



1. sign [saɪn], signpost ['saɪnpəʊst]
2. slip road ['slɪp rəʊd] UK, ramp [ræmp] N. Am.
3. tow truck ['təʊ trʌk]
4. petrol station ['petrəl ,steɪʃən] UK, gas station ['gæs ,steɪʃən] N. Am.
5. car park ['kɑː pɑːk] UK, parking lot ['pɑːkɪŋ lɒt] N. Am.
6. services ['sɜːvɪsɪz], service area ['sɜːvɪs ,eəriə] UK, rest area ['rest ,eəriə] N. Am.
7. hard shoulder [,hɑːd 'ʃəʊldə] UK, breakdown lane ['breɪkdaʊn leɪn] N. Am.
8. emergency telephone [ɪ'mɜːdʒənsi ,telɪfəʊn]
9. junction [dʒʌŋkʃən]
10. lane [leɪn]
11. carriageway ['kærɪdʒweɪ] UK, roadway ['rəʊdweɪ] N. Am.
12. roadworks ['rəʊdɜːks] UK, roadwork ['rəʊdɜːk] N. Am.
13. speed trap ['spiːd træp]

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VOCABULARY

On the motorway

How many hours have you spent stuck on a motorway this summer?

ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about this topic.

MEDIUM PLUS

Motorways in the UK

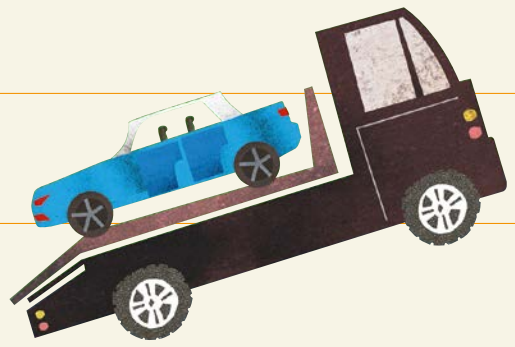
Britain's first motorway was not the M1, as people might think, but the M6 — or rather, an eight-mile stretch of it, the Preston Bypass, which opened in 1958. The M1 opened the following year. Linking London and Leeds, it was Britain's first full-length interurban motorway. The first service area, Watford Gap Services, between Junctions 16 and 17, opened at the same time.

Britain's most famous motorway is probably the M25. It forms a large circle round London. It is 117 miles in length and is Europe's second-longest ring road, surpassed only by the Berlin Ring. Notorious for its frequent traffic jams, the M25 is one of Europe's most congested motorways. Traffic is particularly heavy during the summer holidays, when families with school-age children also hit the road.

If you are planning to drive in Britain this summer, remember that the speed limit on motorways is 70 miles (just under 113 kilometres) per hour. All British motorways are toll-free, with one exception: you have to pay for a 27-mile stretch of the M6 north of Birmingham.

PRACTICE

Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about motorways.



Exercise 1

E

Complete the tables below with the correct British and American English words.

British English

American English

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| A. _____ | ramp |
| B. service area | _____ |
| C. _____ | gas station |
| D. hard shoulder | _____ |
| E. _____ | parking lot |

Exercise 2

M

Complete the sentences below with the nouns from the list.

carriageway | hard shoulder | junction | lane | roadworks

- A. Slow down! We have to get out at the next _____.
- B. There's a traffic jam on the northbound _____ of the M1.
- C. I was stuck behind a lorry in the slow _____ all the way to Bristol.
- D. We had to pull over on to the _____ and call a tow truck.
- E. That sign says there are _____ ahead for the next five miles.

built-up area

[ˌbɪlt ʌp 'eəriə]
• geschlossene Ortschaft

northbound

['nɔːθbaʊnd]
• in nördlicher Richtung

pull over

[pʊl 'əʊvə]
• an die Seite fahren

slow down

[sləʊ 'daʊn]
• langsamer fahren

stuck: be

[stʌk]
• festhängen

tow truck

['təʊ trʌk]
• Abschleppwagen

traffic jam

['træfɪk dʒæm]
• Verkehrsstau

Exercise 3

A

Complete the sentences below with words from the text on the opposite page.

- A. I wish they would introduce a(n) _____ on German motorways.
- B. You have to pay a(n) _____ on some, but not all, French motorways.
- C. The M25 is always _____ on Fridays.
- D. I spent the final ten-mile _____ of the M5 stuck in a traffic jam.
- E. We're planning to _____ the road at around six in the morning.

What type of road?

Note the difference between a **street** and a **road**. A "street" is found in a city, town or village and has buildings along it. "Road" is a more general word. It is used for the routes connecting cities, towns or villages.

A **motorway** is called a **freeway** or **highway** in American English. It has several lanes in each direction. The word **lane** can also refer to a narrow country road or a narrow street with buildings along both sides.

Motorways in Britain all have an M and a number as their name. **A-roads** are not as large as motorways, but wider and straighter than **B-roads**.

A **bypass** is a road that goes round a city rather than through its centre, whereas an **expressway** (in the US) allows traffic to travel fast through cities or **built-up areas**.



Answers

- A. slip road
B. rest area
C. petrol station
D. breakdown lane
E. car park
- A. junction
B. carriageway
C. lane
D. hard shoulder
E. roadworks
- A. speed limit
B. toll
C. congested
D. stretch
E. hit