DRIVING

**Question:** Is it important to know how to drive? Are you a good driver?

- Complete the paragraph on the right with the words on the left.

**Robotic Cars in 2020**

The year is 2020, and it’s 7:45 on a rainy, Monday morning. You are in your car and on your way to work. You turn left, and then you (1)___________. A few minutes later, you stop at a (2)___________. When the light turns (3)___________ and there are no other cars in the (4)___________, you continue on your way. Ten minutes later you arrive at work and you stop reading the morning newspaper. Then, you get out of your car and say, “Thank you!” Your car replies, “You’re welcome!” This may sound like science fiction, but in fact many car companies are already testing robotic cars, or “driverless cars”, on the (5)___________ today (although the cars don’t speak very much).

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 (6)___________ that use radar, computer maps, and other modern technology. Driverless cars offer many advantages: fewer deaths caused by road (7)____________, less time in (8)______________, and no need for people to have a driving (9)_____________. A few years from now you will be sitting in a robotic, driverless (10)_____________. Are you ready?

(about 210 words)
DRIVING

Robotic Cars in 2020

Vocabulary Practice

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1. advantage  D. to do something without stopping
2. continue  B. to give an answer
3. radar  C. a machine controlled by a computer
4. reply  D. something good that can help a person
5. robot  E. stories about people and science in the future
6. science fiction  F. a long line of cars on the road that are moving slowly
7. technology  G. radio waves that tell you speed and location
8. traffic jam  H. the use of science to make useful things, machines

How Much Do You Understand?

- Write ‘T’ for True, or ‘F’ for False.

1. _____ The first paragraph is about something not yet real.
2. _____ The second paragraph describes robotic cars.
3. _____ Robotic cars can read newspapers.
4. _____ Germany and the United States sold the first robotic cars in the 1980s.
5. _____ In 2020, no one will die in car accidents.
6. _____ If you have a driverless car, you will not need a driving license.

Discuss

- Ask and answer the following questions with your classmates.

1. How was life different for people before cars were invented?
2. Why will there be fewer road accidents when there are driverless cars?
3. Do you think driving is a car a fun activity? Why? / Why not?
4. What are the disadvantages of having driverless, robotic cars on the roads?
DRIVING

Robotic Cars in 2020

Grammar-in-Context

Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

The year is 2020, and it’s 7:45 on a rainy, Monday morning. You are in your car and on (1)_____ way to work. You turn left, and then you turn right. A few minutes later, you stop (2)_____ a traffic light. When the light turns green and (3)_____ no other cars in the intersection, you continue on your way. Ten minutes later you arrive at (4)_____ and you stop reading the morning newspaper. Then, you get out of your car and say, “Thank you!” Your car replies, “You’re welcome!” This may sound like science fiction, but in fact many car companies are already testing robotic cars, or “driverless cars”, on the roads today (although the cars (5)_____ speak very much). In the 1980s, Germany and the United States (6)_____ the first driverless cars, and by 2020 companies such as Volvo, GM, Nissan, and BMW plan to (7)_____ driverless cars. Driverless cars (8)_____ really “driverless” – the “drivers” (9)_____ computers that use radar, computer maps, and other modern technology. Driverless cars offer (10)_____ advantages: fewer deaths caused by road accidents, (11)_____ time in traffic jams, and no need for people to have a driving license. A few years from now you (12)_____ sitting in a robotic, driverless car. Are you ready?

1. (A) you (B) your (C) you’re (D) yours
2. (A) in (B) to (C) on (D) at
3. (A) there are (B) there (C) are (D) there is
4. (A) work (B) working (C) works (D) worked
5. (A) not (B) aren’t (C) don’t (D) isn’t
6. (A) test (B) tested (C) tests (D) testing
7. (A) sell (B) selling (C) sold (D) sells
8. (A) no (B) do not (C) not (D) are not
9. (A) were (B) is (C) are (D) does
10. (A) any (B) many (C) an (D) much
11. (A) less (B) few (C) fewer (D) less than
12. (A) will (B) will have (C) will be (D) be
The year is 2020, and it’s 7:45 on a rainy, Monday morning. 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 newspaper. Then, you get out of your car and say, “Thank you!” Your car replies, “Your welcome!” This may sound like science fiction, 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).

