

What's the best way to get around London?

Probably the Tube, although buses are cheaper.

3A Race across London

1 VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

transport

- a In pairs, can you think of four different forms of public transport in towns and cities in your country?
- b ➤ p.155 Vocabulary Bank *Transport*.

2 PRONUNCIATION /ʃ/, /dʒ/, and /tʃ/

- a (2.4)) Look at the pictures. What are the words and sounds? Listen and repeat.

- b Write three words from the list in each column.

adventure bridge catch coach crash
 journey rush station traffic jam

- c (2.5)) Listen and check. Practise saying the words.
- d Look at the words in the columns. What are the typical spellings for these sounds? Go to the **Sound Bank p.167** and check.
- e (2.6)) Listen to the pairs of words. Can you hear the difference? Practise saying them.

/tʃ/ and /dʒ/

- 1 a cheap b jeep
 2 a chain b Jane
 3 a choke b joke

/ʃ/ and /tʃ/

- 4 a ship b chip
 5 a shoes b choose
 6 a wash b watch

- f (2.7)) Listen and circle the word you hear.
- g (2.8)) Listen and write five sentences.

3 READING & LISTENING

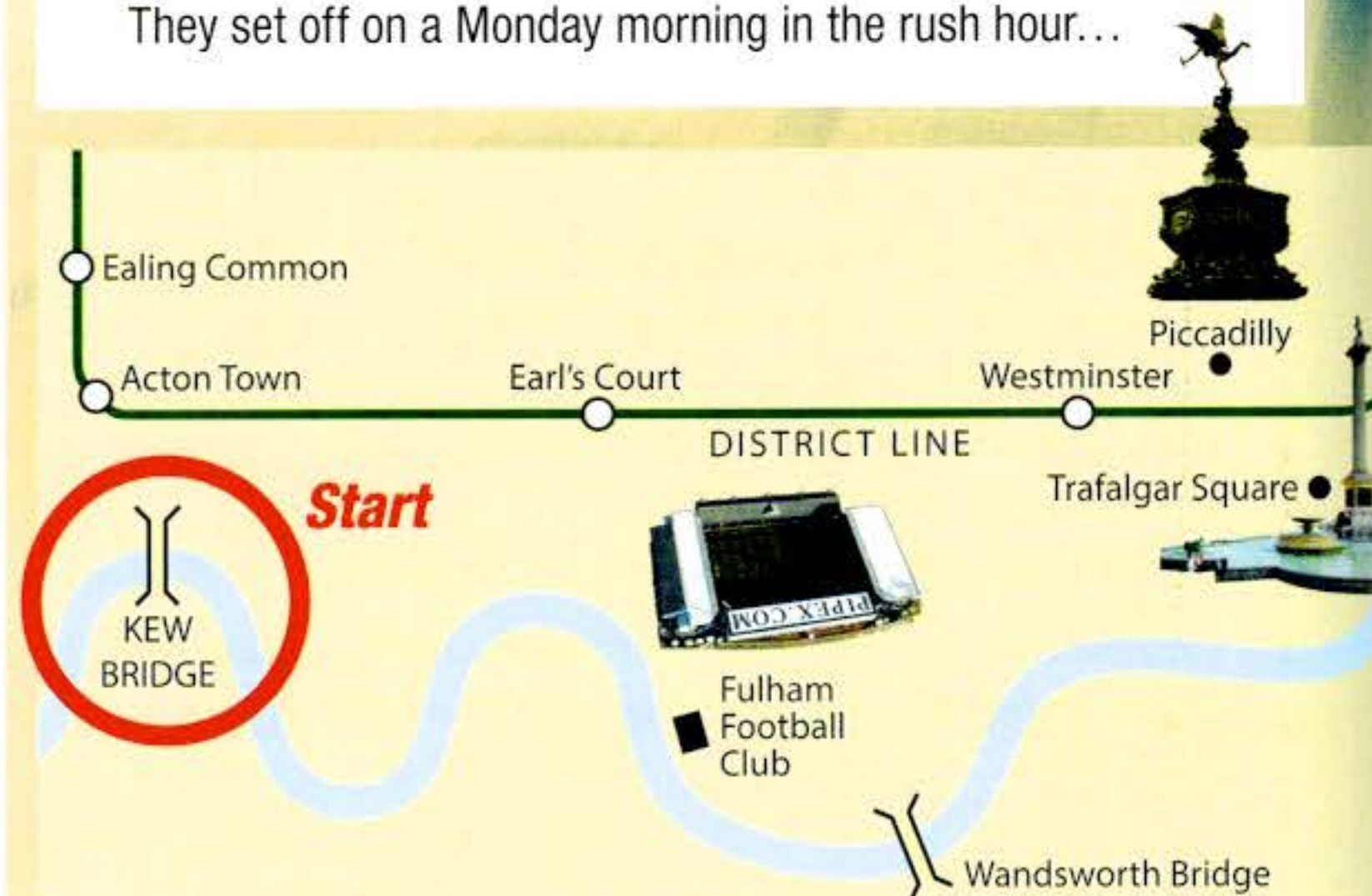
- a You are going to read about a race which the BBC car programme *Top Gear* organized across London. Read the introduction and answer the questions.
- Where do they have to go from? Where to?
 - What are the four methods of transport?
 - Which one do you think will be the fastest? Why?
 - In what order do you think the other three will arrive? Why?

