

## People want drivers to park cars on roads

1st April, 2014



Many people in England are angry that drivers park their cars on the pavements. Cars that are on the pavement block people from walking safely

down the street. They have to walk into the road to get around the cars. The charity for the blind, Guide Dogs, said blocking the pavement is "inconsiderate and dangerous". It said it's a lot more difficult for blind people to walk around the town if cars are in their way. A spokesman for the charity told the BBC: "It can be frightening for anyone who is forced to step into a road because the pavement is blocked by a van, car or other badly parked vehicle. Imagine you have to step into a road where you can't see oncoming traffic."

A survey on parking in Britain found that 70 per cent of people want a ban on parking on pavements. A town south of London has already started a system to get drivers to park on the road or in a proper car park. Any motorist who parks on the pavement gets a \$115 fine. However, many people say the fines do not work. Local people say car owners ignore the fine and park where they want. People pushing their children in baby cars and people in wheelchairs are afraid to walk on busy roads where there is heavy traffic. One woman said there would soon be a very serious accident because of a car parked on the pavement. She wants her town to be like London, which has strict rules against pavement parking.

Sources: *Courier.co.uk* / *BBC*

## Writing

*Drivers should park their cars in car parks only. Discuss.*

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*angry / pavement / street / charity / dangerous / blind people / frightening / traffic / survey / system / motorist / local people / wheelchairs / serious accident / strict rules*

## True / False

- People in England are angry about drivers parking on pavements. T / F
- A charity for the blind complained about bad parking. T / F
- A spokesman for the charity spoke to reporters from CNN. T / F
- The spokesman asked us to imagine not being able to park anywhere. T / F
- Just 17 per cent of British people support a ban on pavement parking. T / F
- Drivers in central London get a \$115 fine for illegal parking. T / F
- Many drivers don't care about parking fines and park illegally. T / F
- London has strict rules about parking. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. angry         | a. scary             |
| 2. pavements     | b. take no notice of |
| 3. inconsiderate | c. driver            |
| 4. frightening   | d. study             |
| 5. badly         | e. mad               |
| 6. survey        | f. thoughtless       |
| 7. started       | g. bad               |
| 8. motorist      | h. poorly            |
| 9. ignore        | i. sidewalks         |
| 10. serious      | j. begun             |

## Discussion – Student A

- Is it OK to park on the pavement in front of your house?
- Should the fines for pavement parking be bigger?
- Do you think the police taking away cars is a good idea?
- If someone is injured because a car is parked on the pavement, should the car owner get in trouble?
- What would it be like to live in a town with no cars?
- What can people do to stop others parking on the pavement?
- Where is the best place to park a car in the city?
- What would you like to ask a town planner about parking?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. drivers park their cars                 | a. step into a road |
| 2. inconsiderate and                       | b. traffic          |
| 3. cars are in their                       | c. traffic          |
| 4. frightening for anyone who is forced to | d. on busy roads    |
| 5. oncoming                                | e. rules            |
| 6. car owners                              | f. accident         |
| 7. afraid to walk                          | g. on the pavements |
| 8. heavy                                   | h. ignore the fine  |
| 9. serious                                 | i. way              |
| 10. strict                                 | j. dangerous        |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do you think car owners think carefully about where to park?
- Is parking a problem in your town?
- Is it easy to walk in the street in your town?
- What do you think of people who park on the pavement?
- Do you prefer the British English word "pavement" or the American English word "sidewalk"?
- Should drivers be more considerate when they park their car?
- Are there enough car parks in your town?
- How can towns help drivers park and keep pavements clear?

## Spelling

- drivers park their cars on the steapmnye
- walking elyasf down the street
- inconsiderate and drgnseuo
- A spokesman for the tiryhac
- badly parked elicevh
- you can't see oncoming faifrct
- yvurse on parking
- a yemsts to get drivers to park on the road
- car owners gireon the fine
- people in ilcesrhwahe
- a very serious idtnccca
- iscrtt rules

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. f	4. a	5. h
6. d	7. j	8. c	9. b	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Speeding

You think speeding is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their bad habits. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): idling, illegal parking or queue-jumping.

### Role B – Idling

You think idling is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their bad habits. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): speeding, illegal parking or queue-jumping.

### Role C – Queue-jumping

You think queue-jumping is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their bad habits. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): idling, speeding or illegal parking.

### Role D – Illegal parking

You think illegal parking is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their bad habits. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): idling, queue-jumping or speeding.

## Speaking – Bad Drivers

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst drivers' habits at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- speeding
- illegal parking
- tailgating
- ignoring red lights
- idling
- non-stop hooting (honking)
- using phone while driving
- queue-jumping

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.