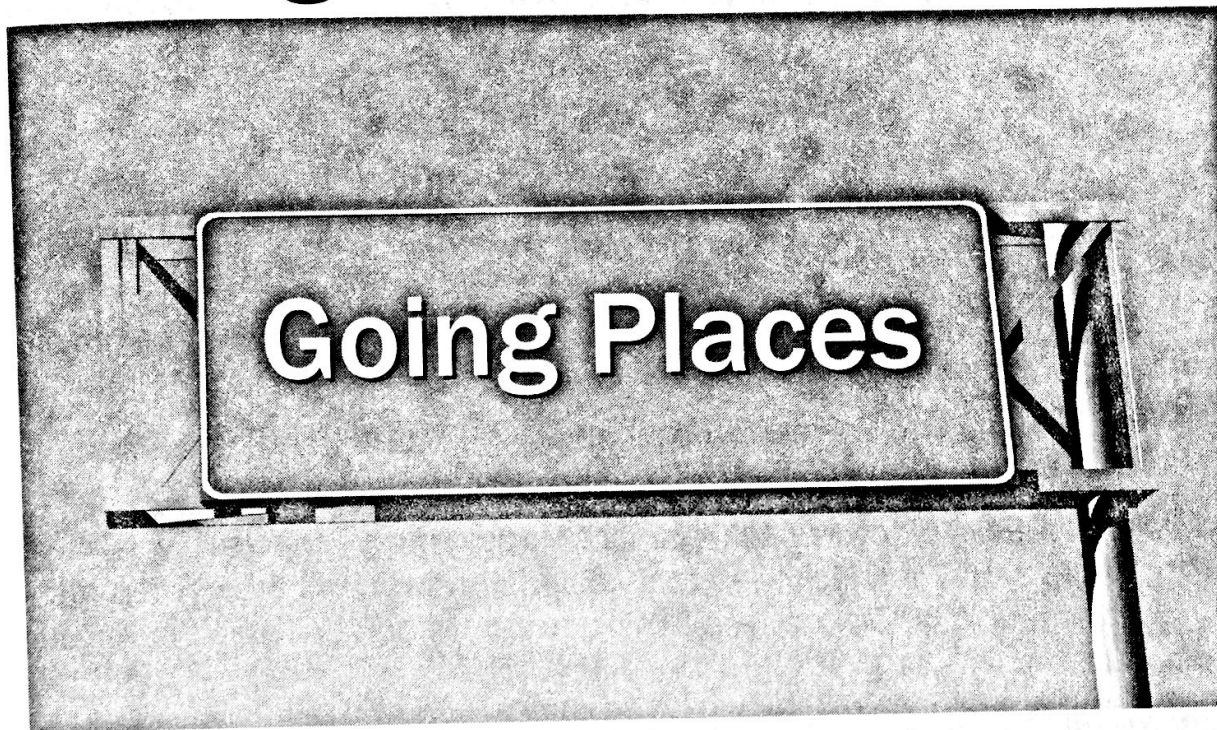


Taking a Drive



Everybody Loves the DMV



Are you **fed up** with **hanging around**, waiting for buses and trains? They go everywhere, but waiting at that bus stop gets pretty **chilly** in the winter. Cabs are really **convenient**, but they sure can be expensive. What's the perfect solution? Drive! I know, I know. You may not have a car. The good news is that it's cheaper to get a license than to get a car. Ha! And although

you can't borrow a driver's license, you can rent a car. But watch out for those crazy drivers! You'll need to make sure you know the rules of the road. Each state has all the information and rules about getting a license on its **DMV** website. "DMV" stands for *Division* or *Department of Motor Vehicles*. The **bad news**: there is usually a test!

DIALOGUE 1: TRACK 8

LIA: Hi. I'd like to get a New Jersey driver's license.

DMV WORKER: Do you want to **renew** a New Jersey license or **apply** for a new one?

LIA: I don't have a New Jersey license, but I have my license from my country.

DMV WORKER: You can't use that here. Do you have an application?

LIA: No, I don't.

DMV WORKER: You'll need to fill out an application. Do you have the **required picture ID**?

LIA: Yes, I do and I have my passport. Do I need anything else?

DMV WORKER: You can check this list of required documents. If you have all the **paperwork**, you just need to take a **vision test** and the **written test**. When that person is finished, you can go to **booth** number 9 and have your picture taken.

LIA: Yikes! Can I **skip** the picture? I'm having a **bad hair day**!

DMV WORKER: Sorry. Our state requires a photo-license.

TIP 1



Rules for getting your license can be different in each state. Before you go, make sure you check what documents you need. It can be very **frustrating** to wait on line, then find out you don't have the right documents. You can find out on the DMV website when you check the office hours. This is not a place anyone likes to visit more than once!

TIP 2



It's a good idea to take a newspaper with you (you can practice reading English). The long lines at the DMV are famous (and not in a good way!). Don't go on a bad hair day. You'll be **stuck with** that license photo for a long time.