TopGear Challenge

What's the fastest way to get across London?

On *Top Gear*, a very popular BBC TV series about cars and driving, they decided to organize a race across London, to find the quickest way to cross a busy city. The idea was to start from Kew Bridge, in the south-west of London, and to finish the race at the check-in desk at London City Airport, in the east, a journey of approximately 15 miles. Four possible forms of transport were chosen, a bike, a car, a motorboat, and public transport. The show's presenter, **Jeremy Clarkson**, took the **boat** and his colleague **James May** went by **car** (a large Mercedes). **Richard Hammond** went by **bike**, and **The Stig** took **public transport**. He had an Oyster card. His journey involved getting a bus, then the Tube, and then the Docklands Light Railway, an overground train which connects east and west London.

They set off on a Monday morning in the rush hour...





Jeremy in the motorboat

His journey was along the River Thames. For the first few miles there was a speed limit of nine miles an hour, because there are so many ducks and other birds in that part of the river. The river was confusing, and at one point he realized that he was going in the wrong direction. But he **turned round** and got back onto the right route. Soon he was going past Fulham football ground. He phoned Richard and asked him where he was – just past Trafalgar Square. This was good news for Jeremy. He **was ahead of** the bike! He **reached** Wandsworth Bridge. The speed limit finished there, and he could now go as fast as he liked. Jeremy felt like the fastest moving man in all of London. He was flying, coming close to 50 miles an hour! How could he lose now? He could see Tower Bridge ahead. His journey was seven miles longer than the others', but he was now going at 70 miles an hour. Not far to the airport now!



Richard on the bike

Richard could use bus lanes, which was great, but of course he had to be careful not to **crash into** the buses! He hated buses! Horrible things! When the traffic lights **turned red** he thought of cycling through them, but then he remembered that he was on TV, so he had to stop! When he got to Piccadilly he was delighted to see that there was a terrible traffic jam – he could go through the traffic, but James, in his Mercedes, would **get stuck**. He got to Trafalgar Square, and then went into a cycle lane. From now on it was going to be easier...



James in the car

He started off OK. He wasn't going fast but at a steady speed – until he was stopped by the police! They only wanted to check the permit for the cameraman in the back of the car, but it meant that he lost three or four valuable minutes! The traffic was **getting worse**. Now he was going really slowly. 25 miles an hour, 23, 20... 18... It was so frustrating!

- b Now read about the journeys by boat, bike, and car. Do you still think your predictions in a 3 and 4 are right?
- c Read the three journeys again and answer the questions with **Je** (Jeremy), **R** (Richard), or **Ja** (James).

Who...?

- 1 was asked to show a piece of paper
- 2 went much faster in the later part of his journey
- 3 nearly did something illegal
- 4 went more slowly in the later part of his journey
- 5 was happy to see that there was a lot of traffic
- 6 got slightly lost
- 7 had the most exciting journey

- d Look at the **highlighted** verbs and verb phrases. With a partner, work out their meaning from context.



Stig on the Underground

- e **29**) Now listen to what happened to The Stig. Follow his route on the map.
- f Listen again. What information or warning do you hear when you are travelling on the Tube?
- g **210**) With a partner, write down the order in which you now think the four people arrived. Then listen to what happened. What order did they arrive in? Why do you think that Jeremy Clarkson was annoyed?
- h Think of your nearest big city. What kind of public transport is there? If a race was organized there between a bike, a car, and public transport, what order do you think they would arrive in?
- i **Communication** I'm a tourist – can you help me? **A** p.104 **B** p.109.



Glossary

- 1 mile** the unit of distance used in the UK and the USA (=1.6 kilometres); 15 miles = approx 25 km
- The Stig** nickname given to one of the members of the *Top Gear* team
- Oyster card** a kind of travel card which you use to travel on public transport in London
- the Tube** nickname for the London Underground

4 GRAMMAR comparatives and superlatives

a Read the sentences. Are the **highlighted** phrases right or wrong? Tick (✓) or cross (✗) them and correct the wrong sentences.

- What's **the quicker way** to get across London?
- Driving is **more boring than** going by train.
- The boat was nearly **as fast than** the bike.
- Oxford is **the same distance** from London **as** Brighton.
- There aren't **as much trains as** there were before on this line.
- It was **the more exciting journey** I've ever had.
- The worst time of day** to travel in London is between 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.
- Women drive **more careful than** men.

b ► p.136 Grammar Bank 3A. Learn more about comparatives and superlatives, and practise them.

5 PRONUNCIATION linking

Linking

We often link words together in English, especially when we speak fast. We link words:

- 1 when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with a vowel sound, e.g. *more_exciting*
- 2 when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with the same consonant sound, e.g. *a_dangerous_cyclist*
- 3 when a word ends in /t/ or /d/ and the next word begins with /t/ or /d/, e.g. *the_biggest_dog*

a (2 14)) Listen and repeat the sentences. Try to link the marked words and copy the rhythm.

