

8B | Traffic jam

LISTENING

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- How long is the journey from your house to class?
- How do you get to class? Do you walk, take public transport or drive?
- Is there a lot of traffic when you come to class?

2 2.26 Listen to the traffic report. Match the pictures A–D to the stories 1–4.

3 2.26 Listen again. What is the problem in each picture?



4 2.26 Listen again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

- 1 There is a bus on fire in Regent Street.
 - 2 Traffic isn't moving in Regent Street.
 - 3 Some people are singing in Oxford Street.
 - 4 These people are standing next to the cars.
 - 5 The police are talking to the lion.
 - 6 A car is on the wrong side of the road in East London.
- 5 Is traffic bad in your town?

GRAMMAR: present continuous

Use the present continuous to talk about events happening now or around now.

Form: *be + verb + ing*

Traffic is not moving.

Someone is driving on the wrong side of the road.

What are they doing?

SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 90

1 Look at audioscript 2.26 on page 144. Underline examples of the present continuous.

2 Make questions and answers with the present continuous.

What / they / do?

They / move / a car to the side of the road.

What are they doing?

They are moving a car to the side of the road.

1 What / the people / do?

The people / stand / in the street.

2 Where / they / go?

They / go / to the city centre.

3 Who / the police / talk to?

They / talk to / the demonstrators.

4 What / the lion / do?

It / sit / in the road.

5 What / the car / do?

It / drive / on the wrong side of the road.

6 What / the woman / do?

She / talk / on her mobile phone.

3 Think of four people you know. What are they doing now? Make sentences about them. Use the verbs and phrases in the box to help you.

watch TV work sleep sit in traffic
 have breakfast/lunch/dinner study
 talk on the phone do the housework

4 Work in pairs. Write the names of the people in exercise 3 on a different piece of paper. Ask questions about the people on your partner's paper.

*What's Michael doing?
 He's working.*

VOCABULARY: action verbs

1 Write the missing letters in the infinitive verbs.

- 1 s _ ng 3 dr _ ve 5 k _ ss
 2 w _ lk 4 r _ n 6 sl _ _ p

2 Make sentences about what people are doing in the pictures. Use the verbs in exercise 1 in the present continuous.



SPEAKING

1 Work in pairs. Read the instructions for the *In Traffic Game*.

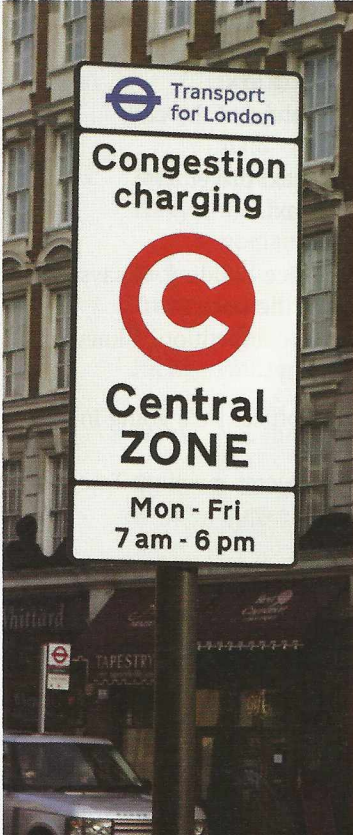
IN TRAFFIC GAME

- Work in groups of four or five. You are all in one car, in a traffic jam.
- Your teacher will give you a piece of paper with an action on it.
- Do the action. Don't say a word.
- The other students ask questions about the action.
- Are you dancing?* Answer *Yes, we are* or *No, we aren't*.
- Take turns.

2 Play the game.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Work in pairs. Read about traffic in London and discuss the questions.



London's CONGESTION CHARGE

London had the worst traffic in the UK and was one of the worst cities in Europe. Drivers spent 50% of their time in traffic jams, and pollution was terrible. In 2003, the mayor of London made a new law to help reduce traffic. It now costs £10 (approximately €12) a day to drive in central London. More people use public transport and bicycles now in London because of this law. Traffic is bad, but not too bad now.

- What do you think of the congestion charge in London?
- Is it a good idea?
- Is there something similar in your country?