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Level 6

Overtaking a big risk on the road

28th May, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

A new survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own risky overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are far safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road ahead was clear, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and relax."

Sources: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/579849/Dangerous-drivers-aggressive-overtaking-lives-at-risk>
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/dangerous-overtaking-risks-lives-230505243.html#GkUZZlf>
<http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk/Country-lanes-dangerous-UK/story-26568803-detail/story.html>

WARM-UPS

1. OVERTAKING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about overtaking. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

survey / drivers / overtaking / threatened / comparison / poll / young men / figure / charity / country roads / urban areas / preventable deaths / high speed / minority

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. DRIVING: How can we make it safer? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems now	Solutions
Seatbelts		
Seats		
Cars		
Roads		
Technology		
Traffic rules		

4. BAN OVERTAKING: Students A **strongly** believe there should be a ban on overtaking; Students B **strongly** believe this is silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. RISKY: Rank these with your partner. Put the riskiest things about driving at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- overtaking
- fog
- mobile phones
- speeding
- icy roads
- jumping red lights
- other drivers
- country roads

6. DRIVER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "driver". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Most British drivers have taken evasive action while driving. | T / F |
| b. A road safety charity interviewed 10,000 motorists. | T / F |
| c. All of the drivers in the survey had seen dangerous overtaking. | T / F |
| d. Men were a lot more dangerous at overtaking than women. | T / F |
| e. Country roads were the most dangerous place to overtake. | T / F |
| f. A charity said many road deaths could be avoided. | T / F |
| g. The charity said a significant minority of drivers are still dangerous. | T / F |
| h. The charity said cool-headed drivers panic when overtaking. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. survey | a. empty |
| 2. risky | b. conducted |
| 3. carried out | c. totally |
| 4. far | d. hazardous |
| 5. clear | e. rural |
| 6. country | f. wrecks |
| 7. urging | g. study |
| 8. absolutely | h. encouraging |
| 9. ruins | i. forceful |
| 10. aggressive | j. much |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. one in | a. of dangerous overtaking |
| 2. drivers have felt | b. as likely |
| 3. the biggest perpetrators | c. doing so |
| 4. they were not sure the road | d. place to overtake |
| 5. the figure for female drivers | e. headed |
| 6. the most dangerous | f. seven drivers |
| 7. twice | g. threatened |
| 8. absolutely | h. head-on crash |
| 9. cause a devastating, high-speed, | i. ahead was clear |
| 10. cool- | j. essential |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

A new (1) _____ in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own (2) _____ overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 (3) _____. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt (4) _____ by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have (5) _____ dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In (6) _____, women drivers are (7) _____ safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not (8) _____ the road ahead was clear, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

risky
witnessed
far
threatened
survey
sure
motorists
comparison

The charity also found that the most (9) _____ place to overtake was on (10) _____ -lane country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in (11) _____ areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to (12) _____ overtaking on country roads unless absolutely (13) _____ and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, (14) _____ -on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and (15) _____ manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and (16) _____."

urban
head
single
relax
dangerous
selfish
essential
avoid

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

- 1) A new survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to _____
 - a. take invasive action
 - b. take evading action
 - c. take persuasive action
 - d. take evasive action
- 2) It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt threatened by _____
 - a. other people overtaking
 - b. another people overtaking
 - c. others people overtaking
 - d. other peoples overtaking
- 3) It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young _____
 - a. men age 17-24
 - b. men aged 17-24
 - c. men aged 18-24
 - d. men aged 17-25
- 4) male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road _____
 - a. ahead was cleared
 - b. ahead was clearly
 - c. ahead was clarity
 - d. ahead was clear
- 5) the figure for female drivers doing so was _____
 - a. justly 15 per cent
 - b. adjust 15 per cent
 - c. a just 15 per cent
 - d. just 15 per cent
- 6) the most dangerous place to overtake was on _____ roads
 - a. singular-lane country
 - b. single-lanes country
 - c. single-lane country
 - d. single-line country
- 7) Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they _____
 - a. are in urbane areas
 - b. are in urban areas
 - c. are inner ban areas
 - d. are in a ban areas
- 8) We're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless _____
 - a. absolutely essential
 - b. absolute essential
 - c. absolute tea essential
 - d. absolutely he sent shall
- 9) You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives _____
 - a. and ruin others
 - b. and runes others
 - c. and loo-ins others
 - d. and ruins others
- 10) In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers _____ relax
 - a. hung back and
 - b. hang back and
 - c. bang back and
 - d. fang back and

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

A new survey in Britain shows (1) _____ drivers has had to take evasive action because (2) _____ overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers (3) _____ by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the (4) _____ of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are far safer. The (5) _____ while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road ahead was clear, the figure for female drivers (6) _____ 15 per cent.