- 1 Riding a motorbike is more exciting than driving.
- 2 The fastest train only takes an hour and a half.
- 3 It's more difficult to drive at night than during the day.
- 4 My father's worse at driving than my mother.
- 5 The most dangerous road in my town is the ring road.

b Talk to a partner. For each group of three things compare them using the **bold** adjective, i.e. for **1** decide which is the most dangerous, and then compare the other two. Say why.

- 1 **dangerous:** cycling; riding a motorbike; driving
- 2 **easy:** learning to drive; learning to ride a bike; learning to ride a horse
- 3 **relaxing:** flying; travelling by train; driving
- 4 **difficult:** sleeping on a train; sleeping in a plane; sleeping on a bus
- 5 **boring:** being stuck in a traffic jam; waiting at an airport; waiting for a bus

I think cycling is the most dangerous because sometimes drivers don't notice cyclists. Riding a motorbike is more dangerous than driving.

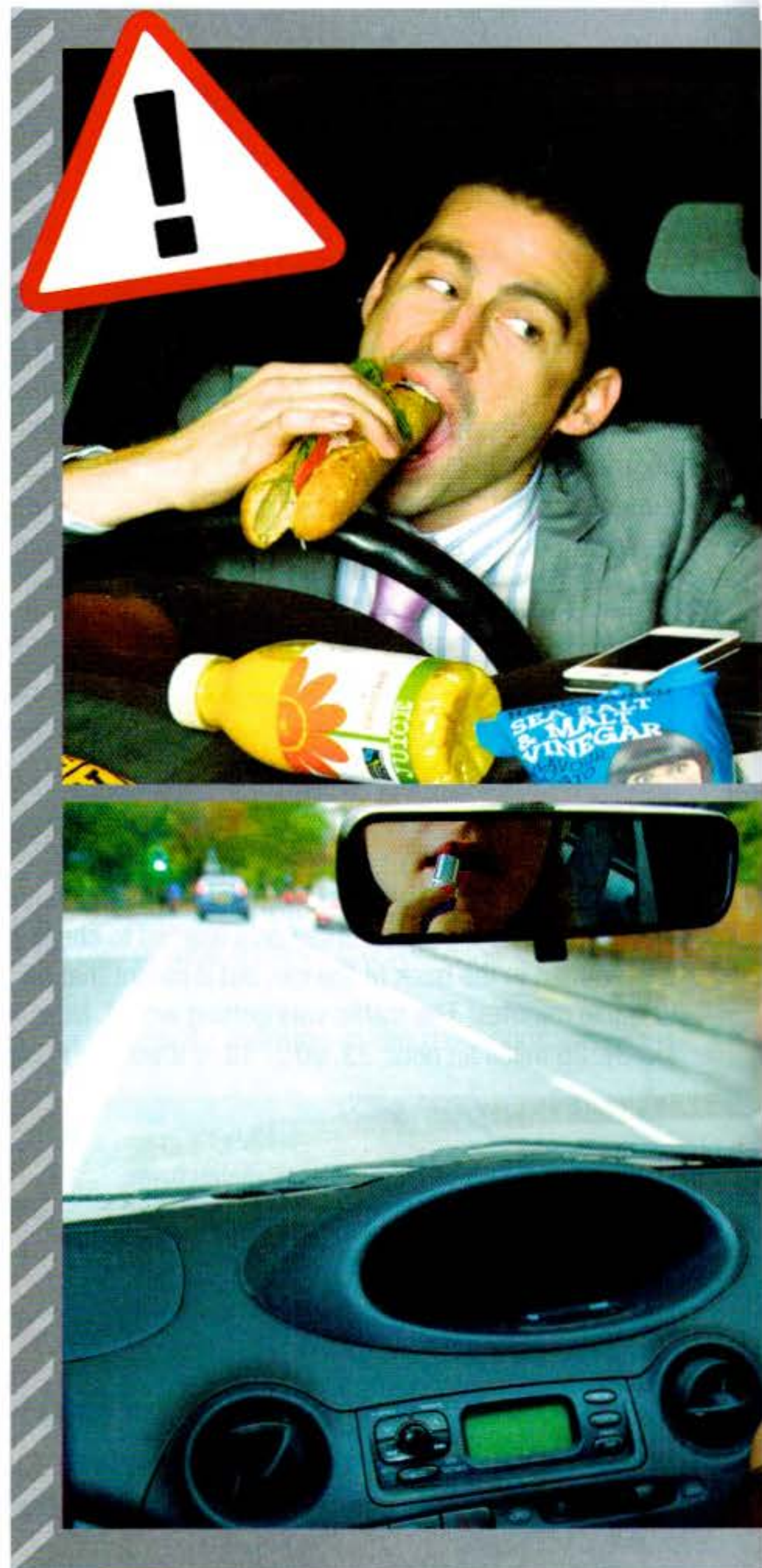
6 LISTENING

a Read the text and then talk to a partner.

- 1 Which of these things do you (or people you know) do when they are driving?
- 2 Which do you think are the most dangerous? Number them 1–3 (1 = the most dangerous).
- 3 Which one do you think is the least dangerous?

b (2 15)) Now listen to a safety expert. Number the activities 1–7. Were your top three right?

