**EASY ACCESS ENGLISH**




# Activity 1

The American Road trip is a legendary concept made famous in literature and song and very much a part of the American Culture over the generations.

**Class Survey** : Ask the following questions to your partner.

| | |
|---|---|
| Have you been to America | |
| Have you been on a road trip in America | |
| Have you seen any Road Movies ? | |
| Have you read any Road Trip Novels ? | |
| Do you generally enjoy driving ? | |
| Are you interested in cars ? | |
| Do you travel a lot by car ? | |
| What's your dream car ? | |
| Do you know how to use a map ? | |
| Do you use a sat nav ? | |
| What's the longest road trip you ever went on ? | |
| Do you usually drive when with your family on a road trip ? | |
| Do you like driving at night ? | |
| Do you feel confident driving in snowy conditions ? | |
| Do you have any points on your drivers licence ? | |
| Do you ever drive faster than the speed limit ? | |
| How old were you when you got your drivers licence ? | |
| What was your first car ? | |

Make some conclusions about your partner and their experience of driving and navigating and present them to the class.

***Use these expressionis to introduce your conclusions :***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basically<br>Essentially<br>It seems that | I can tell that | It's obvious that | It seems clear that<br>Clearly |




***And pick one of the following descriptions for your partner :***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Road Hog<br>Dangerous driver<br>Speed merchant<br>Cautious driver | Confident driver<br>Careful driver<br>Passionate about cars | Not at all interested in cars |

# Activity 2

Listen to the famous Nat King Cole song. As you listen try to trace the route he describes on the map of the USA then describe the route using the words – North, South, East, West and sequencers : First, then, next, finally… also you may need to use these verbs : to travel, to head, to go in the direction of, to end up in.

If you ever plan to motor west,

Travel my way, take the highway that is best.

Get your kicks on route sixty-six.

It winds from Chicago to LA,

More than two thousand miles all the way.

Get your kicks on route sixty-six.

Now you go through Saint Louis

Joplin, Missouri,

And Oklahoma city is mighty pretty.

You see Amarillo,

Gallup, New Mexico,

Flagstaff, Arizona.

Don't forget Winona,

Kingman, Barstow, san Bernandino.

Won't you get hip to this timely tip:

When you make that California trip

Get your kicks on route sixty-six.



# Activity 3

**Read through the text about the song**.

"(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66", often rendered simply as "Route 66", is a popular song and rhythm and blues standard, composed in 1946 by American songwriter Bobby Troup. It was first recorded in the same year by Nat King Cole. The song's lyrics follow the path of the U.S. Route 66 highway, which used to run a long distance across the U.S., going from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California.

Troup conceived the idea for the song while driving west from Pennsylvania to Los Angeles, California, and the lyrics—which include references to the U.S. Highway of the title and many of the cities it passes through—celebrate the romance and freedom of automobile travel.

Now for more research – let's read a short history of the road:

http://www.theroadwanderer.net/route66.htm

Using the different PAST TENSES re-tell the story of route 66. If you make a mistake the bell will ring and it's the next persons turn to continue telling the story!

# Activity 4

Watch the short video and answer the comprehension questions.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHRs1--HTWs&feature=related

**Youtube - Route 66: Grapes of Wrath**

1. What kind of cars did people have?
2. When went wrong with their cars?
3. What did they have to do to repair them?
4. What was route 66 like?
5. What type of road was it?
6. Where did people travel to on that road?
7. What did they go there for?

# Activity 5

## Understanding directions by road.

Let's get you ready for a road trip across the USA!

You will need to know how to understand directions.

**We often use modal verbs for instructions.**

- You should
- You must
- You can
- You have to
- It would be best to
- It would be a good idea to
- You should really
- You must then…
- You must not forget to…

Let's practice using those model verbs to give the following instructions, so choose one for each of the instructions below:

1. *Take coastal highway.*
2. *Take the Chicago turn off.*
3. *Go over (Take) the Alex Fraser Bridge.*
4. *Go through (Take) the Massey Tunnel.*
5. Go slowly through the town as there is a speed limit of 30 MPH.
6. Take Washington Street north to the freeway and Head west. Go slowly because the interstate is very windy.
7. Take the exit just after LA
8. Turn off the road just after flagstaff.
9. Watch out for the sign-post for Barstow.
10. Go straight down route 66 until you get to California.
11. Head west for three hundred miles.
12. Travel via Arizona on route 66.
13. Follow the road for three hours until you get to a gas station.
14. Get in the left lane.
15. Go one more block. Then turn right.
16. At the next traffic lights turn…
17. Come off the highway at Junction 23
18. Follow the signs to Sacramento
19. You'll come to a very steep hill so have plenty of petrol.
20. Take the first exit, it's just after the bridge, you can't miss it.