VOCABULARY

- **apply:** to fill out documents asking to get something
- ① **bad hair days:** times you just don't look your best
- ① **bad news:** unpleasant situation

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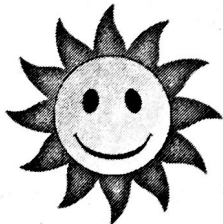
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- **booth:** a small space with a table and, sometimes, a computer
- **chilly:** a little bit cold
- **convenient:** easy
- **DMV:** **D**ivision of **M**otor **V**ehicles (Some states may have a slightly different name, but most use Motor Vehicles in the name.)
- ① **fed up** (also **had enough**): tired of something
- **frustrating:** annoying, making you angry or upset
- **GPS:** short for **G**lobal **P**ositioning **S**ystem; the signal from a satellite that shows exactly where you are
- ① **hanging around:** just waiting
- **paperwork:** forms and documents (ugh!) that must be filled out
- **picture ID:** an **I**dentification **D**ocument that shows your photograph
- **renew:** bring your old license up-to-date
- **required:** necessary
- ① **skip:** omit, leave out
- ① **stuck with:** required to keep
- **vision test:** a simple eye test (to be sure you can see that truck behind you!)
- **written test:** a test taken in the DMV office to test driving knowledge; usually taken on a computer



Fun Fact!

Most big city taxi cabs have a **GPS** screen in the back. You can watch the crazy turns as you travel to your destination.

GRAMMAR REMINDER 1: The Present Simple Tense— Short Answers

To give a short answer to present simple questions, you *don't* repeat the verb. Simply say: **Yes, I do.** Or **No, I don't.** We usually use the contraction in short answers. In the third person use *does* and *doesn't*.

Examples:

- Do you have the required picture ID? **Yes, I do.**
- Do you have an application? **No, I don't.**
- Does he have a picture ID? **Yes, he does.**
- Does she have the paperwork? **No, she doesn't.**

Remember: The answer will be different with that wacky verb to be!

Examples:

- Are you a good driver? **Yes, I am.**
- Is he a good driver? **No, he isn't!**

Let's Go for a Ride!

So you'd like to take the family for a drive in the **country**. A train might take you there, but it's so much easier to **see the sights** by driving around in a car. Maybe it's time to rent a car. It's always a good idea to check many car-rental companies to find the best price. You can search on the Internet or call the company's 800 number. What kind of car do you want? You'll need to decide on a type: **economy**, **midsize**, or **luxury**. You can choose the car that fits your needs. Be prepared to pay more for larger cars. You'll also need to buy insurance, just in case a bear in the country decides that your **compact** car is lunch!



DIALOGUE 2: TRACK 9

LIA: Hello. I'd like to **rent** a car for the weekend.

FRIENDLY RENT-A-CAR: Do you have your driver's license with you?

LIA: Yes, I do.

FRIENDLY RENT-A-CAR: If you want an economy car, we have a nice compact outside.

LIA: Is it a four-door?

FRIENDLY RENT-A-CAR: No, it isn't. It's a two-door, but it has a **hatchback**. And it has a **sunroof**!

LIA: Do you have anything bigger and faster?

FRIENDLY RENT-A-CAR: Well, we have a mid-sized **convertible**, but the compact is more economical.

LIA: How about a big **van**? I have a large family.

FRIENDLY RENT-A-CAR: Sure, we have a van. It's very roomy. It's the biggest and most expensive of the three.

LIA: Well
Maybe r

TIP 3

VOCA

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LIA: Well, I'd like the convertible for myself, but I guess I'll take the van. Maybe next time...

TIP 3



When you rent a car, you'll be asked to buy insurance. This is a good idea. If anything happens to the car while you have it, the insurance will pay for any **damage**. If you use a credit card to rent the car, you may already have insurance coverage. It's a good idea to check with your credit card company first; you can save a few **bucks**!

VOCABULARY

① **bucks:** dollars

- **compact:** the smallest size car
- **convertible:** a car with a special soft roof that folds completely down (Driving with the top down can be great in the summer—not so much fun in the rain!)
- **country:** far from the city, an area of trees and farms
- **damage:** harm or injury to a person or to a car
- **economy:** having to do with saving money
- **hatchback:** a door at the back that lifts up and out for loading
- **luxury:** very special, with extra conveniences
- **midsize:** a medium-sized car, usually with four doors
- **rent:** pay money to use something for a limited time
- ① **see the sights:** visit attractions in a new place
- **sunroof:** a window in the roof of the car that can be opened. Be careful in the rain!
- **van:** a very large vehicle that can carry up to 12 passengers

GRAMMAR REMINDER 2: Comparatives

To compare two short adjectives, use the comparative form. Just add the letters *-er* to the short adjective.

Examples:

- A midsize car is **faster**.
- The luxury car is **bigger**. (Note: sometimes the consonant is doubled.)

To compare longer adjectives, use **more**.

Example: The smaller car is **more economical** than the van.

Do not use both *more* and *-er*! Do not say *more faster*.

GRAMMAR REMINDER 3: Superlatives

To compare three or more things with short adjectives, use the superlative form. Use *the* and the letters *-est*.