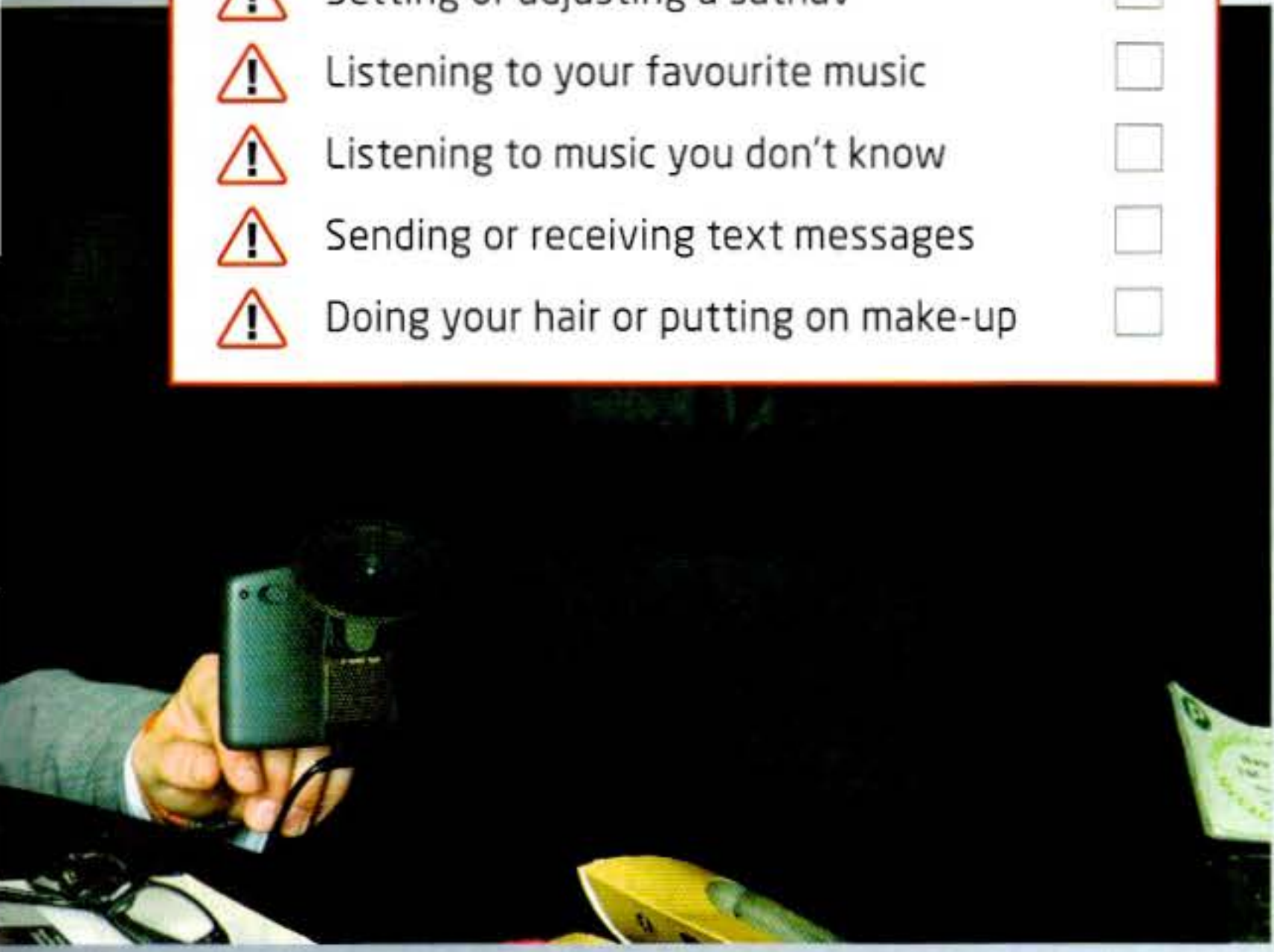
c Listen again for more information about each activity and why it is dangerous.



Which of these things are the most (and least) dangerous when you're driving a car?

A British car magazine tested drivers in a driving simulator. The drivers had to drive in the simulator and do the things in the list below.

-  Eating or drinking
-  Talking on a mobile (not 'hands free')
-  Setting or adjusting a satnav
-  Listening to your favourite music
-  Listening to music you don't know
-  Sending or receiving text messages
-  Doing your hair or putting on make-up



7 SPEAKING

- a Look at the statements below and decide whether you agree or disagree. Tick (✓) the ones you agree with and put a cross (X) next to the ones you disagree with. Think about your reasons.

Slow drivers cause more accidents than fast drivers.

People who drink and drive should lose their driving licence for life.

Speed cameras do not stop accidents.


Drivers who are over 70 are as dangerous as young drivers.

Cyclists should have to wear helmets.

The minimum age for riding a motorbike should be 25.

The speed limit on motorways should be lower.

- b In groups, give your opinions on each statement. Try to use expressions from the box. Do you agree?

