**CAR DRIVING**

**Roads and road signs**

**Exercise 1. Read the text and give each word in bold (ex.1) its correct meaning from the following list:**

a) to go past a moving vehicle because you are driving faster than it;

b) a circular area where several roads meet;

c) polite behaviour;

d) a device which blocks the wheel of a car that is illegally parked, so that it cannot move.

**Driving in Britain**

Britain has a very extensive network of modern motorways and roads linking all its main cities. When visiting Britain, the driver from abroad should remember a number of differences in using the roads. In contrast to other countries, cars in Britain travel on the left-hand side of the road and **overtake** on the right, which may cause some problems, especially if the traveller’s car has right-hand drive. It should also be remembered that priority must always be given to cars coming from the right, particularly at **roundabouts*.***

British drivers are known for their **courtesy** and consideration. Both drivers and front-seat passengers are obliged to wear seat-belts. There are very strict rules against drinking. The maximum permitted speed in towns and built-up areas is only 30 mph (about 50 km/h).

In big cities drivers have problems with parking, especially in the centre. Infringement of parking regulations can result in fines**, wheel clamps** or even the removal of a vehicle by the police. Driving is more enjoyable on modern motorways on which drivers may maintain a speed of 70 miles per hour (112 km/h).

**Exercise 2. Fill in the gaps with the words below:**

Those of you who will have to drive a car while travelling abroad should get an international driving … . Always keep your driving licence and … papers on you.

Remember that motoring regulations are strictly enforced. In the United States, as in the former Soviet Union, you drive … . In Britain, Japan and several other countries you must keep … .

Parking in many cities can be a problem. Remember there are such things as …, parking metres, and parking lots. “No Parking” signs, registration, on the right, licence, to the left.

**Exercise 3. Fill in the table.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **UK** | **Russia** |
| 1. The side of the road cars travel on |  |  |
| 2. The side on which cars overtake |  |  |
| 3. At crossroads priority is given to cars coming from |  |  |
| 4. The maximum permitted speed in town and builtup areas |  |  |
| 5. The maximum permitted speed on motorways |  |  |

**Exercise 4. Skan the text and name the categories of road signs mentioned in the text.**

Traffic signs or road signs are signs erected at the side of roads to provide information to road users. With traffic volumes increasing, many countries have adopted pictorial signs or otherwise simplified and standardized their signs to facilitate international travel where language differences would create barriers, and in general to help enhance traffic safety. Such pictorial signs use symbols (often silhouettes) in place of words and are usually based on international protocols. Such signs were fi rst developed in Europe, and have been adopted by most countries to varying degrees.

A. Danger warning signs

B. Priority signs

C. Prohibitory or restrictive signs

D. Mandatory signs

E. Special regulation signs

F. Information, facilities, or service signs

G. Direction, position, or indication signs

H. Additional panels

**Exercise 6. Match the pictures of the road signs with their names from the list.**



1. Two-way traffic straight ahead.

2. Stop and give way.

3. Give way to traffic on major road (yield).

4. No U-turns.

5. Road narrows on both sides.

6. Road narrows on right.

7. Side winds.

8. Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead.

9. No stopping (clearway).

10. Turn right.

11. Motorway.

**Exercise 7.** Describe the meanings of the road signs from exercise 6.

***Example*:** A STOP sign informs drivers to stop.

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