

Lesson 3

The Traffic Jam

It's 7:45 A.M. Peter is driving his car to work. It's only a ten-minute drive, but sometimes there is traffic at rush hour. Peter turns right on Highland Avenue. Suddenly, Peter needs to slow down. There are a lot of cars. Then he needs to stop completely. Peter can't go straight. Many cars are stopped in front of him. Peter can't turn left or right. He can't make a U-turn. "Oh, no!" says Peter. He is stuck in a terrible traffic jam.

A man on a motorcycle passes Peter's car. "Riding a motorcycle is faster than driving," thinks Peter. A woman on a bicycle passes Peter's car. "Riding a bicycle is faster than driving," thinks Peter. A man jogging on the sidewalk passes Peter's car. "Jogging is faster than driving," thinks Peter. A woman walking her dog on the sidewalk passes Peter's car. Now Peter is angry. He hits the steering wheel. "This is ridiculous!" he shouts. "Walking a dog is faster than driving!"

Finally, the police arrive to help clear the traffic jam. Peter can drive again, but he is thirty minutes late for work. Peter's co-worker, Ramon, asks, "What happened? Did you walk to work?"

"No," said Peter. "But I *will* walk tomorrow. Believe me, it's faster than driving!"



Answer the questions.

1. What is Peter doing at 7:45 A.M.?
2. How long is the drive to work?
3. Which way does Peter turn on Highland Avenue?
4. What is he stuck in?
5. What does a man on a motorcycle do?
6. Who passes Peter's car on a bicycle?
7. What does Peter think about jogging?
8. What is the woman on the sidewalk doing?
9. Who arrives to help clear the traffic jam?
10. How late is Peter for work?

Complete the sentences.

bicycle

steering wheel

traffic jam

rush hour

sidewalk

dog

car

motorcycle

1. Peter is driving his _____ to work.
2. Sometimes there is traffic at _____.
3. He is stuck in a terrible _____.
4. A man on a _____ passes Peter's car.
5. A woman on a _____ passes Peter's car.
6. A man jogging on the _____ passes Peter's car.
7. A woman walking her _____ on the sidewalk passes Peter's car.
8. Peter is angry. He hits the _____.

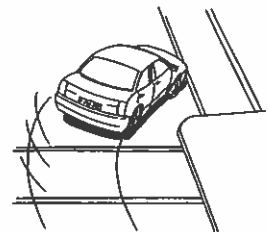
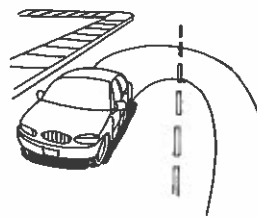
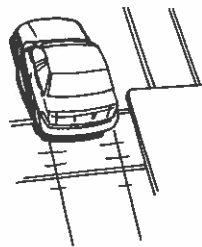
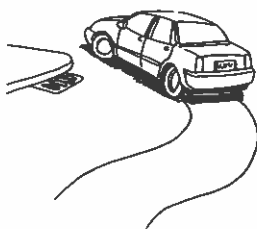
Match the words and pictures.

go straight

turn right

turn left

make a U-turn



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Talking to a Co-Worker

Practice the dialog with a partner.

- A. Sorry I'm late.
B. What happened?
A. I was stuck in a terrible traffic jam.
B. Where were you?
A. On Highland Avenue. A woman walking a dog passed me!
B. Well, there's always traffic at rush hour.



Check the good ideas.

You are late for work and stuck in a terrible traffic jam. Check (✓) the things that are good to do. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hit the steering wheel | <input type="checkbox"/> call work on your cell phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wait patiently | <input type="checkbox"/> get out of your car and walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drive on the sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> honk the horn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> relax and listen to music | <input type="checkbox"/> listen to the police |
| <input type="checkbox"/> buy a motorcycle | <input type="checkbox"/> make a U-turn if it's safe |
| _____ | _____ |

What about you?

Circle Yes or No. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes No 1. I go to work at rush hour.

Do you go to work at rush hour?

Yes No 2. I drive a car to work.

Yes No 3. I ride a motorcycle to work.

Yes No 4. I ride a bicycle to work.

Yes No 5. I sometimes get stuck in a terrible traffic jam.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Where is the traffic very bad in your city?
2. Are you sometimes late for work? If so, why are you late?
3. What do you do when you are angry?