 **Agreeing and disagreeing**

I agree / don't agree	with this.
	with Juan.
I think / don't think	you're right.
	that's
I completely / totally	agree.
	disagree.










8 WRITING


- p.115 **Writing** *An article for a magazine.*
Write a magazine article about transport in your town or city.

9 16))) **SONG** 500 Miles

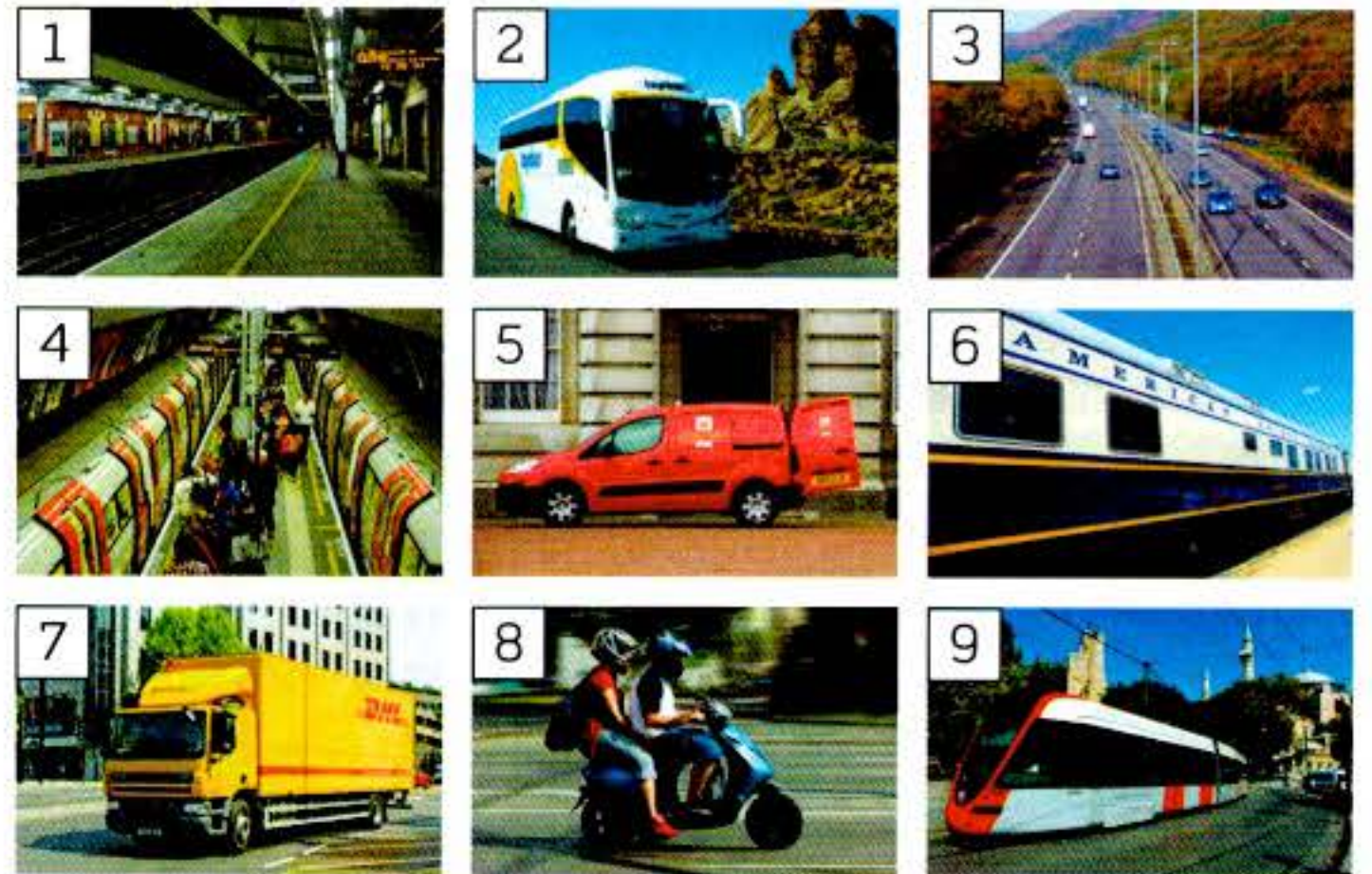
1 PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES

a Match the words and pictures.

- | | |
|---|---|
|  carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ |  scooter /'sku:tə/ |
|  coach /kəʊtʃ/ |  the <u>underground</u> /'ʌndəgraʊnd/ (AmE <u>subway</u>) |
|  lorry /'lɒri/ (AmE truck) |  tram /træm/ |
|  motorway /'məʊtəweɪ/ |  van /væn/ |
|  platform /'plætfɔ:m/ | |

b  Listen and check.

c Cover the words and look at the pictures. Try to remember the words.



2 ON THE ROAD

Compound nouns

Compound nouns are two nouns together where the first noun describes the second, e.g. a *child seat* = a seat for a child, a *bus stop* = a place for buses to stop, etc. In compound nouns the first noun is stressed more strongly than the second. There are many compound nouns related to road travel.

a Complete the compound nouns.

