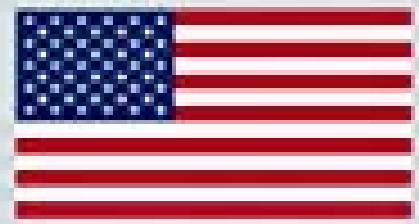


*Artsun Akopyan*



# ENGLISH IN DIALOGUES

**137** QUESTIONS  
AND ANSWERS  
ABOUT CARS AND  
DRIVING FOR  
ESL LEARNERS

English in Dialogues: 137 Questions and Answers About Cars and  
Driving for ESL Learners

Artsun Akopyan

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ENGLISH IN DIALOGUES: 137 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ABOUT CARS AND DRIVING FOR ESL LEARNERS

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## *Introduction*

The illustrated tutorial **“English in Dialogues: 137 Questions and Answers About Cars and Driving for ESL Learners”** is for learners of English as a foreign language. Learn how to call or flag down a taxi, how to book a taxi on your smartphone, how to speak with a taxi driver, how to rent a car, how to use car controls, and how to start and drive an automatic, manual or electric car—all in English. This book presents **137 interconnected mini-dialogues** that include numerous **word combinations used by native English speakers** in everyday conversations.

## ***About the Author***

Artsun Akopyan is a writer and freelance translator based in Russia. He worked at a high school teaching Russian and at a university teaching English. His publications include books for English language learners, short stories and articles, translations of fiction and nonfiction books from English into Russian.

## *How to take a taxi*



1.

**A: How can I get to the airport?**

B: Take a cab.

= *taxi /*

2.

**A: How can I take a cab?**

B: You can call a cab or order one online.

= *on the*

3.

**A: How can I take a taxi if I don't have a phone?**



B: You can flag a taxicab down or hail one in the street.

4.

A: **How do I flag down a cab?**

B: Wave your arm to the drivers!

5.

A: **How do I hail a cab?**

B: Stand on the curb of a street and raise your arm. Don't wave your arm!

6.

A: **How do I call a taxi?**

B: Find a taxi company in your phone book and dial their phone number.

## *How to speak with a dispatch operator*



7.

**A: Hello! Can I get a taxi to the airport?**

**B: Yes, you can.**

8.

**B: Where are you located?**

**A: I am at Grand Hotel.**

9.

**B: What's the address?**

**A: 11 Central Park.**

10.

**B: What is your phone number?**

A: My phone number is 123-11-11.

11.

**B: What is your destination?**

A: The airport.

12.

**B: Do you have any luggage?**

A: Yes, just one suitcase.

=

13.

**B: What time would you like to be picked up?**

A: As soon as possible.

14.

**A: When will the taxi arrive?**

B: Your taxi will arrive in 5 minutes.

15.

A: **What is the fare?**

B: The flat fee to the airport is 65 dollars.

*fee / flat rate / flat fee rate = fixed*

16.

A: **Are there any tolls to pay along the way to the airport?**

B: Yes, they are included in the fare.

*toll = a fee for use of certain*

## ***How to book a taxi on the Internet***



17.

**A: How can I order a taxi on my smartphone?**

B: First, download and install a taxi application.

18.

**A: Where can I download it from on my iPhone?**

B: Use the App Store.

19.

**A: Where can I download it from on my Android device?**

B: Use the Google Play Store.

20.

**A: How can I order a cab using the application?**

B: Create an account and follow onscreen instructions.

**21.**

**A: What must I do to create an account?**

B: Type in your name, email address, and phone number, and create a password.

**22.**

**A: How can I pay for a cab ordered on the Internet?**

B: You can pay online or in cash when the cab arrives.

## *How to speak with a taxi driver*



23.

A: **Is this taxi free?**

B: Yes. Get in!

24.

B: **Where to?**

A: The railway station.

*to? = Where are you heading? Where are you*

25.

A: **How much will the ride cost?**

B: Ten to fifteen dollars. The meter calculates the fare.

= *taximeter / taxicab*

26.

**A: What does the price depend on?**

B: The distance and time of the trip.

27.

**A: Do you accept cash or credit cards?**

B: I accept both.

28.

