

2.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Use phrases with *on* ■ Understand sentences with missing words

Vocabulary & Listening phrases with *on*

- 1a Work with a partner. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city?
- b 2.7))) Listen to Mike and Emma discussing city life. How do they feel about living in the city?
- c 2.7))) Listen again. Which person says these things? Write M or E.
- Nobody's ever **on time** for anything.
 - I was **on the way** to the city centre.
 - There are so many people who come here **on business**.
 - You just look it up **on the internet**.
 - I really don't understand why they come here **on holiday**.
- 2a Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about phrases with *on*.

VOCABULARY FOCUS phrases with *on*

Phrases which start with *on* are very common in English, e.g. *on time*, *on the internet*, *on a bus*. Learn these as complete phrases.

- b Complete the sentences using the phrases in the box.

on business on holiday on the internet on public transport
on time on the left/right on TV on the way

- Where are you going _____ this year? To the sea or the mountains?
 - In the UK, people drive _____. What about where you come from?
 - Can you get to work or university _____?
 - How often do you go _____? What kind of websites do you visit?
 - Have you ever seen anything surprising or amazing _____ to work or college?
 - Do you prefer watching films _____ or at the cinema? Why?
 - Do you think it is important to be _____ for appointments? When is it less important?
 - Do a lot of people come to your city _____? Where do they come from? Which companies do they visit?
- 3 Work with a partner. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in exercise 2b.

Reading & Speaking understanding sentences with missing words

- 4a Read the following sentence. Which word is missing (A or B)?
My mother was born in London but _____ got tired of city life.
- b Decide which word or words are missing from these sentences and where.
- We were in a traffic jam in Oxford Street and didn't move for an hour.
 - A What's the capital of Canada?
B Don't know.
 - They're walking along the street and looking at the shop windows.
 - They're going to write a blog and post it on their website.
- 5 Read the Unlock the code box about sentences with missing words.



UNLOCK THE CODE

sentences with missing words

- Sometimes writers and speakers leave out words in a sentence to avoid repetition. These words can be
 - pronouns, e.g. *he/she, they*.
She lives in Brussels and works for the European Union.
 - subject pronouns and auxiliary verbs.
Today he's working at home and writing a report.
- To understand a text, it is important to know what the missing words are.



- 6a** Have you heard of pavement rage? What do you think it is? Discuss your ideas with a partner.
- b** Read the first paragraph of the article 'Pavement Rage' and compare the information with your answers in exercise 6a.
- 7a** Look at sentences a–e from the first two paragraphs of the article. What are the missing words?
- I'm going to an appointment at 11.15 and walking as fast as I can ...
 - A group of tourists is walking along and taking photos ...
 - They block my way and don't move ...
 - I go red and feel angry ...
 - Ever felt the same?
- b** How do you feel when people walk slowly in front of you? Can you think of a good solution?
- 8** Read the rest of the article and answer the questions. According to the article who ...?
- are texting or window-shopping
 - can't listen to music
 - do the police fine
 - likes the idea
- 9** **TASK** Work with a partner. Would you like a fast lane where you live? Think of two good and two bad points about having a fast lane in your town or city.

Pavement Rage

It's Oxford Street, London, 11 a.m. The pavements are crowded with shoppers and tourists. I'm going to an appointment at 11.15 and walking as fast as I can down the street. So far, I'm on time, but a group of tourists is walking along very slowly in front of me and taking photos of the shop displays. They block my way and don't move even when I say politely, 'Excuse me ...'. I go red and feel angry. I've got pavement rage.

Oxford Street is one of the busiest streets in the world. Two hundred million shoppers visit it every year, and sometimes people get angry with tourists and slow pedestrians who are texting, window-shopping or talking on their phones. According to a recent newspaper article, 9 out of 10 people experience pavement rage at some time. Ever felt the same?

One solution to this problem is a pedestrian fast lane. Most pedestrians travel along Oxford Street at a speed of 1 mile per hour, but in the fast lane, the minimum speed is 3 miles per hour. People in the fast lane can't talk on their mobiles or listen to music, and they need to know exactly where they're going. CCTV cameras check their speed and police officers fine people not following the rules.



The city council have seen the plans for a fast lane and like the idea, but the problem is cost. Who's going to pay for it, make new street signs and make sure it works? Also, are pedestrians ready for a fast lane? How would you feel about paying a fine for walking too slowly?