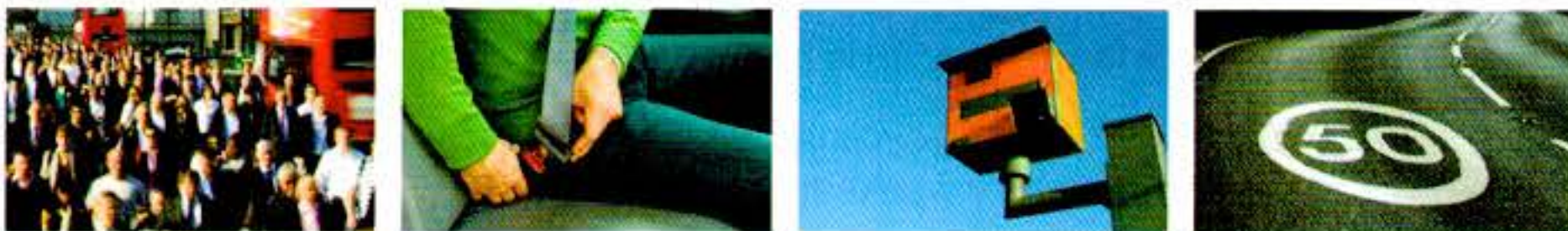
belt /bɛlt/ camera /'kæmərə/ crash /kræʃ/ crossing /'krɒsɪŋ/ fine /faɪn/
hour /'aʊə/ jam /dʒæm/ lane /leɪn/ lights /laɪts/ limit /'lɪmɪt/ rank /ræŋk/
station /'steɪʃn/ works /wɜ:kz/ zone /zəʊn/



1 car crash 2 cycle _____ 3 parking _____




4 pedestrian _____ 5 petrol _____ 6 road _____



7 rush _____ 8 seat _____ 9 speed _____ 10 speed _____



11 taxi _____ 12 traffic _____ 13 traffic _____ 14 zebra _____

b  Listen and check. Then cover the compound nouns and look at the pictures. Remember the compound nouns.

3 HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

How long does it take?

It **takes** about an hour to get from London to Oxford by train.

It **took (me)** more than an hour to get to work yesterday.

How long does it take (you) to get to school?

Use *take* (+ person) + time (+ *to get to*) to talk about the duration of a journey, etc.

Read the information box above. Then ask and answer with a partner.

- How do you get to work / school?
How long does it take?
- How long does it take to get from your house to the town centre?

Phrasal verbs

Learn these phrasal verbs connected with transport and travel.

We **set off** at 7.00 in the morning to try to avoid the traffic. (= leave on a journey)

I arrive at 8.15. Do you think you could **pick me up** at the station? (= collect sb, in a car, etc.)

I got on the wrong bus, and I **ended up** on the opposite side of town. (= find yourself in a place / situation that you did not expect)

We're **running out of** petrol. Let's stop at the next petrol station. (= finish your supply of sth)

Watch out! / **Look out!** You're going to crash! (= be careful or pay attention to sth dangerous)

comparatives and superlatives: adjectives and adverbs

comparing two people, places, things, etc.

- 1 My sister is a bit **taller than** me. (2 11)))
London is **more expensive than** Edinburgh.
This test is **less difficult than** the last one.
Olive oil is **better** for you **than** butter.
- 2 The new sofa isn't **as comfortable as** the old one.
I don't have **as many** books **as** I used to.

- 1 We use comparative **adjectives** to compare two people, places, things, etc.
 - Regular comparative adjectives: spelling rules
old > older *big > bigger* *easy > easier*
modern > more modern *difficult > more difficult*
 - Irregular comparative adjectives:
good > better *bad > worse* *far > further*
 - One-syllable adjectives ending in *-ed*:
bored > more bored *stressed > more stressed*
tired > more tired
- 2 We can also use (not) *as* + adjective + *as* to make comparisons.

Object pronouns (*me, him, etc.*) after *than* and *as*

After *than* or *as* we can use an object pronoun (*me, him, her, etc.*) or a subject pronoun (*I, he, she, etc.*) + auxiliary verb.

She's taller than me. OR *She's taller than I am.*
NOT *She's taller than I.*

They're not as busy as us. OR *They're not as busy as we are.*
NOT *They're not as busy as we.*

the same as

We use *the same as* to say that two people, places, things, etc. are identical.

Her dress is the same as mine.

comparing two actions

- 1 My father drives **faster than** me. (2 12)))
You walk **more quickly** than I do.
Liverpool played worse today **than** last week.
- 2 Max doesn't speak English **as well as** his wife does.
I don't earn **as much as** my boss.

- 1 We use comparative **adverbs** to compare two actions.
 - Regular comparative adverbs: spelling rules
fast > faster *slowly > more slowly* *carefully > more carefully*
 - Irregular comparatives:
well > better *badly > worse*
- 2 We can also use (not) *as* + adverb + *as* to make comparisons.

superlatives

- Kevin is **the tallest** player in the team. (2 13)))
Oslo is **the most expensive** capital city in Europe.
The small bag is **the least expensive**.
Lucy is the **best student** in the class.
Who dresses **the most stylishly** in your family?
That's **the worst** we've ever played.