The charity (7) _____ most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane country roads. Drivers (8) _____ to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "(9) _____ drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless (10) _____ and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, (11) _____ are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, (12) _____ responsible drivers hang back and relax."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

1. What proportion of overtaking drivers has taken evasive action?

2. How many motorists took part in the survey?

3. What percentage of drivers had seen dangerous overtaking?

4. Which age and gender group are the biggest danger?

5. What was not clear for many young male drivers?

6. Where was the most dangerous place to overtake?

7. How much more likely to die are drivers on country roads?

8. When did a charity spokeswoman say it was OK to overtake?

9. Who is still taking a risk and driving aggressively?

10. What do cool-headed and responsible drivers do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

1. What proportion of overtaking drivers has taken evasive action?
 - a) a fraction
 - b) two-thirds
 - c) 20%
 - d) one in seven
2. How many motorists took part in the survey?
 - a) 100
 - b) 1,000
 - c) 10,000
 - d) 100,000
3. What percentage of drivers had seen dangerous overtaking?
 - a) 100
 - b) 39
 - c) 80
 - d) 94
4. Which age and gender group are the biggest danger?
 - a) 70-94-year-old men
 - b) 17-24-year-old women
 - c) 17-24-year-old men
 - d) 70-94-year-old women
5. What was not clear for many young male drivers?
 - a) windscreens (UK) /windshields (USA)
 - b) insurance policies
 - c) traffic rules
 - d) the road ahead
6. Where was the most dangerous place to overtake?
 - a) Route 1
 - b) Kuwait
 - c) country roads
 - d) in your own town
7. How much more likely to die are drivers on country roads?
 - a) twice as likely
 - b) 3 times more
 - c) much more
 - d) 100 times more likely
8. When did a charity spokeswoman say it was OK to overtake?
 - a) if others are urging you to
 - b) if you are cool-headed
 - c) if it was absolutely essential
 - d) when risking and rushing it
9. Who is still taking a risk and driving aggressively?
 - a) people in sports cars
 - b) a small minority
 - c) new drivers
 - d) John
10. What do cool-headed and responsible drivers do?
 - a) relax
 - b) drive slowly
 - c) complain
 - d) hoot / honk more

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

Role A – Overtaking

You think overtaking is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, speeding or driving while texting.

Role B – Fog

You think fog is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): overtaking, speeding or driving while texting.

Role C – Speeding

You think speeding is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, overtaking or driving while texting.

Role D – Driving while texting

You think driving while texting is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, speeding or overtaking.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'over' and 'take'.

over	take
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• new• carried• felt• biggest• comparison• 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• single• likely• avoid• safe• spite• hang
--	---

OVERTAKING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

Write five GOOD questions about overtaking in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

OVERTAKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'overtaking'?
- 3) What do you think of overtaking?
- 4) Have you ever felt worried by someone overtaking?
- 5) Should overtaking be banned?
- 6) How dangerous are drivers in your country?
- 7) How can technology keep the roads safer?
- 8) Why do people want to overtake so much?
- 9) Why are young men so dangerous on the roads?
- 10) Why are men more dangerous drivers than women?

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OVERTAKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How safe a driver are you (or would you be)?
- 13) Who is the most dangerous driver you know?
- 14) Should all cars have cameras to record the driver's actions?
- 15) Are dangerous drivers criminals?
- 16) How would life be different if overtaking was banned?
- 17) Should there be more speed cameras or speed bumps on country roads?
- 18) Should the power and speed of cars be limited?
- 19) What advice do you have for dangerous drivers?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

A new survey in Britain shows that one (1) _____ seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own (2) _____ overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have (3) _____ threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men (4) _____ 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are (5) _____ safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road (6) _____ was clear, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-(7) _____ country roads. Drivers are twice (8) _____ likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're (9) _____ all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads (10) _____ absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-(11) _____ crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang (12) _____ and relax."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) on | (d) in |
| 2. | (a) risqué | (b) risked | (c) riskless | (d) risky |
| 3. | (a) done | (b) felt | (c) had | (d) taken |
| 4. | (a) age | (b) ages | (c) aged | (d) aging |
| 5. | (a) far | (b) more | (c) many | (d) long |
| 6. | (a) ahead | (b) forward | (c) front | (d) before |
| 7. | (a) lined | (b) linear | (c) lone | (d) lane |
| 8. | (a) as | (b) by | (c) at | (d) for |
| 9. | (a) ageing | (b) urging | (c) agreeing | (d) egging |
| 10. | (a) though | (b) while | (c) unless | (d) however |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) to | (c) on | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) on | (b) back | (c) in | (d) over |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

Paragraph 1

1. take ievavse action
2. road safety rciatyh
3. felt hneaettdre
4. etsdsniew dangerous overtaking
5. In oriscapomn, women drivers are far safer
6. the ifeugr for female drivers

Paragraph 2

7. twice as kleiyl
8. these deaths are eevnbpetarl
9. absolutely sileantse
10. a taivgsendat, high-speed, head-on crash
11. a significant imniryto
12. epleibsnosr drivers

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road
()	avoid overtaking on country roads unless absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe." She added:
()	The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane
()	others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and
()	country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of
()	"Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives and ruins
()	men aged 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are far safer. The poll revealed that while
()	overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of
()	witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young
()	these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to
()	drivers have felt threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have
()	ahead was clear, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.
(1)	A new survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own risky
()	selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and relax."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

1. had has drivers seven in One action evasive take to .

2. The charity out safety carried survey road Brake the .

3. felt overtaking threatened by Drivers other have people .

