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
- ploughed into
- pick up
- backed up
- cut me up
- was pulling away

1 I moved the car backwards a little.

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.

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

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

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

The car skidded and hit with a lot of force the truck in front.
Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from exercise 1. Use the correct form of the verb.

1. The brakes failed. He .................................................... 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