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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/07/13

The wonderful potholes on our roads!

Today, let's talk about the potholes on our roads. You'll find them in every town, city and in greater numbers in the countryside. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are more dangerous than others.

Flooding and long spells of freezing temperatures cause potholes and the decay of roads. Poor quality road construction caused by corrupt officials putting the money in their pockets then using sub-standard materials is another cause.

This spring many countries saw a rise in insurance claims by motorists for suspension and axle damage on their cars following the harsh winter. Think about it - Every pothole causes wear and tear to suspension components. Many people discover their suspension has simply worn out from the punishment!

Underfunding, severe winters and flooding have left roads in disrepair for decades. Councils in many countries have struggled to move beyond patching up a deteriorating network. Poor maintenance causes expanding potholes! The more potholes the more misery for motorists.

The local garage does a roaring trade fixing cars that have hit potholes and need repairing. The suspension or tyre might need fixing. Warning - Potholes can cause serious damage to your car! They are also a serious risk to your pocket!

Potholes are also a particular risk to cyclists as they are often at the side of a road. Cyclists inevitably swerve to miss them, which is when they can be hit by a motorist. Hitting a pothole means a cyclist could fall off their bike. Worse they could be killed! Unfortunately, with so much of our road network resembling a Swiss cheese, it's almost impossible to avoid hitting a pothole.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is a pothole? Where do you find them? Why? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) What do you think about what you read?
- 5) Discuss the article

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What causes a pothole?
- 2) Finish this sentence: The more potholes the...
- 3) What have left the roads in disrepair?
- 4) For whom are potholes a particular risk for?
- 5) What has Swiss cheese got to do with potholes?

Student B questions

- 1) Local garages do a what?
- 2) What is the warning?
- 3) What can happen to a cyclist?
- 4) What do corrupt officials do?
- 5) What does 'wear and tear' mean?

Category: Roads / Potholes / Transport
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**potholes**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things a garage can repair *inside* your car and *outside* your car. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

Add three reasons why roads get potholes. Then add three possible solutions! Discuss together.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DEBATE

In pairs – Student A thinks potholes should be a priority to fix. Student B thinks new motorways are more important to build.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) If a pothole was outside your house would you consider filling it in?
- 3) Are there many potholes in your location? Why? Why not?
- 4) Does your city suffer from too many potholes?
- 5) Does your local council do anything to solve the potholes in your town/city?
- 6) Why are roads so different in quality in different countries?
- 7) Should the government compensate any drivers and cyclists whose vehicles and bikes have been damaged as a result of potholes?
- 8) Would you sue your local council if your car or bike was damaged as a result of a pothole?
- 9) Can you 'report a pothole'?
- 10) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *The wonderful potholes on our roads!*

- 1) A city driver
- 2) A taxi driver.
- 3) A local council official.
- 4) The Minister of Transport.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in an internet cafe. Start a conversation about the potholes where you live. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The state of our roads today!

or

The future of the road network in the country

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have potholes caused your car any damage?
- 3) When was the last time your car had a service?
- 4) Have you ever fallen off a bike as a result of hitting a pothole?
- 5) Do you know anyone who has suffered an injury as a result of hitting a pothole?
- 6) Has your car's suspension and axle suffered as a result of hitting a pothole?
- 7) Why don't local councils repair all the potholes straight away?
- 8) Do you know any potholes that haven't been repaired for more than five years?
- 9) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

The wonderful potholes on our roads!

Today, let's talk about the (1)___ on our roads. You'll find them in every town, city and in greater numbers in the countryside. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are more dangerous than others.

Flooding and long spells of freezing temperatures cause potholes and the decay of (2)__. Poor quality road construction caused by (3)___ officials putting the money in their pockets then using (4)___ materials is another cause.

This spring many countries saw a rise in insurance claims by motorists for (5)___ and (6)___ damage on their cars following the (7)___ winter. Think about it - Every pothole causes wear and tear to suspension components. Many people discover their suspension has simply worn out from the (8)___!

suspension / punishment / roads / axle / corrupt / potholes / sub-standard / harsh /

Underfunding, (1)___ winters and flooding have left roads in disrepair for decades. Councils in many countries have struggled to move beyond (2)___ a deteriorating network. Poor maintenance causes expanding potholes! The more potholes the more (3)___ for motorists.

