

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DRIVING

Questions: *Do you like to drive? Why? / Why not?*

- Read the article below and then answer the questions.

Robotic Cars



The year is 2020, and it's 7:45 on a rainy Monday morning, and you are in your car and on your way to work. You turn left, and then you turn right. A few minutes later, you stop at a traffic light. When the light turns green and there are no other cars in the intersection, you continue on your way. Ten minutes later, you arrive at work and you stop reading the morning paper. Then, you get out of your car and you say,

“Thank you!” Your car replies, “You’re welcome!” This possible future may sound unreal, but in fact many car companies are already testing robotic cars, or ‘driverless cars’, on the roads today (although the cars don’t speak very much yet).

In the 1980s, Germany and the United States tested the first driverless cars, and by 2020 companies such as Volvo, GM, Nissan and BMW plan to sell driverless cars. Driverless cars are not really ‘driverless’ – the ‘drivers’ are computers that use radar, computer maps and other modern technology. **They** offer many advantages. Perhaps the most important of these is fewer deaths caused by road accidents. For example, in 1968 more than 53,000 people lost their lives in car accidents in the U.S.A. This number has fallen to less than 33,000 but it is still a high number. In addition, people will spend less time stuck in traffic jams and there will be no need for people to have a driving license. One of the major disadvantages of the new technology, however, is the cost. **It's** not free. US\$5,000 to US\$10,000 is added to the price of a new car. Nevertheless, at some time in your life, you will probably be sitting in a robotic, driverless car on your way to work or on your way to school. The future is almost here. Are you ready for it?

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● READING COMPREHENSION

Score out of ten	As percentage
/10	%

1. The article is about robots.

- (a) TRUE
- (b) FALSE
- (c) It doesn't say.

2. In 2020, at 7:45 a.m. on a Monday morning, you will be in a car on your way to work.

- (a) TRUE
- (b) FALSE
- (c) MAYBE

3. What CAN'T robotic cars do very well?

- (a) speak
- (b) drive
- (c) use computer maps

4. When were the first driverless cars tested?

- (a) in 1968
- (b) in the 1980s
- (c) in 2020

5. Which countries tested the first driverless cars?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Germany, Japan and the United States
- (c) Germany and the United States

6. In Paragraph 2, what does the word 'they' refer to?

- (a) driverless cars
- (b) computer maps
- (c) fewer deaths

7. In the United States, the number of people killed in car accidents is

- (a) becoming less
- (b) becoming more
- (c) staying the same

8. How many advantages are given?

- (a) two
- (b) one
- (c) three

9. In Paragraph 2, what does the word "it's" refer to?

- (a) a driving license
- (b) the new technology
- (c) traffic jams

10. What will be the total cost of a new, driverless car?

- (a) It will be free.
- (b) Between \$5,000 and \$10,000
- (c) It doesn't say.

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Grammar-in-Context

- Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

The year is 2020, and it's 7:45 (1)_____ a rainy Monday morning, and you are in your car and on your way to work. You turn left, and then you turn right. A few minutes later, you stop at a traffic light. When the light (2)_____ green and there are no other cars in the intersection, you continue on your way. Ten minutes later, you arrive at work and you stop reading the morning paper. Then, you get out of your car and you say, "Thank you!" (3)_____ car replies, "You're welcome!" This possible future may sound unreal, but in fact many car companies are already testing robotic cars, or 'driverless cars', on the roads today (although the cars (4)_____ speak very much yet).

In the 1980s, Germany and the United States (5)_____ the first driverless cars, and by 2020 companies such as Volvo, GM, Nissan and BMW plan to sell driverless cars. Driverless cars (6)_____ really 'driverless' – the 'drivers' are computers that use radar, computer maps (7)_____ other modern technology. They offer many advantages. Perhaps the most important of these is fewer (8)_____ caused by road accidents. For example, in 1968 more than 53,000 people lost their lives in car accidents in the U.S.A. This number has fallen to less than 33,000 but it is still a high number. (9)_____ addition, people will spend less time stuck in traffic jams and there will be no need for people to (10)_____ a driving license. One of the major disadvantages of the new technology, however, is the cost. It's (11)_____ free. US\$5,000 to US\$10,000 is added to the price of a new car. Nevertheless, at some time in your life, you will probably be sitting in a robotic, driverless car on your way to work or on your way to school. The future is almost here. (12)_____ you ready for it?

1.

- (A) in
- (B) on
- (C) at
- (D) by

2.

- (A) turns
- (B) turning
- (C) turned
- (D) turn

3.

- (A) You
- (B) You're
- (C) Your
- (D) Yours

4.

- (A) isn't
- (B) aren't
- (C) not
- (D) don't

5.

- (A) tests
- (B) tested
- (C) test
- (D) testing

6.

- (A) don't
- (B) are not
- (C) not
- (D) isn't

7.

- (A) but
- (B) so
- (C) because
- (D) and

8.

- (A) deaths
- (B) die
- (C) dead
- (D) deadly

9.

- (A) On
- (B) For
- (C) In
- (D) At

10.

- (A) have
- (B) had
- (C) has
- (D) having

11.

- (A) isn't
- (B) don't
- (C) won't
- (D) not

12.

- (A) Is
- (B) Do
- (C) Are
- (D) Will

LESSON

Reading and Grammar: Driving

Aim Reading and Grammar Practice

Level Intermediate

NOTES

Begin the lesson by asking your learners if they prefer to have a driver, or whether they like to drive by themselves.

Distribute the Reading Comprehension sheet (the ten questions on page 2) before your learners actually read the text on page 1. Give them about a minute to quickly go over the questions and remind them that they want to skim and scan the text to answer the questions quickly – remember: good readers do two things: (1) understand what they read; (2) read quickly. Consider giving your learners an appropriate time limit to read and answer all the questions (about 10 – 15 minutes) – write this on the board so everyone is aware of it. This time may vary somewhat depending on your own specific group of learners, so be flexible.

For the Grammar-in-Context section, make sure that your learners have put away the original reading text before completing the exercise.

My Notes

ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A |
| 2. C | 7. A |
| 3. A | 8. C |
| 4. B | 9. B |
| 5. C | 10. C |

Grammar-in-Context

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. B | 9. C |
| 2. A | 6. B | 10. A |
| 3. C | 7. D | 11. D |
| 4. D | 8. A | 12. C |