner driver. Listen to the recording and answer the questions below.

- How fast was Mr Barnes driving when he was on the highway?
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- Why was the lorry driving towards Mr Barnes?
.....
- Why could Mr Barnes see the lorry driver's face?
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- What happened when Mr Barnes hit the brakes?
.....
- What were the three incidents that occurred before Mr Barnes got on the highway?
.....
- What did Mr Barnes try to do in order to impress Mr Huggins?
.....
- Why couldn't Mr Barnes see if there was any traffic coming when he tried to pull out?
.....
- How did Mr Huggins knock himself out?
.....

3. What do you think has happened/is happening in the photograph? Talk about it, using the prompts.



Pete and Jack/drive along/country lane/come across/flock of sheep/road/not able/swerve/avoid/animals/so/hit brakes/not able/put car/reverse/sheep in front and behind/Pete/get out/car/Jack/look/map/see/where/be/realise/get/lost