On the road: traffic and driving

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each driving word.

Word | Behaviour | Infrastructure | Problem | Vehicle-related

1 tailgate [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 congestion [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 road rage [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 flyover [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 puncture [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 reckless driving [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 bottleneck [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 indicator [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 He was tailgating to me on the motorway. _____
2 The congestion is really bad in this city. _____
3 She had a road rage to another driver. _____
4 We drove under the flyover of bridge. _____
5 I got a puncture of my tyre. _____
6 That was reckless of driving. _____
7 The bottleneck slow down the traffic. _____
8 He forgot use his indicator. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For driving too close behind another car: tailgating / overtaking.
2 For heavy traffic that slows everything down: congestion / free-flowing traffic.
3 For aggressive anger while driving: road rage / patience.
4 For a narrow point where traffic backs up: bottleneck / open road.
5 For driving dangerously without care: reckless driving / cautious driving.
6 For a flat tyre caused by damage: puncture / new tyre.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

bottleneck | congestion | flyover | indicator | puncture | reckless driving | road rage | tailgating

Report A: Police blamed the accident on 1 _____, after witnesses said the driver was following far too closely, and on 2 _____, since he failed to use his 3 _____ before changing lanes.
Report B: Traffic engineers identified a 4 _____ near the 5 _____, where the city's worst 6 _____ builds up every morning.
Report C: An incident of 7 _____ was reported after two drivers argued at a junction. Separately, a driver got a 8 _____ and had to change the tyre.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The psychology of road rage

Traffic psychologists note that ordinarily calm people can become surprisingly aggressive behind the wheel, a phenomenon partly explained by the anonymity a car provides. Drivers rarely expect to see the same stranger twice, which can reduce normal social restraint. Congestion and time pressure make the problem worse, since delays trigger frustration that can escalate quickly if another driver tailgates or cuts in without signalling. Experts recommend leaving extra time for journeys and consciously reframing minor annoyances, such as being overtaken, as unimportant, since dwelling on them significantly increases the risk of aggressive driving.

1 What can ordinarily calm people become behind the wheel? _____

2 What partly explains this, according to psychologists? _____

3 What makes the problem worse? _____

4 Give two examples of triggers for frustration mentioned. _____

5 What do experts recommend leaving extra time for? _____

6 What increases the risk of aggressive driving? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 He was driving too close behind me. TAILGATING _____

2 The traffic was extremely heavy this morning. CONGESTION _____

3 She got angry and aggressive with another driver. ROAD RAGE _____

4 My tyre went flat suddenly. PUNCTURE _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of a traffic problem in your city or town and a possible solution. Include specific causes and effects.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Behaviour 2 Problem 3 Behaviour 4 Infrastructure 5 Vehicle-related 6 Behaviour 7 Problem 8 Vehicle-related

2 Corrections

1 tailgating me 2 congestion is really bad 3 a road rage incident with another driver
4 under the flyover 5 a puncture in my tyre 6 that was reckless driving
7 slows down the traffic 8 forgot to use his indicator

3 Suitable descriptions

1 tailgating 2 congestion 3 road rage 4 bottleneck 5 reckless driving 6 puncture

4 Reports

1 tailgating 2 reckless driving 3 indicator 4 bottleneck 5 flyover 6 congestion 7 road rage 8 puncture

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Surprisingly aggressive.
2 The anonymity a car provides.
3 Congestion and time pressure.
4 Any two: tailgating, cutting in without signalling.
5 Journeys.
6 Dwelling on minor annoyances.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 He was tailgating me. 2 There was heavy congestion this morning.
3 She had a road rage incident with another driver. 4 I got a puncture.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.