**A: How long will it take to get to the station?**

B: Twenty to thirty minutes depending on the traffic.

29.

**B: Are you in a hurry?**

A: Yes, I am. Let's go!

30.



**B: I'll take the quickest route. Could you buckle up, please?**

A: Sure.

*up = fasten your seat*

31.

A: *time* **Why have we stopped?**

B: We've arrived at your destination. This is the drop-off location.

32.

A: **How much do I owe you?**

B: That'll be thirteen dollars and fifty cents, please.

*= that*

33.

A: **That was a great trip. Do you accept tips?**

B: Yes, I do.

34.

A: **Here's fifteen dollars. Keep the change!**

B: Thanks!

*(here's = here*

## ***How to rent a car***



35.

**A: Where can I hire a car for a few days?**

B: At a car rental company.

36.

**A: Where can I find it?**

B: At an airport or train station. Look for the “car rental” sign.

37.

**A: Can I book a car online?**

B: Yes, you can. Enter the words “car rental company” in a search field.

38.

A: *a car rental* **Hi, can I rent a car?**

B: Yes, you can. What type of car would you like?

39.

A: **What types do you have?**

B: All sizes from small to large—economy, compact, intermediate, full size, SUVs.

40.

A: **What does SUV stand for?**

B: A sport utility vehicle.

41.

A: **Is it a sports car?**

B: No. It is a four-wheel drive vehicle that can go off-road.

42.

A: **How much does it cost to rent a car?**

B: The price depends on car size. The smallest cars are the cheapest.

43.

A: **I want a midsize car. How much is it?**

B: Our prices start at 67 dollars per day.

=

44.

A: **That's too expensive. What about compact cars?**

B: 52 dollars.

45.

B: **Look at the car list, please. Which make and model would you prefer?**

A: Ford Focus.

*/ brand,*

46.

**B: How many days would you like to rent it for?**

A: Five days.

47.

**B: An automatic or manual gearbox?**

A: An automatic, please.

48.

**B: Will there be any additional drivers?**

A: No, just me.

49.

**A: What about the auto insurance?**

B: It is included in the price.

50.

**A: Is the fuel price included?**

B: The gas tank is full when you start. If you refuel the car before returning, you won't have to pay extra.

*tank (US) = petrol tank*

51.

A: **What if I am a few hours late returning the rental car?**

B: You will be charged for an additional day of rental.

52.

B: **Do you agree with the rental conditions?**

A: Yes, I do.

53.

B: **Could I see your driver's license, please?**

A: Here it is.

*license / driver's permit (US) = driving licence*

54.

**B: Please sign the rental agreement and get your car key.**

A: Thank you!



## *How to check a car before driving*



55.

A: **How can I check a car before driving?**

B: First, check the car exterior.

= *outside*

56.

A: **How can I check the exterior?**

B: Take a walk around the car and look for any scratches, dents, or missing parts.

57.

A: **OK. What's next?**

B: Look for any leaks.

58.

A: **How can I find them?**

B: Kneel down and look under the car at the front and rear.

59.

A: **What's next then?**

B: Check your tire inflation level.

*(US) = tyre*

60.

A: **How can I check the inflation level?**

B: See if there is a flat tire. If you are unsure, use a pressure gauge.

*tire = deflated*

61.

A: **What is the right tire pressure?**

B: 30 psi to 42 psi. Look for your car's tire pressure in the owner's manual.

= *pound / square*

62.

A: **What if the tire pressure is low?**

B: Inflate the tire.

63.

A: **How can I inflate the tire?**

B: Use an air pump. It must be in your car's trunk.

(US) = *boot*

64.

A: **So what's next then?**

B: Get in the car, check your seat position, and adjust it if necessary.

65.

**A: Why should I adjust the seat?**

B: It must allow you to operate the pedals and the steering wheel properly.

66.

**A: What else should I adjust?**

B: The rearview mirror and two side mirrors, if necessary.

67.

**A: How do I know if it is necessary?**

B: You must have a clear view of your surroundings.

68.

**A: What's next?**

B: Put the key in the ignition and turn it to start the car.

69.

**A: May I start driving after that?**

B: Not yet. Look at the dashboard. Make sure you have enough gas and oil, and no warning lights.

