

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

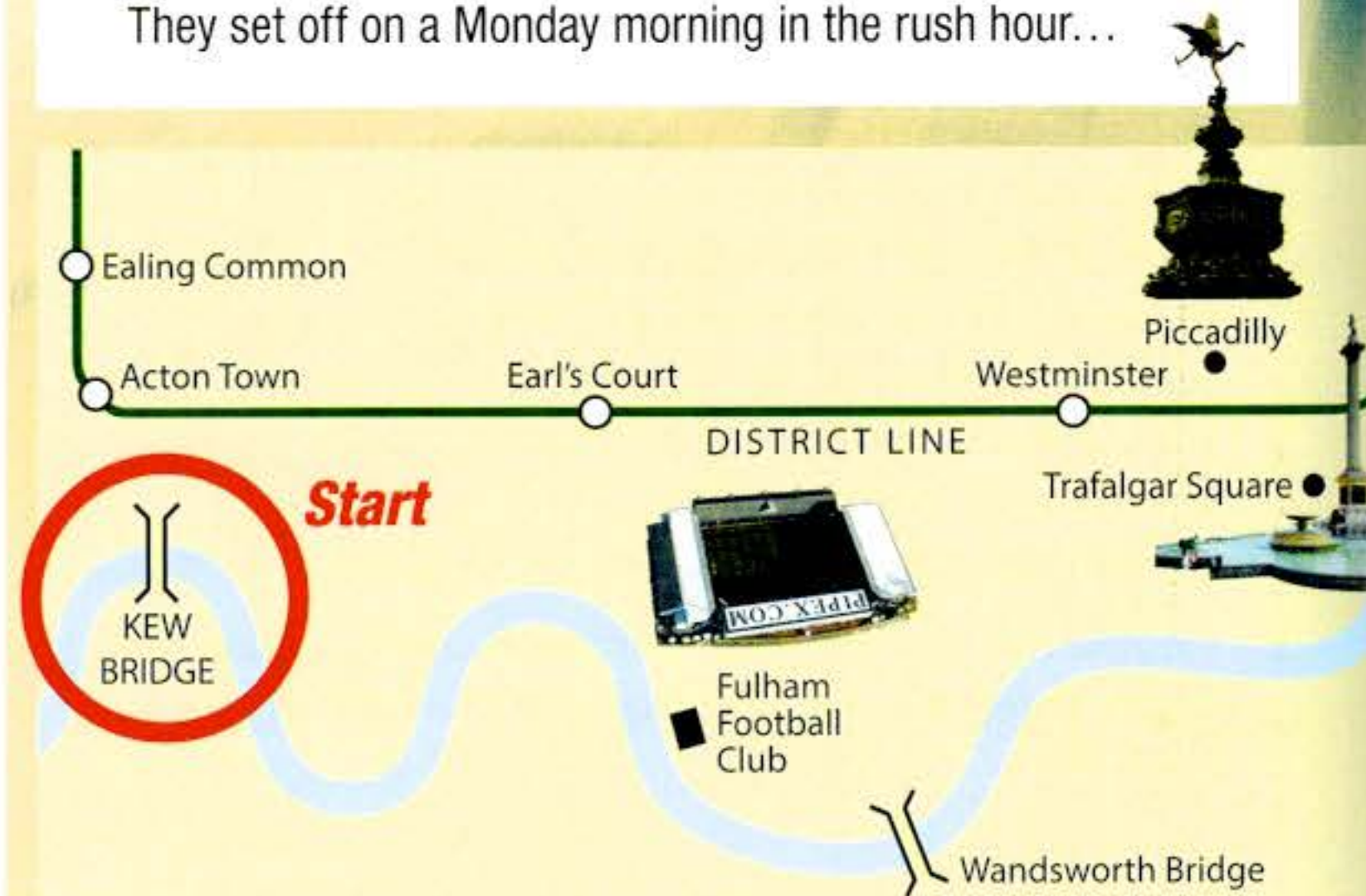
- a You are going to read about a race which the BBC car programme *Top Gear* organized across London. Read the introduction and answer the questions.
- Where do they have to go from? Where to?
 - What are the four methods of transport?
 - Which one do you think will be the fastest? Why?
 - In what order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

- when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with a vowel sound, e.g. *more_exciting*
- when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next word begins with the same consonant sound, e.g. *a_dangerous_cyclist*
- 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.