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. Driverless cars offer many advantages: fewer deaths caused by road accidents, less time in traffic jams, and no need for people to have a driving license. A few years from now you will be sitting in a robotic, driverless car. Are you ready.
The year is 2020, and it’s 7:45 on a rainy, Monday morning. You are in your car and ______ your ______ to work. You turn left, and then you ______ ______. A few minutes later, you stop at a ______ ______. When the light turns green and there are no other cars in the intersection, you ______ on your way. Ten minutes later you ______ ______ and you stop reading the morning newspaper. Then, you ______ ______ of your car and say, “Thank you!” Your car replies, “______ ______!” This may sound like science fiction, but in fact many ______ ______ are already testing robotic cars, or “driverless cars”, on the ______ today (although the cars ______ ______ yet).

In the 1980s, Germany and the United States ______ the first driverless cars, and by 2020 companies ______ ______ Volvo, GM, Nissan, and BMW ______ ______ sell driverless cars. Driverless cars are ______ ______ “driverless” – the “drivers” are ______ that use radar, computer ______, and other ______ ______. Driverless cars offer many ______: fewer deaths ______ ______ road ______, less time in ______ ______, and no need for people to have a driving ______. A few years ______ ______ you ______ ______ sitting in a robotic, driverless car. Are you ______?
Following directions

Look at the map below and answer the questions.

1. The book store is **next to** the ...
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

2. The police station is **across from** the ...
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

3. **[You are at the school ‘A’]** Walk straight along Birch Avenue for four blocks. Then turn left onto Fourth Street, and walk two more blocks. It’s on your right. *Where are you?*
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

4. **[You are at the bank ‘B’]** Walk west along First Street until you get to Birch Avenue, and then turn left. Go one block, and then turn left onto Second Street. Walk along Second Street for several blocks, past the park. When you get to Maple Avenue, turn right. Go one more block, and then turn left onto Tenth. It’s next to a gym. *Where are you?*
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

5. **[You are at the library ‘E’]** Walk west along Fourth Street until you get to Birch Avenue. Then turn right and keep going north until you get to First Street. Cross the intersection and you can see it on your left. *Where are you?*
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

6. **[You are at the post office ‘C’]** Walk south along Palm Avenue until you get to Fourth Street and then turn left. Go two blocks, turn left again, and then turn right onto Tenth. It’s on your right. *Where are you?*
   (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

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Giving directions

Writing Practice 1

- Write directions from (1) the school to the hospital, and (2) the hospital to the library.

[You are at the school ‘A’]

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

[You are at the hospital ‘D’]

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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Giving and following directions

- go straight
- turn right / left
- go one block
- go two blocks
- on the corner
- across from
- next to
- between

Where do these people live? Ask your partner for directions.

Joe
Cindy
Pat
Tim
Linda

Start here

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Giving and following directions

- go straight
- turn right / left
- go one block
- go two blocks
- on the corner
- across from
- next to
- between

Where do these people live? Ask your partner for directions.

Kim
David
John
Mark
Alice

Cindy
Pat

PARK

Linda
Tim

Start here
Writing Practice 2

- Write an opinion essay and compare the advantages and disadvantages of having driverless cars on the roads in 2020.
LESSON  Driving: Robotic Cars

Language Focus  Imperatives (for giving and following directions)
Level  Intermediate to Advanced
Time  Approximately 120 – 180 minutes

ANSWER KEY

● Complete the Paragraph
1. turn right
2. traffic light
3. green
4. intersection
5. roads
6. computers
7. accidents
8. traffic jams
9. license
10. car

● Vocabulary Practice
1. D
2. A
3. G
4. B
5. C
6. E
7. H
8. F

● Following Directions
1. C (post office)
2. C (post office)
3. E (library)
4. D (hospital)
5. A (school)
6. D (hospital)

● Spelling and Capitals
1. Monday
2. You
3. minutes
4. When
5. continue
6. reading
7. newspaper.
8. You're welcome
9. but
10. robotic
11. speak
12. United
13. Volvo
14. plan
15. computers
16. modern
17. advantages
18. accidents
19. license.
20. sitting
21. ready?

● How Much Do You Understand?
1. T
2. T
3. F (The passengers can read them.)
4. F (They tested the cars in the 1980s.)
5. F (There will be fewer deaths.)
6. T

● Grammar-in-Context
1. B
2. D
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. B
11. A
12. C

● Homework Idea
Write an opinion essay (see attached worksheet). In the next class, get into a small group and read aloud your paragraph.

Do you have any comments or suggestions? Did you find any errors in this lesson plan? Contact me via Facebook, I’d love to hear from you!
~Robert

EXPLORE on-line sources and resources:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0Z-iXUn9Yc
http://www.esl-lab.com/eslbasic/travel-sightseeing-1.htm

image credits: ‘Street Maps’ & ‘Green’ – Robert Dobie

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