70.

A: **Anything else?**

B: Fasten your seatbelt. Now you may go!

## *How to ride in a car*



71.

A: **Where can we travel with the rented car?**

B: Anywhere. Let's take a ride around the city.

*a ride = make a short*

72.

A: **May I drive the car?**

B: No, you can only ride in the car as a passenger.

*in a car = travel inside a*

73.

A: **How many passengers can fit in the car?**

B: Five, including the driver.

*in = get*

74.

A: **Can we give my two friends a ride to the airport?**

B: Yes, we can.

*a ride = give a*

75.

A: **Can a small kid sit on their lap?**

B: No, kids should use a child car seat.

76.

A: **Can they put a child seat in the front of the car?**

B: Yes, but it is safer for children to travel in the rear.

77.

A: **Do adults have to wear a seatbelt in the back seat?**

B: Yes. Everybody must buckle up in the front and back!

*a seatbelt = be buckled*

78.

A: **Can they take a dog with them?**

B: Yes, but they should put the dog in the back seat.

79.

A: **Why should the dog sit in the back?**

B: I don't want it to distract me from driving.

80.

A: **Can I ride shotgun?**

B: Yes, if you don't distract me.

*shotgun = ride in the front passenger*

81.

A: **Are there any more safety rules?**



B: Never stick your head or arms out of the window.

**82.**

A: **Sure thing. What else?**

B: Get in and out of the car from the footpath side only.

**83.**

A: **Anything else?**

B: Don't be a backseat driver.

**84.**

A: **What does that mean?**

B: Don't tell the driver how to drive!

## ***How to use car controls***



**85.**

**A: How can I drive a manual car?**

B: You must use three pedals, the shift stick and the steering wheel.

*stick = gear stick / gear lever / gear*

**86.**

**A: What are the three pedals?**

B: The clutch pedal, the brake pedal and the gas pedal.

*pedal (US) = accelerator / throttle*

**87.**

**A: What is the clutch pedal for?**

B: It helps to change gears smoothly.

**88.**

**A: How many gears are there in a typical car?**

B: Five or six gears for driving forward and one for reverse.

**89.**

**A: Which foot do I use to press the clutch, the brake and the gas?**

B: Use your right foot to press the brake and gas pedal, and left foot to press the clutch.

**90.**

**A: How can I drive an automatic car?**

B: You use two pedals, the steering wheel, and the gear selector.

**91.**

**A: What are the two pedals?**

B: The brake pedal and the gas pedal.

92.

A: **What's the gear selector's function in an automatic car?**

B: It is used to shift drive modes.

93.

A: **What are the modes?**

B: The main modes are Park, Reverse, Neutral, and Drive.

94.

A: **Can there be any other modes?**

B: Yes. Low, Winter, Sport, and so on, depending on the car's make and model.

95.

A: **What is the Park mode for?**

B: The Park mode prevents the car from rolling.

96.

**A: What's the Reverse mode for?**

B: It is used for backing up.

*up = moving in*

97.

**A: What is Neutral for?**

B: The Neutral mode is for towing or pushing an automatic car.

98.

**A: What is the Drive mode for?**

B: It's used for driving forward.

99.

**A: What pedals are there in an electric car?**

B: The accelerator pedal and the brake pedal.

100.

**A: Is there a gearbox in an electric car?**

B: No, but there's an electronic shifter to select the Drive, Park, Neutral, or Reverse mode.

101.

**A: How do I indicate a turn to the right in a typical car?**

B: Move the signal lever up.

102.

**A: How do I indicate a turn to the left?**

B: Push the signal lever down.

103.

**A: What is a turn signal called?**

B: A blinker. When it is on, you can see a light blinking on the dashboard.

104.

**A: How can I turn off the blinker?**

B: It should turn off automatically when you complete the turn.

105.

A: **What if it does not turn off?**

B: Move the signal lever to the “off” position.

106.

A: **How can I clean the windshield on the move?**

B: Use the windshield wiper lever.

*(US) = windscreen*

107.

A: **What is the sun visor for?**

B: It protects against sun glare. Lower it if the sun is blinding you.

108.

A: **What lights should I have on at night?**

B: Turn on the headlights and sidelights.