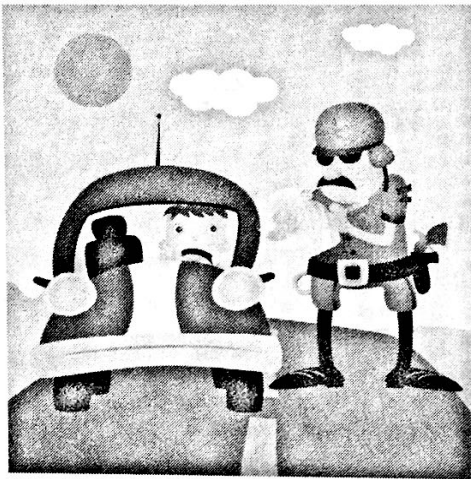
Example: A midsize car is ***the fastest***.

To compare three or more things with longer adjectives, use *the* and *most*.

Example: The luxury car is ***the most comfortable*** one of all.

Do not use both *most* and *-est*! Do not say *the most fastest*.

Oops. Sorry, Officer



Oops. What are those **flashing** lights behind you? Oh, no! Were you careful to watch the speed limit signs along the road? Those flashing lights don't mean a party this time; they mean the police officer would like to have a little **chat** with you. Maybe you shouldn't have rented that fancy car after all.

The flashing lights on a police car usually mean the police officer has noticed a **moving violation**. If a **cop** pulls you over, move to the **shoulder** of the road right away, as safely as

you can. Be careful of **traffic** on the highway! It's important to be respectful to the officer, even if you're not sure why he or she is stopping you.

DIALOGUE 3: TRACK 10

STATE TROOPER: Good morning, sir. I **pulled you over** because the speed limit is 50 miles per hour. You were driving much faster than that. You were doing 70.

ALAN: I'm sorry, **Officer**. I didn't **notice** the sign, but I thought I was driving slower than that.

STATE TROOPER: I need to see your license and **registration**.

ALAN: I don't have my license with me. I think I left it home.

STATE TROOPER: You need to have license and registration with you in the car at all times, sir. I am going to **issue** you a **ticket** for **speeding** and another one for not having the proper documents. You can **call the clerk's** office to find out the amount of the **fin**es.

ALAN: Call

STATE TROOPER:

call the clerk

ALAN: This

STATE TROOPER:

TIP 4



TIP 5



TIP 6



VOCABULARY

- allowed
- chat: a
- ① cop: po
- fine: th
- flashin
- in pers
- issue:
- moving
- speedin
- notice:
- Officer
- ① pull ov
- registr
- should
- a car c
- speedi
- state t
- ticket:
- paymer

ALAN: Can I just pay you now?

STATE TROOPER: Sir, police officers aren't **allowed** to take money. You have to call the clerk's office. You can go there to pay **in person**, or you can mail it in.

ALAN: This is my first speeding ticket.

STATE TROOPER: Have a nice day, sir.

TIP 4



Know what documents you need to keep in your car.

TIP 5



If a police officer pulls you over, *don't* get out of the car. Wait for the police officer to come to your window.

TIP 6



Be *polite*. Those police officers have had a **tough** day!

VOCABULARY

- **allowed:** permitted
- **chat:** a casual conversation
- ① **cop:** police officer
- **fine:** the amount of money you must pay for certain violations
- **flashing:** shining brightly on and off, very quickly
- **in person:** going yourself to do something directly
- **issue:** give out
- **moving violation:** a motor vehicle law that's broken while driving, such as speeding
- **notice:** see
- **Officer:** the respectful title for a policeman or policewoman
- ① **pull over:** move the car to the side of the road
- **registration:** a document showing the owner of a car
- **shoulder:** space on the side of the road, usually marked by a line, where a car can park if there's a problem
- **speeding:** going faster than the speed limit. This is a no no!
- **state trooper:** member of the state police force
- **ticket:** a document showing a road law you've broken; it requires payment of a fine

① **tough:** difficult

- **traffic:** a lot of cars in the same place on the road

MORE FUN WITH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: Cars

- **get a lot of mileage out of something:** be able to use something for a long time
Even after five years, the sweater looked great. She was happy she got a lot of mileage out of it.
- **road hog:** a driver who takes up space in more than one lane on a road
She knew she would be late when she got stuck driving behind a road hog on the way to work.
- **get the show on the road:** get started with something
He spent the whole day packing for his trip, and now he just wanted to get the show on the road.
- **traffic jam:** many cars stuck on a road without being able to move
He didn't care about being stuck in the traffic jam; he was happy to listen to his new CD.
- **lemon:** a car (or other item) that continues to have problems even after it's been repaired many times
He was nervous about buying a used car from a stranger. "With my luck," he said, "I'll get a lemon."

VOCABULARY

Fill in the blank.

- _____ sale
_____ fine
1. Hey, let's _____
able to g
 2. There's E
grass an
 3. The train
 4. I need to
 5. I love a c
messes t
 6. Dad, can

 7. Let's take
 8. The wors
too many
 9. I'm so hu
breakfast
 10. I got stc

INFORMAL

Can you explain?

11. headed
12. drive so
13. hang ar
14. fed up
15. pull over
16. change
17. catch th