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Essential English

Der Vokabeltrainer für den Ernstfall

Anaconda



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On the Road – unterwegs im Straßenverkehr

the hard shoulder*

Not a **body ailment****, but actually the emergency lane on British motorways.

*Standspur **Erkrankung, Krankheit



a lay-by

It sounds like a place to sleep, but it is a place to park at the side of the road.

Rastplatz

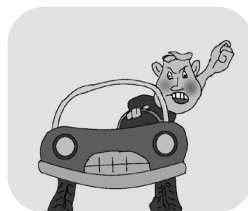
The AA* – yes, it does stand for alcoholics anonymous, but it also stands for

the Automobile Association, these are the people you need to phone in **an emergency****. (Also **RAC** – Royal Automobile Club.)

*Der ADAC **Notfall

A road hog is an expression used for a person who drives like a maniac and refuses to let other people overtake.

Verkehrsröwdy



Road rage is a modern phenomenon which describes acts of violence against other road users.

Gewalt / Aggression im Straßenverkehr

On **motorways*** people drive in **lanes****:

The inside lane*** is for slow-moving vehicles.

The middle lane**** is for faster moving vehicles.

The outside lane***** (this should only be used for overtaking. But you try telling BMW drivers that!)

*Autobahnen **Fahrstreifen ***Rechte Spur ****Mittlere Spur *****Überholspur

A minor accident is called **a bump**.

‘I had a little bump this morning.’
ein kleinerer Unfall

m.p.h. is miles per hour.

Meilen pro Stunde

A car which has **a retractable roof*** is called **a convertible****.

*zurückklappbares Dach **Cabrio

A person who constantly gives the driver instructions and/or criticises their driving skills is called **a backstreet driver**.

Schlechter Beifahrer

A driver who slows down to look at the scene of an accident is said to be **rubbernecking**.

gaffen

A car that has seen better days is known as **an old banger**.

Alte Klapperkiste



That strange round thing you see on many roads is called a **roundabout**. If it's small, it's called a **mini-roundabout**.

Kreisverkehr

An **old-timer*** in Germany usually refers to an old car. But in English it refers to an old person or veteran. We use the expression **vintage car****.

*Senior/in **Oldtimer



Many towns and cities build **bypasses*** to avoid **congestion**** in the city.

*Umgehungsstraßen **Verkehrsstau

If you are stuck in traffic, you are in a **traffic jam** (also **hold up**).
Stau

Those bumps in the road that slow you down in **residential areas*** are known as **sleeping policemen****.

*Wohngebiet **Bremsschwelle

Roads with two lanes of traffic are referred to as **dual carriageways***.

*doppelspurige Schnellstraße

The places where motorways meet and head off in different directions are called **junctions** (or **intersections**). There is one in Birmingham that is so complicated it's named Spaghetti Junction.

Kreuzungen, Autobahnkreuz

Stuck in traffic? That could be because of **road-works** (always plural).

Baustelle, Straßenarbeiten



Road users* have to follow **the Highway Code****.

*Verkehrsteilnehmer **Straßenverkehrsordnung

Those little plastic things that **cordon off*** lanes on the motorways are **traffic cones****.

*absperren **Leitkegel

Everyone knows you go to a station to catch a bus or a train, but if you want to get to your destination quickly, you have to go to **a taxi rank**.

Taxistand

The A-Z (pronounced 'ay to zed'), is the name given to a range of atlases of streets in the United Kingdom.

An A-road is a road that is used instead of the motorway. These roads usually take you through the countryside and small towns and villages, and take much longer.

Überlandstraße/Bundesstraße



A B-road is a minor road.

Landstraße

A payment for using certain roads is called **a toll**.

Maut

A road that goes around the outskirts of a city or town is known as **a ring road**.

Stadtring

A place in the road that has barriers where trains cross is **a level crossing**.

Bahnübergang



The place where **pedestrians*** walk is known as **the pavement**** in the UK and **the sidewalk** in the USA.

*Fußgänger **Bürgersteig

To cross busy roads in safety, you need to use **a pedestrian crossing**.

Fußgängerüberweg

A traffic island is a small raised area in the middle of a road which provides a safe place for pedestrians to stand and marks a division between two opposing streams of traffic.

Fußgängerinsel

The metal barrier at the side of a motorway that helps prevent drivers going off the road is called **a crash barrier**.

Leitplanke

If the police suspect you of **drink-driving***, you will be asked to take **a breathalyser test****.

*Trunkenheit am Steuer **Atemalkoholtest