- We use superlative **adjectives** and **adverbs** to compare people, things, or actions with all of their group.
- Form superlatives like comparatives, but use *-est* instead of *-er* and *most* / *least* instead of *more* / *less*.
- We normally use **the** before superlatives, but you can also use possessive adjectives, e.g. **my best friend**, **their most famous song**.
- We often use a superlative with present perfect + *ever*, e.g. *It's the best book I've ever read.*

in after superlatives

Use *in* (NOT *of*) before places after a superlative.

It's the longest bridge in the world. NOT *of the world*

It's the best beach in England. NOT *of England*

- a Complete with the comparative or superlative of the **bold** word (and *than* if necessary).

What's *the fastest* way to get across London? **fast**

- 1 I think skiing is _____ horse-riding. **easy**
- 2 A motorbike is _____ a scooter. **powerful**
- 3 I think that travelling by train is _____ form of transport. **relaxing**
- 4 You walk _____ I do. **slowly**
- 5 _____ time to travel is on holiday weekends. **bad**
- 6 _____ I've ever driven is from London to Edinburgh. **far**
- 7 The London Underground is _____ the subway in New York. **old**
- 8 This is _____ coach I've ever been on. **hot**
- 9 Of all my family, my mum is _____ driver. **good**

- b Complete with one word.

Going by motorboat is *more* exciting than travelling by ferry.

- 1 A coach isn't as comfortable _____ a train.
- 2 It's _____ most expensive car we've ever bought.
- 3 The traffic was worse _____ we expected.
- 4 This is the longest journey I've _____ been on.
- 5 He gets home late, but his wife arrives later than _____.
- 6 The _____ interesting place I've ever visited is Venice.
- 7 I leave home at the same time _____ my brother.
- 8 He drives _____ carefully than his girlfriend – he's never had an accident.
- 9 We don't go abroad _____ often as we used to.
- 10 What's the longest motorway _____ the UK?

outside came and listened to them and cared about them. But it's not only the children whose lives have changed. Adelante África has also changed me and my family. We have been very lucky in life. I feel that life has given me a lot. Now I want to give something back. But it's not all giving. I feel that I get more from them than I give! I love being there. I love their smiles and how they have such a strong sense of community, and I love feeling that my family and the other members of Adelante África are accepted as part of that community.

Interviewer And do you have a website?

Jane Yes, we do. It's www.adelanteafrica.com. We've had the website for about four years. It was one of the first things we set up. If you'd like to find out more about Adelante África, please go there and have a look. There are lots of photos and even a video my son took of me teaching the children to sing on that first day. Maybe it will change your life too, who knows?

1 52)))

Phone call 4

I haven't had any music for the last three days, because my iPod broke, so paddling has been getting more boring. To pass the time I count or I name countries in my head and sometimes I just look up at the sky. Sometimes the sky is pink with clouds that look like cotton wool, other times it's dark like the smoke from a fire and sometimes it's bright blue. The day that I reached the half way point in my trip the sky was bright blue. I'm superstitious so I didn't celebrate – there's still a very long way to go.

Phone call 5

This week the mosquitoes have been driving me mad. They obviously think I'm easy food! They especially like my feet. I wake up in the night when they bite me and I can't stop scratching my feet.

But I'm feeling happier now than I've been feeling for weeks. I've seen a lot of amazing wildlife this week. One day I found myself in the middle of a group of dolphins. There were about six pairs jumping out of the water. I've also seen enormous butterflies, iguanas, and vultures which fly above me in big groups. Yesterday a fish jumped into my kayak. Maybe it means I'm going to be lucky. I am starting to feel a bit sad that this adventure is coming to an end.

And finally on the news, BBC presenter Helen Skelton has successfully completed her 3,200 kilometre journey down the Amazon River in a kayak. She set off from Nauta in Peru six weeks ago on a journey which many people said would be impossible. But yesterday she crossed the finish line at Almeirim in Brazil to become the first woman to paddle down the Amazon. Here's Helen: 'It's been hard but I've had an amazing time. The only thing I've really missed is my dog Barney. So the first thing I'm going to do will be to pick him up and take him for a nice long walk.'

2 9)))

The Stig was using public transport, for the first time in his life! He saw a big red thing coming towards him. A bus! He got on it, and used his Oyster Card to pay. Ten minutes later he got off and got the tube at Acton Town to take the District line to Monument. 18 stops!

The train now approaching is a District line train to West Ham. Please mind the gap between the train and the platform.

The Stig noticed that everyone was reading a newspaper, so he picked up a free one that was on a seat and started reading.

The next station is Monument. Change here for the Central line and the Docklands Light Railway.

He got off the tube and ran to the platform for the Docklands Light Railway. After a few minutes a train arrived. Now it was just ten stops and he would be there!

2 15)))

Host And on tonight's programme we talk to Tom Dixon, who is an expert on road safety. Tom, new technology like satnav has meant new distractions for drivers, hasn't it?

Tom That's right, Nicky, but it isn't just technology that's the problem. Car drivers do a lot of other things while they're driving which are dangerous and which can cause accidents. Remember, driver distraction is the number one cause of road accidents.