The local (4)___ does a roaring trade fixing cars that have hit potholes and need repairing. The suspension or tyre might need fixing. Warning - Potholes can cause serious damage to your car! They are also a serious (5)___ to your pocket!

Potholes are also a particular risk to cyclists as they are often at the side of a road. Cyclists inevitably swerve to miss them, which is when they can be hit by a motorist. Hitting a pothole means a cyclist could fall off their bike. (6)___ they could be killed! Unfortunately, with so much of our road network (7)___ a Swiss cheese, it's almost impossible to (8)___ hitting a pothole.

risk / misery / worse / avoid / resembling / garage / severe / patching up

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The wonderful potholes on our roads!

Today, let's talk about the potholes on our roads. You'll find (1)___ in every town, city and in greater numbers in the countryside. (2)___ come in all shapes and sizes. (3)___ are more dangerous than others.

Flooding and long spells of freezing temperatures cause potholes and the decay of roads. Poor quality road construction caused by corrupt officials putting the money in their pockets (4)___ using sub-standard materials is (5)___ cause.

This spring (6)___ countries saw a rise in insurance claims by motorists for suspension and axle damage on their cars following the harsh winter. Think about it - (7)___ pothole causes wear and tear to suspension components. Many people discover (8)___ suspension has simply worn out from the punishment!

their / then / some / them / many / they / every / another

Underfunding, severe winters and flooding have left roads in disrepair for decades. Councils (1)___ many countries have struggled to move beyond patching up a deteriorating network. Poor maintenance causes expanding potholes! The more potholes (2)___ more misery (3)___ motorists.

The local garage does (4)___ roaring trade fixing cars that have hit potholes and need repairing. The suspension (5)___ tyre might need fixing. Warning - Potholes can cause serious damage to your car! They are also a serious risk to your pocket!

Potholes are also a particular risk to cyclists as they are often at the side of a road. Cyclists inevitably swerve to miss them, which is when they (6)___ be hit by a motorist. Hitting a pothole means a cyclist could fall off their bike. Worse they could be killed! Unfortunately, with (7)___ much of (8)___ road network resembling a Swiss cheese, it's almost impossible to avoid hitting a pothole.

in / so / or / a / our / for / can / the

GAP FILL: LISTENING

The wonderful potholes on our roads!

Today, let's talk about the _____. You'll find them in every town, city and in greater numbers in the countryside. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are more dangerous than others.

_____ spells of freezing temperatures cause potholes and the decay of roads. Poor quality road construction caused by corrupt officials putting the money in their pockets then using _____ is another cause.

This spring many countries saw a rise in insurance claims by motorists for _____ damage on their cars following the harsh winter. Think about it - Every pothole causes wear and tear to suspension components. Many people discover their suspension has simply worn out _____!

Underfunding, severe winters and flooding have left roads in disrepair for decades. Councils in many countries have struggled to move beyond patching up a _____. Poor maintenance causes expanding potholes! The more potholes the more _____.

The local garage does a roaring trade fixing cars that have hit potholes and need repairing. The suspension or tyre might need fixing. Warning - Potholes can cause serious damage to your car! They are also a _____ pocket!

Potholes are also a particular risk to cyclists as they are often at the side of a road. Cyclists inevitably swerve to miss them, which is when they can be hit by a motorist. _____ means a cyclist could fall off their bike. Worse they could be killed! Unfortunately, with so much of our road network resembling a Swiss cheese, it's almost impossible to _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**A car service**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Potholes _____
- 2) Corruption _____
- 3) The weather _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The potholes in my country!** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) potholes
- 2) roads
- 3) corrupt
- 4) sub-standard
- 5) suspension
- 6) axle
- 7) harsh
- 8) punishment

ANSWERS

- 1) severe
- 2) patching up
- 3) misery
- 4) garage
- 5) risk
- 6) worse
- 7) resembling
- 8) avoid

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) potholes
- 2) unfortunately
- 3) dangerous
- 4) temperatures
- 5) cause
- 6) decay
- 7) quality
- 8) construction
- 9) sub-standard
- 10) materials

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) suspension
- 12) harsh
- 13) components
- 14) punishment
- 15) decades
- 16) underfunding
- 17) severe
- 18) flooding
- 19) beyond
- 20) maintenance

The wonderful potholes on our roads! – *5th July 2013*