

## Overtaking a big risk on the road

28th May, 2015



A new survey in Britain shows that one in seven drivers has had to take evasive action because of their own risky overtaking.

The road safety charity Brake carried out the survey on 1,000 motorists. It revealed that 80 per cent of drivers have felt threatened by other people overtaking, while 94 per cent of drivers said they have witnessed dangerous overtaking. It said the biggest perpetrators of dangerous overtaking are young men aged 17-24. In comparison, women drivers are far safer. The poll revealed that while 39 per cent of 17-24-year-old male drivers admitted overtaking when they were not sure the road ahead was clear, figure for female drivers doing so was just 15 per cent.

The charity also found that the most dangerous place to overtake was on single-lane country roads. Drivers are twice as likely to die on rural roads than they are in urban areas. Many of these deaths are preventable. A spokeswoman from Brake said: "We're urging all drivers to avoid overtaking on country roads unless absolutely essential and 100 per cent safe." She added: "Why risk it and rush? You could cause a devastating, high-speed, head-on crash that ends lives and ruins others. In spite of this, a significant minority are still taking the risk and performing this aggressive and selfish manoeuvre...In those situations, cool-headed and responsible drivers hang back and relax."

Sources: [Express.co.uk](http://Express.co.uk) / [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) / [westernmorningnews](http://westernmorningnews)

## Writing

Overtaking on the roads should be banned. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*survey / drivers / overtaking / threatened / comparison / poll / young men / figure / charity / country roads / urban areas / preventable deaths / high speed / minority*

## True / False

- Most British drivers have taken evasive action while driving. T / F
- A road safety charity interviewed 10,000 motorists. T / F
- All of the drivers in the survey had seen dangerous overtaking. T / F
- Men were a lot more dangerous at overtaking than women. T / F
- Country roads were the most dangerous place to overtake. T / F
- A charity said many road deaths could be avoided. T / F
- The charity said a significant minority of drivers are still dangerous. T / F
- The charity said cool-headed drivers panic when overtaking. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. survey      | a. empty       |
| 2. risky       | b. conducted   |
| 3. carried out | c. totally     |
| 4. far         | d. hazardous   |
| 5. clear       | e. rural       |
| 6. country     | f. wrecks      |
| 7. urging      | g. study       |
| 8. absolutely  | h. encouraging |
| 9. ruins       | i. forceful    |
| 10. aggressive | j. much        |

## Discussion – Student A

- Who is the most dangerous driver you know?
- Should all cars have cameras to record the driver's actions?
- Are dangerous drivers criminals?
- How would life be different if overtaking was banned?
- Should there be more speed cameras or speed bumps on country roads?
- Should the power and speed of cars be limited?
- What advice do you have for dangerous drivers?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. one in                           | a. of dangerous overtaking |
| 2. drivers have felt                | b. as likely               |
| 3. the biggest perpetrators         | c. doing so                |
| 4. they were not sure the road      | d. place to overtake       |
| 5. the figure for female drivers    | e. headed                  |
| 6. the most dangerous               | f. seven drivers           |
| 7. twice                            | g. threatened              |
| 8. absolutely                       | h. head-on crash           |
| 9. cause a devastating, high-speed, | i. ahead was clear         |
| 10. cool-                           | j. essential               |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of overtaking?
- Have you ever felt worried by someone overtaking?
- Should overtaking be banned?
- How dangerous are drivers in your country?
- How can technology keep the roads safer?
- Why do people want to overtake so much?
- Why are young men so dangerous on the roads?
- Why are men more dangerous drivers than women?

## Spelling

- take ievavse action
- road safety rciatyh
- felt hneaetdre
- etsdsniew dangerous overtaking
- In oriscapomn, women drivers are far safer
- the ifeugr for female drivers
- twice as kleiyI
- these deaths are eevnbpetarl
- absolutely sileantse
- a taivgsendat, high-speed, head-on crash
- a significant imniryto
- epleibsnosr drivers

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Overtaking

You think overtaking is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, speeding or driving while texting.

### Role B – Fog

You think fog is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): overtaking, speeding or driving while texting.

### Role C – Speeding

You think speeding is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, overtaking or driving while texting.

### Role D – Driving while texting

You think driving while texting is the riskiest thing about driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as risky. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why): fog, speeding or overtaking.

## Speaking – Risky

Rank these with your partner. Put the riskiest things about driving at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • overtaking    | • icy roads          |
| • fog           | • jumping red lights |
| • mobile phones | • other drivers      |
| • speeding      | • country roads      |

### Answers – True False

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