Host Now I know you've been doing a lot of tests with simulators. According to your tests, what's the most dangerous thing to do when you're driving?

Tom The tests we did in a simulator showed that the most dangerous thing to do while you're driving is to send or receive a text message. This is incredibly dangerous and it is of course illegal. In fact, research done by the police shows that this is more dangerous than drinking and driving.

Host Why is that?

Tom Well, the reason is obvious – many people use two hands to text, one to hold the phone and the other to type. Which means that they don't have their hands on the wheel, and they are looking at the phone, not at the road. Even for people who can text with one hand, it is still extremely dangerous. In the tests we did in the simulator two of the drivers crashed while texting.

Host And which is the next most dangerous?

Tom The next most dangerous thing is to set or adjust your sat nav. This is extremely hazardous too because although you can do it with one hand, you still have to take your eyes off the road for a few seconds.

Host And number three?

Tom Number three was putting on make-up or doing your hair. In fact this is something that people often do, especially women of course, when they stop at traffic lights, but if they haven't finished when the lights change, they often carry on when they start driving again. It's that fatal combination of just having one hand on the steering wheel, and looking in the mirror, not at the road.

Host And number four?

Tom In fourth place, there are two activities which are equally dangerous. One of them is making a phone call on a mobile. Our research showed that when people talk on the phone they drive more slowly (which can be just as dangerous as driving fast) but their control of the car gets worse, because they're concentrating on the phone call and not on what's happening on the road. But the other thing, which is just as dangerous as talking on your mobile, is eating and drinking. In fact if you do this, you double your chance of having an accident because eating and drinking always involves taking at least one hand off the steering wheel. And the worrying thing here is that people don't think of this as a dangerous activity at all and it isn't even illegal.

Host And in fifth, well actually sixth place. It must be listening to music, but which one?

Tom Well, it's listening to music you know.

Host Oh, that's interesting.

Tom We found in our tests that when drivers were listening to music they knew and liked, they drove either faster or slower depending on whether the music was fast or slow.

Host So fast music made drivers drive faster.

Tom Exactly. And a study in Canada also found that if the music was very loud then drivers' reaction time was 20% slower. If you're listening to very loud music you're twice as likely to go through a red light.

Host So the safest of all of the things in the list is to listen to music we don't know.

Tom Exactly. If we don't know the music then it doesn't distract us. In this part of the tests all drivers drove safely.

2 23)))

A Excuse me, is this seat free?

B Yes, sure sit down. Ah, he's lovely. Is he yours?

A Yes, yes. He's a she actually. Miranda.

B Oh. Three months?

A Three and a half. How about yours?

B Stephen. He's four months. Did you have a bad night?

A Yes, Miranda was crying all night. You know, that noise gets to you. It drives me mad.

B Do you know what you need? These.

A What are they? Earplugs?

B Yes. Earplugs! When the baby starts crying you just put these in. You can still hear the crying, but the noise isn't so bad and it's not so stressful.

A That's a great idea! Who told you to do that?

B It's all in this book I've read. You should get it.

A Yeah? What's it called?

B It's called 'Commando Dad'. It was written by an ex-soldier. He was a commando in the army and it's especially for men with babies or small children. It's brilliant.

A Really? So what's so good about it?

B Well, it's like a military manual. It tells you exactly what to do with a baby in any situation. It makes everything easier. There's a website too that you can go to – commandodad.com. It has lots of advice about looking after babies and small kids and I really like the forums where men can write in with their problems, or their experiences.

A What sort of things does it help you with?

B All sorts of things. How to change nappies – he has a really good system, how to dress the baby, how to get the baby to sleep, the best way to feed the baby, how to know if the baby is ill. It's really useful and it's quite funny too, I mean he uses sort of military language, so for example he calls the baby a BT which means a baby trooper, and the baby's bedroom is base camp, and taking the baby for a walk is manoeuvres, and taking the nappies to the rubbish is called bomb disposal.

A What else does it say?

A And what does he think about men looking after children? Does he think we do it well?

B He thinks that men are just as good as women at looking after children in almost everything.

A Almost everything?

B Yeah, he says the one time when women are better than men is when the kids are ill. Women sort of understand better what to do. They have an instinct. Oh. Now it's my turn. Right, I know exactly what that cry means. It means he's hungry.

A Wow! What was that book called?

2 28)))

Kerri You work hard but your money's all spent
Haven't got enough to pay the rent
You know it's not right and it makes no sense
To go chasing, chasing those dollars and cents
Chasing, chasing those dollars and cents...

Rob That was great, Kerri.

Kerri Thanks.

Rob Kerri, you used to be in a band, now you play solo. Why did you change?

Kerri What happened with the band is private. I've already said I don't want to talk about it in interviews. All I'll say is that I have a lot more freedom this way. I can play – and say – what I want.

Rob Did your relationship with the band's lead guitarist affect the break up?

Kerri No comment. I never talk about my private life.

Rob Your Dad was in a famous punk band and your Mum's a classical pianist, have they influenced your music?

Kerri Of course they have – what do you think? Isn't everyone influenced by their parents?

Rob When did you start playing?

Kerri I started playing the guitar when I was about four.