



SELF-DRIVING CARS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
15RE-V7JD-IUC1

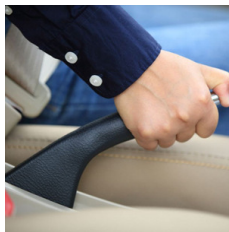
1 Warm up

Match the words and pictures.

<u>driver's licence</u>	<u>accident</u>	<u>mirror</u>	<u>steering wheel</u>
speed limit	lanes	hand brake	seat



1



2



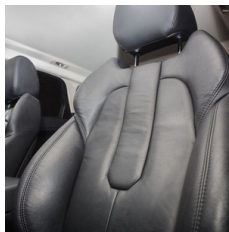
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8

Answer the questions.

1. Do you drive?
2. How has driving changed over the last 10 years?
3. What changes to driving do you expect in the next 10 years?



2

Reading

Read the article about self-driving cars and answer the questions.

1. How does the computer help the driver in the lowest level of self-driving cars?
2. What can the driver do in the highest level of self-driving cars?
3. Which level will be available soon?
4. What type of effect will self-driving cars have on the environment?
5. Which two types of people will find self-driving cars useful?

Work in A/B pairs. Read the article again and match the words/phrases in bold with their meanings below. Then explain your words to your partner.

Student A:

1. _____ things that happen because of another event
2. _____ working quickly and without waste
3. _____ guesses about what will happen in the future
4. _____ new machines or computers that have been developed scientifically

Student B

1. _____ makes a machine work (or a person behave) in a certain way
2. _____ stop something happening
3. _____ take the place of something so that it no longer exists
4. _____ happen or exist because of another event

Which word in the first group is not a noun?

What type of words are all the items in the second group?

What was the most interesting or surprising information in the article?



Who's behind the wheel?

The future of self-driving cars

1. Is your drive to work a waste of time? Maybe you hate driving or don't have a licence? The solution: self-driving cars. Carmakers have been talking about these for years and have made many **predictions** about when the necessary computer **technology** will be ready.
2. There are six levels of technology that can do some or all of the driver's work. At the lowest levels, the driver **controls** the car, and the computer helps with parking or staying in a lane. This technology is already in use. At the higher levels, the driver is free to work or sleep, and the computer is fully in control
- although with a speed limit. Some people predict that this technology won't be available for many years. It's the middle levels, where a person and a computer both drive the car, which we may see on our roads soon.

3. The question we all want to ask is: are self-driving cars safe? Actually, they might **prevent** thousands of accidents, although there is a danger that drivers could become too confident about the technology. Self-driving cars will have other **effects**. They will probably be better for the environment, as a computer drives a car more **efficiently** than a person. Self-
- driving cars may **replace** taxis; it will certainly be cheaper to run a taxi service if there are no drivers to pay. If self-driving taxis become really popular, then this might **result in** big changes in the number of people who want to own cars. The biggest winners are likely to be some disabled people who don't have a driving licence, or older people who have lost confidence driving on busy roads.

4. The question isn't IF we will see self-driving cars on the roads, it's WHEN we will see them.

Sources: bbc.co.uk;
theguardian.com; vox.com





3

Language point

We use a range of language to make predictions about the future. Study the sentences and answer the questions.

- Carmakers have made many predictions about when the necessary computer technology **will be** ready.
- Some people predict that this technology **won't be** available for many years.

Answer these questions.

1. What verb form follows *will/won't*?
2. When we use *will/won't*, do we feel sure about our prediction?

- It's the middle levels, where a person and a computer both drive the car, which we **may see** on our roads soon.
- Actually, they **might prevent** thousands of accidents...
- ... there is a danger that drivers **could become** too confident about the technology.

Answer these questions.

1. We also use *may/might/could* + verb to make predictions. How is the meaning of these words different from *will*?
2. Which two of these words have the same meaning in this context?
3. Which word shows that we feel there is only a small chance that something will happen?



- They will **probably** be better for the environment...
- ... it will **certainly** be cheaper to run a taxi service if there are no drivers to pay.

Answer these questions.

1. What kind of words are in bold?
2. What other words like this could we use with *will* to show how sure we are about a prediction?
3. Where do the adverbs go in the sentence?

- If self-driving taxis **become** really popular, then this **might result in** big changes in the number of people who want to own cars.

We can also use *may/might/could* in **conditional sentences** about the future, instead of *will*.

Answer this question.