4. biggest of overtaking The perpetrators dangerous .

5. just 15% . The figure for female drivers doing so was

6. die roads twice to rural are likely on Drivers as .

7. these are of deaths preventable Many .

8. drivers urging overtaking to all We're avoid .

9. it ?" : risk rush added "Why and She

10. minority risk are still A taking significant the .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

A new survey in Britain shows that *one / once* in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own *risked / risky* overtaking. The road safety charity Brake *carried / carrying* out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It *revealed / revelled* that 80 per cent of drivers have *felt / done* threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest *protractors / perpetrators* of dangerous overtaking are young men *ageing / aged* 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are *more / far* safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not *surely / sure* the road ahead was *clear / clarity*, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on *single-lane / singular-lane* country roads. Drivers are twice *by / as* likely to die on rural roads than they are in *urbane / urban* areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads *while / unless* absolutely essential and 100 per cent *safe / safety*." She added: "Why risk *them / it* and rush? You could *cause / causal* a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends *lives / living* and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still *taking / doing* the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers *hang / hanging* back and relax."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

_ n_w s_rv_y _n Br_t__n sh_ws th_t _n__n s_v_n
dr_v_rs h_s h_d t_ t_k_ _v_s_v_ _ct__n b_c__s_ _f
th__r _wn r_sky _v_rt_k_ng. Th_ r__d s_f_ty ch_r_ty
Br_k_ c_rr__d __t th_ s_rv_y _n 1,000 m_t_r_sts. _t
r_v__l_d th_t 80 p_r c_nt _f dr_v_rs h_v_ f_lt
thr__t_n_d by _th_r p__pl_ _v_rt_k_ng, wh_l_ 94 p_r
c_nt _f dr_v_rs s__d th_y h_v_ w_tn_ss_d d_ng_r__s
_v_rt_k_ng. _t s__d th_ b_gg_st p_rp_tr_t_rs _f
d_ng_r__s _v_rt_k_ng _r_y__ng m_n _g_d 17-24. _n
c_m_p_r_s_n, w_m_n dr_v_rs _r_f_r s_f_r. Th_ p_ll
r_v__l_d th_t wh_l_ 39 p_r c_nt _f 17-24-y__r_ld m_l
dr_v_rs _dm_tt_d _v_rt_k_ng wh_n th_y w_r_n_t s_r
th_ r__d _h__d w_s cl__r, th_ f_g_r _f_r f_m_l
dr_v_rs d__ng s_ w_s j_st 15 p_r c_nt.

Th_ ch_r_ty _ls_ f__nd th_t th_ m_st d_ng_r__s pl_c__
t_ _v_rt_k_ w_s _n s_ngl_-l_n_ c__ntry r__ds. Dr_v_rs
_r_tw_c__s l_k_ly t_d__n r_r_l_r__ds th_n th_y
_r__n _rb_n _r__s. M_ny _f th_s_ d__ths _r_
pr_v_nt_bl_. _sp_k_sw_m_n fr_m Br_k_ s__d: "W_'r_
_rg_ng _ll dr_v_rs t_ _v__d _v_rt_k_ng _n c__ntry
r__ds _nl_ss _bs_l_t_ly _ss_nt__l _nd 100 p_r c_nt
s_f_." Sh__dd_d: "Why r_sk_t _nd r_sh? Y__c__ld
c__s_ _d_v_st_t_ng, h_g_h-sp__d, h__d-_n cr_sh th_t
_nds l_v_s _nd r__ns _th_rs. _n sp_t_ _f th_s, _
s_gn_f_c_nt m_n_r_ty _r_st_ll t_k_ng th_ r_sk _nd
p_rf_rm_ng th_s _ggr_ss_v_ _nd s_lf_sh
m_n__vr..._n th_s_ s_t_t__ns, c__l-h__d_d _nd
r_sp_ns_bl_ dr_v_rs h_ng b_ck _nd r_l_x."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150528-overtaking.html>

a new survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own risky overtaking. The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt threatened by other people overtaking while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In comparison women drivers are far safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road ahead was clear the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said "we're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe" she added "why risk it and rush you could cause a devastating high-speed head-on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...in those situations cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and relax"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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A news survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own risky overtaking. The roads safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are far safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road ahead was clear, the figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent. The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre... In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and relax."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the dangers of overtaking. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SAFE DRIVING: Make a poster about overtaking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BAN: Write a magazine article about having a ban on overtaking. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a road safety expert. Ask him/her three questions about overtaking. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to reduce accidents on the roads. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c F d T e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. survey | a. study |
| 2. risky | b. hazardous |
| 3. carried out | c. conducted |
| 4. far | d. much |
| 5. clear | e. empty |
| 6. country | f. rural |
| 7. urging | g. encouraging |
| 8. absolutely | h. totally |
| 9. ruins | i. wrecks |
| 10. aggressive | j. forceful |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. One in seven
2. 1,000
3. 94%
4. Males aged 17-24
5. The road ahead
6. Single-lane country roads
7. Twice as likely
8. When it is absolutely essential and 100% safe
9. A significant minority
10. Hang back and relax

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)