



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Happy Birthday, Driving Test!
英国驾驶考试

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The Test is More Expensive and Complex than Ever 英国考驾照有史以来最贵最复杂

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

For 75 years, three words have dominated the lives of many young Brits. They are: mirror, signal, manoeuvre.

These are the processes all drivers should perform when they make a turn, go round a roundabout or overtake a vehicle. Learners hoping to pass their driving test need to prove that they understand the importance of these actions before they can throw out their L plates and head for the highway.

This summer the British driving test celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday. It's often described as one of the most frightening tests we face.

It is an ordeal that doesn't come very cheap nowadays. Taking the test in 1935 cost just 37.5 pence (4 yuan); now candidates can expect to pay £93 (989 yuan).

The test is also harder than ever. In 1935, the pass rate was 63%; now it's 43%. In recent years, the DSA – the organisation that oversees the driving test – has looked for ways to assess different aspects of what makes a good driver.

In 1996, the three-point turns, hill starts and dreaded parallel parking exercises of the practical test were supplemented by a theory paper. This test quizzes candidates on different aspects of the Highway Code and hazard perception.

Now the DSA has announced another change. Candidates will drive for ten minutes without detailed instructions from the examiner. DSA's chief driving examiner Trevor Wedge said the aim was to measure a candidate's "ability to drive safely while making decisions independently".

However, drivers will not be penalised for getting lost. "It's not a test of navigation and candidates won't be failed for going off route," Mr Wedge said.

No doubt there will still be whingers. The BBC has learnt that in 2009 there were 1,889 complaints about examiners, of which just 51 were upheld.

Complaints that were rejected included "Candidate crashed during test - claims examiner distracted" and "[Candidate] says examiner took her on busy roads during rush hour, which was unfair".

Someone else seemingly failed to understand the nature of an emergency stop when the complaint was filed that an "emergency stop was conducted 'without warning'".

Glossary 词汇表

to signal – 打灯（开车时打出信号）	manoeuvre – 移动
roundabout – 环岛，环形交叉路口	to overtake – 超车
L plates – 见习驾驶员牌照	to head for somewhere – 朝...进发
ordeal – 严格的考验	three-point turn – （汽车的）三点转向
hill start – 半坡起步	parallel parking – 平行泊车
practical test – 路考	the Highway Code - （英国）高速公路规则
hazard perception – 对潜在威胁意识	to penalise someone – 处罚某人
navigation – 导航	whinger – 气愤抱怨的人
to uphold a complaint – 受理并解决了投诉	to crash – 撞车
to be distracted – 受干扰	emergency stop – 紧急停车

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真？哪句是假？请圈出正确答案。

1. The British driving test is easier now than it was in 1935. True / False
2. The theory paper has always been part of the driving test. True / False
3. During the practical part of the test, candidates will be given instructions from the examiner at all times. True/ False
4. Candidates cannot fail the test for going off route. True/ False
5. All the complaints made about examiners in 2009 were taken seriously and investigated. True / False

2. Driving Vocabulary 与开车有关的词汇

Without looking back at today's article, put the right word from the box below into the sentences underneath.

在不参考今天文章的前提下，看看你是否能从下面方框中选出正确的单词来完成下列句子。

emergency stop	roundabout	navigation
driving test	hazard perception	L plates
parallel parking		signal

1. This summer the British _____ celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday.
2. For 75 years, three words have dominated the lives of many young Brits. They are: mirror, _____, manoeuvre.
3. All drivers should perform those processes when they make a turn, go round a _____ or overtake a vehicle.
4. In 1996, the three-point turns, hill starts and dreaded _____ exercises of the practical test were supplemented by a theory paper.
5. Learners need to pass their driving tests before they can throw out their _____ and head for the highway.
6. This theory test quizzes candidates on different aspects of the Highway Code and _____.
7. The new element to the driving test is "not a test of _____".
8. Someone else seemingly failed to understand the nature of an _____.

3. Words with Over 和 over 连用的单词

a) In the article we saw the word **overtake**. Match these other verbs which include the prefix **over** to their correct meanings.

在今天的文章中我们学习了单词 **overtake**. 请把下列以 **over** 为前缀的单词与其正确的搭配连线。

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. to overtake | a. 偶然听到 |
| 2. to overdo | b. 不知所措 |
| 3. to overhear | c. 久留 |
| 4. to overwhelm | d. 超车 |
| 5. to overstay | e. 做的过火 |

b) Fill in the blanks using the expressions above. You might have to adapt the words to the grammar of the sentences.

请用上题中短语的正确形式来完成句子。

1. I was shopping for seven hours yesterday and now my feet are really sore. I think I _____ it.
2. I thought he would never leave! He really _____ his welcome.
3. I _____ something very interesting at the party. Did you know that Mary's daughter was getting married? I hope we get invited!
4. We got stuck behind a really slow car and the road was so narrow it was impossible to _____.
5. I think she enjoyed her surprise party although she did seem a bit _____ at first.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's article in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与本周文章有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

m	a	n	o	e	u	v	r	e	t	u	s
i	l	l	u	v	i	n	u	l	t	a	f
c	a	r	t	o	v	e	r	t	a	k	e
a	r	t	y	o	i	n	e	r	o	h	m
r	o	u	n	d	a	b	o	u	t	r	e
e	f	f	y	u	p	o	l	l	e	i	r
a	c	c	i	v	i	n	t	a	s	i	g
i	r	r	e	t	i	n	g	r	t	o	e
h	a	z	a	r	d	a	r	d	i	o	n
o	s	p	e	r	y	i	n	g	l	u	c
a	h	r	e	n	t	i	n	t	i	n	y
l	u	a	s	h	i	b	n	g	u	o	p

overtake	roundabout	hazard	crash	car
manoeuvre	emergency	test		

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

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2. Driving Vocabulary 与开车有关的词汇

1. This summer the British driving test celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday.
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8. Someone else seemingly failed to understand the nature of an emergency stop.

3. Words with Over 和 over 连用的单词

a)

1. d
2. e
3. a
4. b
5. c

b)

1. I was shopping for seven hours yesterday and now my feet are really sore. I think I overdid it.
2. I thought he would never leave! He really overstayed his welcome.
3. I overheard something very interesting at the party. Did you know that Mary's daughter was getting married? I hope we get invited!
4. We got stuck behind a really slow car and the road was so narrow it was impossible to overtake.
5. I think she enjoyed her surprise party although she did seem a bit overwhelmed at first.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

m	a	n	o	e	u	v	r	e			
c				o	v	e	r	t	a	k	e
a											m
r	o	u	n	d	a	b	o	u	t		e
									e		r
	c								s		g
	r								t		e
h	a	z	a	r	d						n
	s										c
	h										y