



Topic: Driving a Car

Level: Intermediate

Grammar Focus: Nouns



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? Use these words to build a description:

car driver helmet number wheels tyres steering wheel green face

B. Read and answer the following questions.

1. What colour is the car?
2. What is the driver wearing? Why?
3. How many wheels can you see? Why?



4. What is the symbol on the side of the car?
5. Where would you see a car like this?
6. Would you like to drive this car?

C. General chat about how you get around your town or city.

Do you drive a car? Do you ride a bicycle or motorbike? Do you catch a bus or train?
Do you skateboard or ski? Do you walk?

D. Word Play

1. Nouns are naming words. Nouns often have 'the', 'a' or 'an' in front of them. How many nouns can you identify in the picture?
2. Make up some sentences with the noun 'car' in them.
3. How many car manufacturers can you name? What is your favourite car? Why?



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time. As with learning to drive a car it is better to proceed slowly and carefully until you are more confident at the normal speed.

Driving Lesson

It is almost 9 o'clock in the morning. Mary waits outside her house for Mr Jones the driving instructor. She is 18 years old and she wants to learn to drive a car. This is her third lesson and she still feels nervous.

Mr Jones arrives on time. He drives a small white car with a sign on top that says 'Driver under Instruction'. It is a manual car so it has a clutch and a gear stick. It is not an automatic. Mary sits behind the wheel and Mr Jones sits in the passenger seat. He is very patient and a good teaching instructor. He has a surprise for Mary today as he is going to take her along the main street. There will be traffic lights and lots of cars. She has only been driving on quiet streets with few cars so that she can gain confidence starting, stopping, changing gear and turning.

The first traffic light on the main street is red so Mary has to stop the car. There are several vehicles in front of her. When the traffic light turns green the cars move slowly forward. Mary follows and is pleased that her start is smooth. Mr Jones points out all the hazards such as pedestrians and cyclists. The rest of the traffic lights are green so Mary drives carefully through the intersections.

Mary reaches the end of the main street. She is pleased with her driving and feels more confident. Mr Jones praises her. She will look forward to her next lesson and not feel nervous.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. Mary's next lesson will be number four.
2. Mr Jones has an automatic car.
3. Mary stops at three red lights.
4. There are lots of cars on the main street.
5. An intersection is where two streets cross.

C. Grammar Challenge. Pronouns are words which stand in for nouns such as 'he' and 'she'. Change Mary to Mike and read the last paragraph again using the correct male pronouns.

D. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 What surprise does Mr Jones have for Mary?

- a. He arrives on time.
- b. He lets Mary drive the car.
- c. Mary is to drive along the busy main street.
- d. He has a new car.



Q.2 How do other drivers know Mary is learning to drive?

- a. She looks nervous.
- b. There is a sign on top of the car.
- c. They know Mr Jones and his white car.
- d. She is a slow driver.

Q.3 Why are pedestrians and cyclists called 'hazards'?

- a. They should not be on the road.
- b. They are friends of Mr Jones.
- c. They change the lights from green to red.
- d. Drivers need to drive very carefully by these people.

Q.4 How is Mary feeling at the end of her lesson?

- a. She feels pleased with her main street driving.
- b. She feels nervous in traffic.
- c. She hopes every traffic light will be green.
- d. She does not want to drive again.

Exploring other ideas:

- A Driver's Licence - what you have to do to earn one.
- Difference between 'licence' and 'license'.
- Current news item on a special car (such as sale of Bond car).
- Pollution and the new bio fuels.
- Other forms of transport on land, sea, air.