- Riding a motorbike is more exciting than driving.
- The fastest train only takes an hour and a half.
- It's more difficult to drive at night than during the day.
- My father's worse at driving than my mother.
- 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.

- dangerous:** cycling; riding a motorbike; driving
- easy:** learning to drive; learning to ride a bike; learning to ride a horse
- relaxing:** flying; travelling by train; driving
- difficult:** sleeping on a train; sleeping in a plane; sleeping on a bus
- 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.

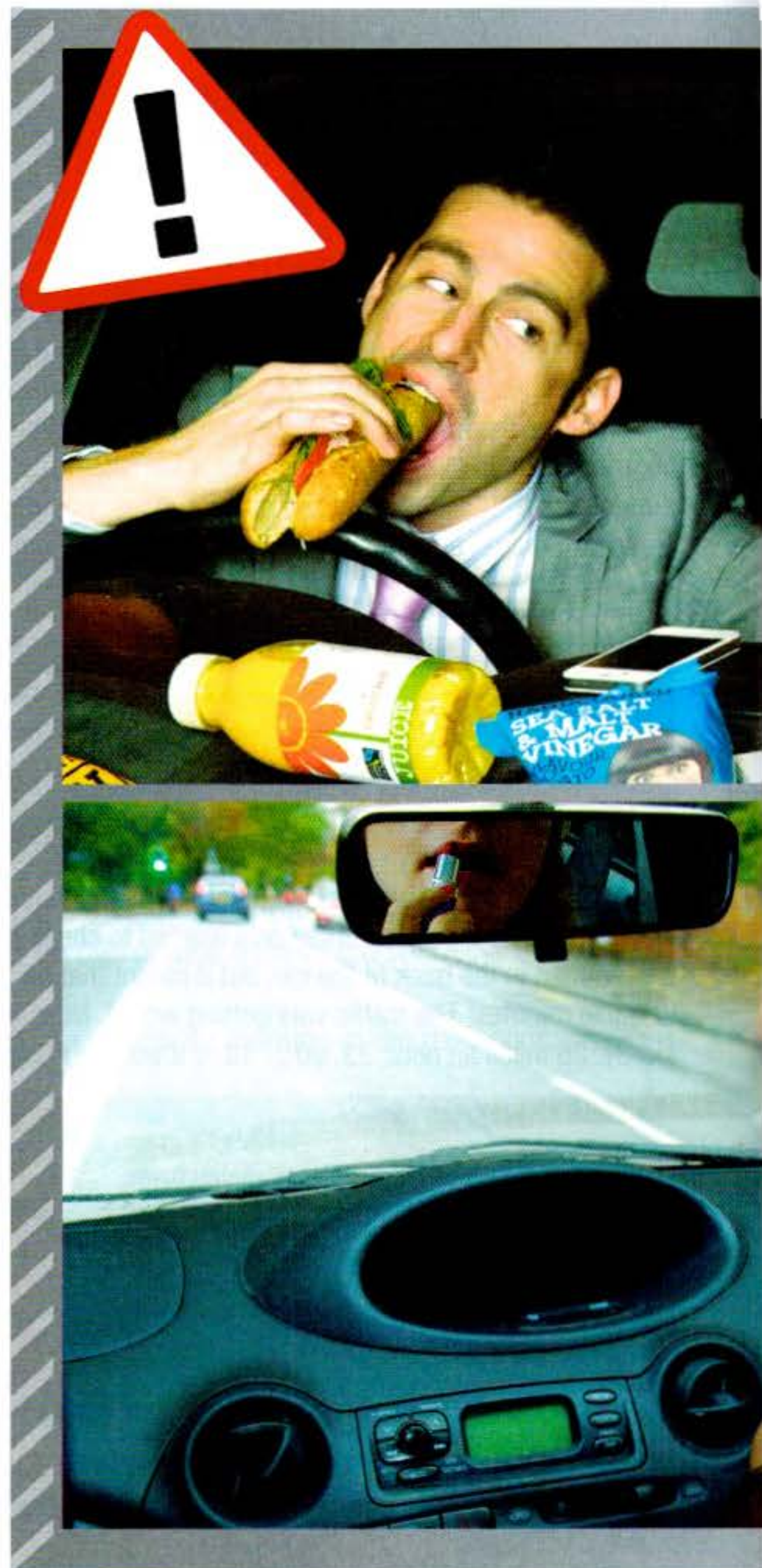
6 LISTENING

a Read the text and then talk to a partner.