109.

A: **As far as I know, there are two types of headlights. What are they?**

B: Low beam and high beam.

110.

A: **What is the high beam?**

B: It's a far-reaching headlight. Turn it off to avoid blinding oncoming drivers.

111.

A: **What is the low beam?**

B: It's the light that you use most of the time. It's also called the dipped headlight.

*beam = dipped beam / passing*

112.



**A: What are fog lights for?**

B: They help you see road markings in fog.

113.

**A: How can I regulate temperature in a car?**

B: You can simply lower or raise a car window to let in

114.

**A: How do I lower or raise it?**

B: If there are power windows, press a button or switch. In older cars, use a crank handle to roll down or roll up a window.

*window = electric*

115.

**A: What if the temperature outside of a car is the same as inside?**

B: Use the climate control system to raise or lower temperature.

116.

**A: What is the glove compartment?**

B: It is a recess with a flap in the dashboard.

**117.**

**A: What can I keep in the glove**

B: Any small items, but don't keep important documents inside it.

**118.**

**A: Why not?**

B: It's the first place thieves look in after they break a car window or jimmy a lock.

## *How to start a car*



119.

**A: How do I start a car?**

B: Sit in the driver's seat and buckle up.

120.

**A: That's obvious. How do I start the engine, step by step?**

B: It depends on whether you have a manual or automatic transmission.

121.

**A: OK, how do I start an automatic transmission car?**

B: Insert the key in the ignition. Make sure that your hand brake is engaged and your gear lever is in Park mode. Press the brake

pedal with your right foot, and turn the key clockwise. Release the key as soon as the engine starts.

**122.**

**A: That's easy. How do I start a manual transmission car?**

B: Again, insert the key in the ignition. Your hand brake must also be engaged. Press the clutch pedal with your left foot. Turn the key to start the engine. Make sure that the shifter is in the Neutral position, then remove your left foot from the clutch pedal.

= *shift stick / gear*

**123.**

**A: How can I verify that the shifter is in the Neutral position?**

B: Try to move the lever to the left and to the right. If it moves substantially, that's Neutral.

**124.**

**A: Are there any other ways to start a car?**

B: Yes. An Engine Start/Stop button is used in some cars instead of the ignition key.

125.

**A: Will an automatic car start moving in the Park mode?**

B: No, it will not.

126.

**A: Can a manual car move if the shifter is in the Neutral position?**

B: The engine can't move the car, but the car can roll on an inclined surface if you release the hand brake.

127.

**A: How do I start moving an automatic car?**

B: Put the gear selector in the Drive mode, and then release the hand brake and the brake pedal. The car will start moving forward slowly. To speed up, press the gas pedal.

128.

**A: How do I start moving a manual car?**

B: Press the clutch to the floor and move the gearstick into first gear. Lift your left foot up from the clutch pedal and at the same time push down your right foot on the gas pedal. The car will move forward.

129.

**A: How do I start moving an electric car?**

B: Electric cars don't have a traditional gearshift. Select the driving direction, forward or reverse, and push the accelerator pedal to start moving.

= *gearstick / gear*

## *How to drive a car*



130.

**A: How do I drive a car?**

B: Keep your hands on the steering wheel and press the gas pedal.

131.

**A: Do I have to shift gears while driving?**

B: In an automatic or electric car, no. In a manual car, yes.

132.

**A: How do I turn left or right?**

B: Use the blinker and slow down before turning the steering wheel.

133.

**A: How do I stop the car?**

B: Release the gas pedal and press the brake. In a manual car, press the clutch at the same time and change the gear.

134.

**A: What else do I have to do while driving?**

B: Obey traffic lights and traffic signs. Keep a safe distance from other cars. Yield the right of way to pedestrians at crosswalks.

*(US) = pedestrian crossing*

135.

**A: What should I do if I'm running out of gas?**

B: Drive to the nearest gas station and refuel the car.

*station (US) = petrol station*

136.

**A: How can I find a gas station?**



B: Look for the relevant road sign.

137.

A: **What if there are no road signs nearby?**

B: Use your car's navigation system or a navigator on your smartphone. Ultimately, use your English language skills to ask a passerby for directions!

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