

Driving

The phrasal verbs in these exercises are all related to the things that people do when they drive, either deliberately or by mistake.

- 1 These people are talking about their driving experiences. Replace the underlined words with these phrasal verbs.

pulled over
backed up

ploughed into
cut me up

pick up
was pulling away

- 1 I moved the car backwards a little.

I *backed up* a little.

- 2 This guy in a white van drove past my car and moved back in front of me too soon in a way that was dangerous.

This guy

- 3 I got to the bus stop just as the bus was starting to move forward.

I got to the bus stop just as the bus
.....

- 4 The car engine was making a strange noise so I drove to the side of the road, and stopped.

The car engine was making
a funny noise so I
.....

- 5 I'm driving to the airport this afternoon to go and meet in the car Melissa and the kids.

I'm driving to the airport this afternoon to
..... Melissa
and the kids.

- 6 The car skidded and hit with a lot of force the truck in front.

The car skidded and
..... the
truck in front.

2 Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from exercise 1. Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 The brakes failed. He *ploughed into* the car in front and was killed.
- 2 It's so dangerous when people you like that when they're trying to get ahead.
- 3 If you need a lift, I can you from the station.
- 4 We're lost! I'm going to have to and take a look at the map.
- 5 Can you a little further so that we're nearer to the house?
- 6 I waved as the car and drove off down the street.

3 Circle the correct definition (a, b or c).

- 1 When a driver or vehicle **pulls off**, or **pulls off** the road, they:
 - a drive off it so that they can stop, or so that they can drive on a smaller road.
 - b drive very quickly along a road.
 - c suddenly stop.

- 2 When a driver **drops off** a person or thing, they:
 - a accidentally leave a place without taking a person or thing with them.
 - b take them somewhere and leave them there, usually on their way to somewhere else.
 - c accidentally knock into someone or something.

- 3 If someone **writes off** a car or other vehicle, they:
 - a arrange to buy a car or other vehicle.
 - b damage it very slightly.
 - c damage it so badly in an accident that it is not worth repairing.

- 4 If traffic **tails back**,
 - a a long line of it forms, moving very slowly or not at all.
 - b it moves backwards.
 - c it is forced to move in a different direction.

- 5 If you **belt up** while travelling in a car or other vehicle, you:
 - a drive very quickly.
 - b start to drive more carefully.
 - c fasten yourself into the seat with a safety belt.

Driving – Answer key

Exercise 1

- 1 backed up
- 2 cut me up
- 3 was pulling away
- 4 pulled over
- 5 pick up
- 6 ploughed into

Exercise 2

- 1 ploughed into
- 2 cut [you] up
- 3 pick [you] up
- 4 pull over
- 5 back up
- 6 pulled away

Exercise 3

- 1 a
- 2 b
- 3 c
- 4 a
- 5 c