

Lower speed limit for New York City

9th November, 2014



Drivers in New York City will have to drive more slowly from Friday. The city has introduced a new speed limit of 25 mph (40 kph). The old limit was 30 mph (about 48 kph). The new law will apply to about 90 per cent of the city's streets. The city's department of transportation hopes the

lower speed limit will make people drive more carefully and reduce traffic accidents and deaths. The city's mayor, Bill de Blasio, said he wanted to improve traffic safety and end pedestrian deaths. He said: "There's a real consensus in this town that we need to have people drive more carefully, more safely and slower for the protection of our kids, our seniors." Other people say the limit will make drivers angry and increase accidents.

Road speed limits are used in most countries to set the maximum speed for cars, trucks, buses, motorbikes, etc. They can also set the minimum speed. The first maximum speed limit in the world was the 10 mph (16 kph) limit introduced in the United Kingdom in 1861. The highest speed limit in the world is 140 kph (87 mph) in Poland and Bulgaria. Some of the world's roads have no speed limit. Perhaps the most famous of these are the Autobahns in Germany. In 2006, German police said the average speed on one part of the Autobahn was 142 kph (88 mph). The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that around 1.24 million people die each year in traffic accidents. This number could fall if people drove more slowly.

Sources: *Wall Street Journal* / *nbcNewYork.com* / *Wikipedia*

Writing

There should be no speed limits on 3-lane roads. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

drive / speed limit / new law / city's streets / traffic safety / consensus / protection / trucks / maximum / minimum / Autobahns / average speed / traffic accidents

True / False

- The old speed limit in New York was 48 mph. T / F
- The new speed limit will not be on 10 per cent of the city's roads. T / F
- The Department of Transport said it wanted to cut pollution. T / F
- Some people said the speed limit will mean there are more accidents. T / F
- The article said there are speed limits in most countries in the world. T / F
- The world's first ever speed limit was 16 kph. T / F
- German police said the top speed for cars on its Autobahns is 142 kph. T / F
- The WHO said 12.4 million people a year die in traffic accidents. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. introduced | a. agreement |
| 2. old | b. about |
| 3. reduce | c. previous |
| 4. consensus | d. started |
| 5. seniors | e. amount |
| 6. set | f. earliest |
| 7. introduced | g. decided on |
| 8. famous | h. aged |
| 9. around | i. decrease |
| 10. number | j. well known |

Discussion – Student A

- What kind of drivers are the most dangerous?
- Why are there minimum speed limits?
- What should happen to people who go over the speed limit?
- What would life be like with a speed limit of 10 mph (16 kph)?
- Why do you think there's no speed limit on Germany's Autobahns?
- What would happen if there were no speed limits?
- Why do people like driving fast?
- What questions would you like to ask New York's mayor?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. Drivers in New York City will have to
 2. The city has introduced a new speed
 3. reduce traffic
 4. end pedestrian
 5. make drivers angry and
 6. set the maximum
 7. introduced in the United Kingdom
 8. the most famous of these are the
 9. around 1.24 million people die each
 10. This number could fall if people drove
- a. accidents
 - b. more slowly
 - c. increase accidents
 - d. in 1861
 - e. speed for cars
 - f. drive more slowly
 - g. year in traffic accidents
 - h. limit of 25 mph
 - i. Autobahns in Germany
 - j. deaths

Discussion – Student B

- a) What are speed limits like in your country?
- b) What do you think of a 25 mph (40 kph) speed limit?
- c) What are the good and bad things about speed limits?
- d) How do people drive in your country?
- e) Are you a good, careful and safe driver?
- f) How can cities improve traffic safety?
- g) Should there be fewer roads and more pedestrian areas?
- h) Why might people get angry with the new speed limit?

Spelling

1. The city has cidounrted a new speed limit
2. department of orttaisatnpro
3. make people drive more feucalrly
4. he wanted to improve traffic sfaeyt
5. for the ocntireopt of our kids
6. make drivers gyran
7. set the maummix speed
8. set the imunimm speed
9. the igsehht speed limit
10. the most fauoms of these
11. the regaeav speed
12. traffic necatsdic

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Mobile phones

You think mobile phones are the most important thing to make new rules for driving safety. Tell the others three reasons why their things do not need many rules. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sleepiness, tailgating or speeding.

Role B – Sleepiness

You think sleepiness is the most important thing to make new rules for driving safety. Tell the others three reasons why their things do not need many rules. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): mobile phones, tailgating or speeding.

Role C – Tailgating

You think tailgating is the most important thing to make new rules for driving safety. Tell the others three reasons why their things do not need many rules. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sleepiness, mobile phones or speeding.

Role D – Speeding

You think speeding is the most important thing to make new rules for driving safety. Tell the others three reasons why their things do not need many rules. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sleepiness, tailgating or mobile phones.

Speaking – Accidents

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that cause most accidents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- speeding
- mobile phones
- sleepiness
- dark
- tailgating
- fog
- bad road signs
- impatience

Answers – True False

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