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

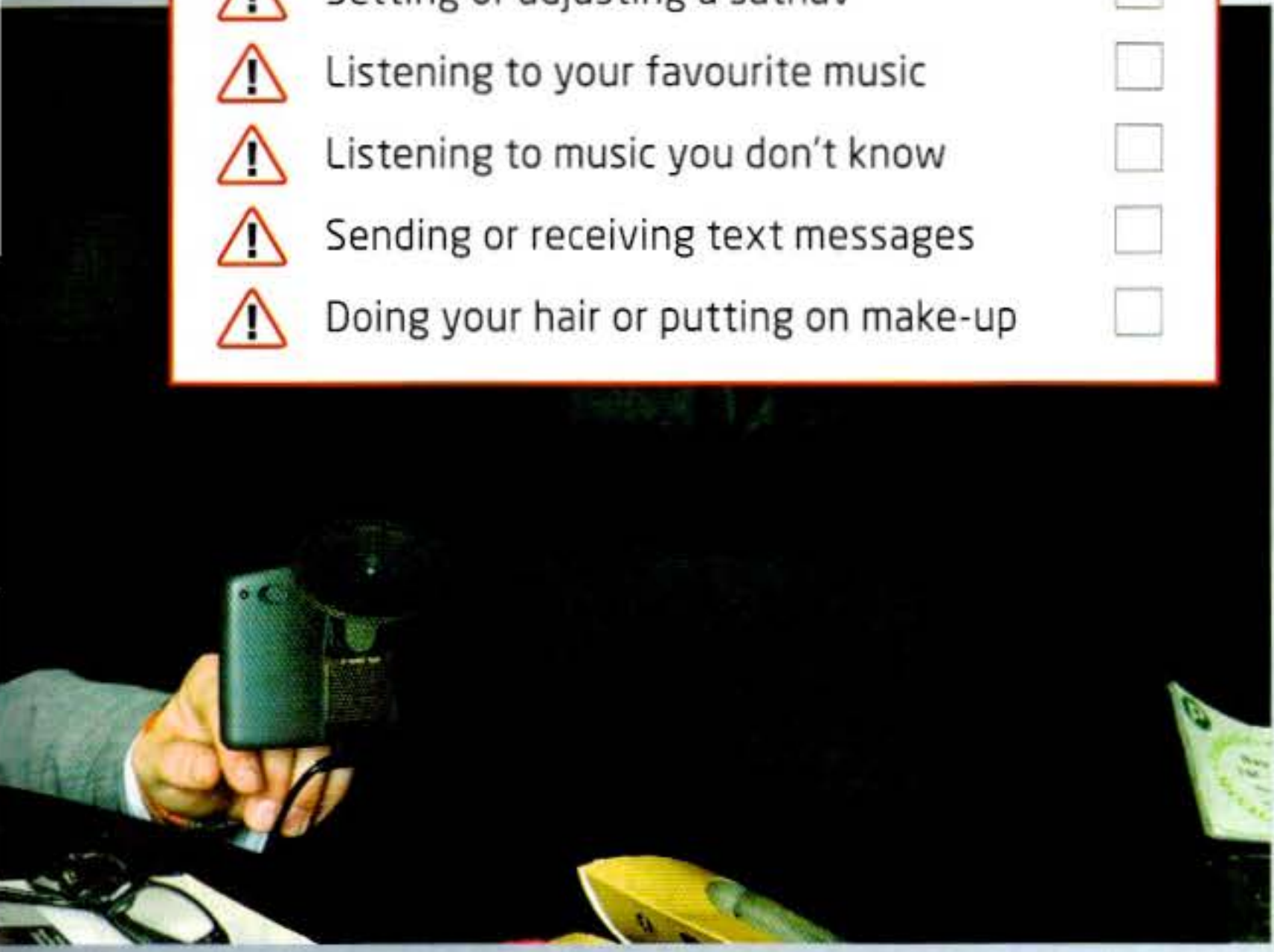
c Listen again for more information about each activity and why it is dangerous.



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