Does this type of conditional sentence describe a real or unreal situation?

- The biggest winners **are likely to be** some disabled people who don't have a driving licence, or older people who have lost confidence driving on busy roads.

Answer these questions.

1. There are other structures that we can use to make predictions about the future. What verb form follows *are likely* in this sentence?
2. Does *be likely to + verb* mean that we are certain or that we are guessing?
3. What is the opposite of likely?



4

Practice

Read the first sentences. Use the word in brackets to complete the second sentences so that they have the same meaning.

original sentence	changed to
1) I'm certain that taxi drivers will lose their jobs if self-driving taxis become very popular. →	_____ their jobs if self-driving taxis become very popular. (definitely)
2) If self-driving taxis become popular, people will probably sell their cars.	If self-driving taxis become popular, _____ . (likely)
3) In the future, people are certain to share control of their car with a computer.	In the future, people _____ . (will)
4) People are likely to use self-driving cars instead of taxis.	_____ self-driving cars instead of taxis. (may)
5) It's possible that we will see fully self-driving cars on the roads in the next 20 years.	_____ fully self-driving cars on the roads in the next 20 years. (could)
6) Self-driving cars are very unlikely to cause many accidents.	Self-driving cars _____ . (won't)
7) Some people aren't sure if they will feel safe in a self-driving car.	Some people _____ . (might)
8) Not many people think that self-driving cars will completely replace normal cars.	_____ completely replace normal cars. (unlikely)
9) We think that self-driving cars might be popular with some disabled and older drivers.	_____ be popular with some disabled and older drivers. (probably)
10) I think there's a small chance of self-driving cars being the most important technology of the century.	_____ the most important technology of the century. (possibly)



5 Speaking

Work in A/B pairs. You are going to have a discussion about the future uses of drones and self-driving cars. Read the information in your part of the table and think of a prediction about each item. Use as many words as you can from the list below.

A **drone** is a flying vehicle that someone controls from the ground.



will / won't / might / may / could / likely / unlikely / definitely / certainly / probably / possibly

	self-driving cars	drones
Student A	taking children to and from school / security problems from other people taking control of the car (hacking)	watching traffic / planting trees in forests / making maps of historical places
Student B	driving tests and driving licences / how action films will show car chases / space for walking in cities	finding rare animals in the wild / delivering take-away food orders

Take turns to explain your ideas to your partner, giving reasons and examples. Listen and discuss the predictions.

1. What predictions do you both feel the most certain about?
2. What predictions do you disagree about?



6 Extra practice/homework

Put these words in order to make predictions about drones.

certainly / drones / The police / to / traffic. / use / watch / will

1. _____

to deliver / drones / things / to people. / use / very large / We / won't

2. _____

drones. / find / If we / in the wild, we / might / need to / rare animals / use

3. _____

to deliver / drones / Emergency workers / may / medicine / sick people. / to / use

4. _____

We could / drones / in the forest. / to find / places where / to plant trees / we need / use

5. _____

are / be useful / Drones / likely / make maps / of historical places. / to / when we

6. _____

are / be / completely / Drones / from hackers. / safe / to / unlikely

7. _____

deliver / Drones / order / online. / probably / that we / things / will

8. _____

be / break down. / could / dangerous / Drones / if they / possibly / to people

9. _____



7

Optional extension

There are lots of expressions in English about driving. Read the mini dialogues out loud and explain what each expression in bold means.

Dialogue 1

- A: Slow down! There's a red light. Watch out for that white car! Don't you need to put your turn signal on?
- B: I really don't need a **back-seat driver**. I know what I'm doing.

Dialogue 2

- A: That music is **driving me crazy**! Can you turn it down, please?
- B: OK, mum. Sorry.

Dialogue 3

- A: I'm selling the car for £5000.
- B: Would you take £4000?
- A: No, the price is £5000.
- B: Wow, you really **drive a hard bargain**.

Dialogue 4

- A: So, I told him, "I'm the one who makes the decisions about the project."
- B: Yeah, you're **in the driver's seat**! What are you going to do?

Dialogue 5

- A: Do you want to come with us to see a movie?
- B: Yeah, but aren't all the cinemas closed because of the pandemic?
- A: Only the indoor ones. We're going to a **drive-in**.
- B: Sure, that sounds like fun.

1. Check your answers and talk about the meanings. Do you have similar expressions in your language?
2. Think of some examples from your own experience where you could use these expressions?