# Activity 6

**Give instructions** that correspond to each road sign using model verbs:









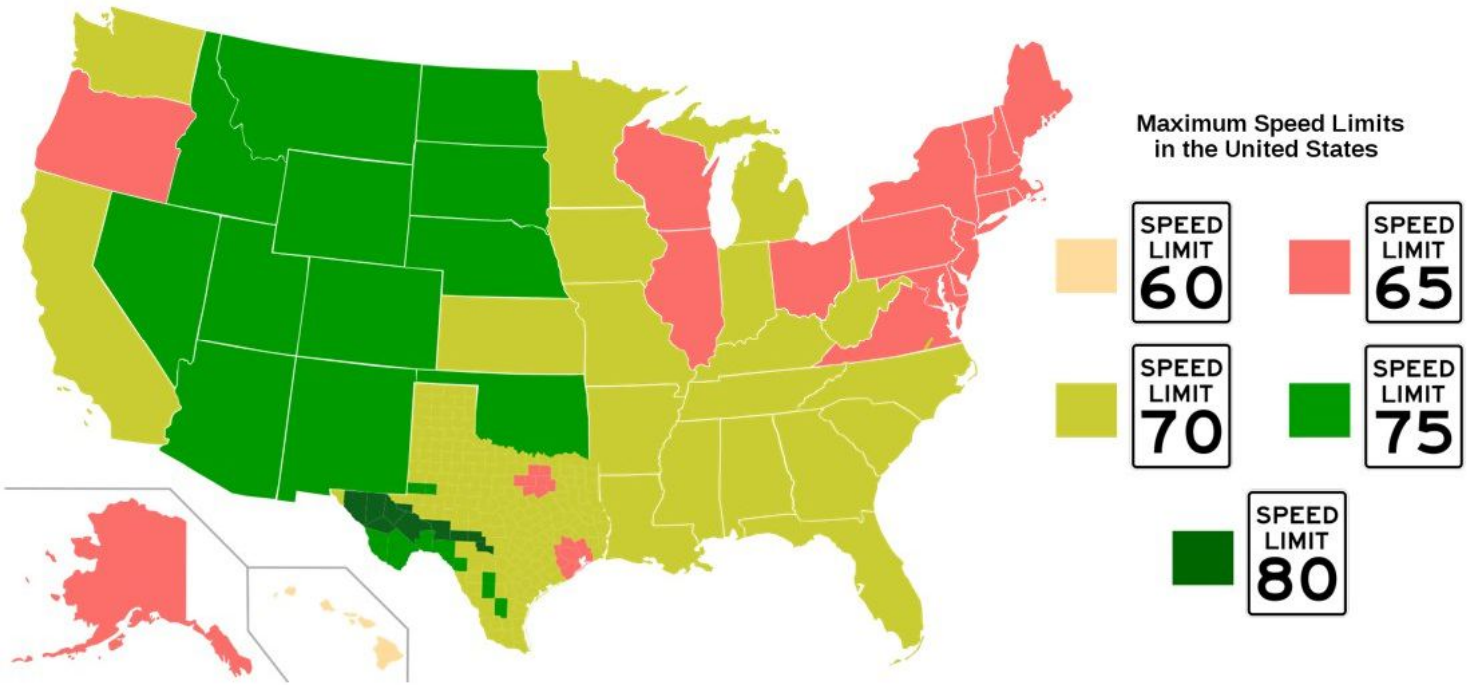









**Again** – give instructions for the speed limits in various parts of the USA using modal verbs.



# Activity 7

**Read the article and identify any past tenses or modal verbs used.**

**On the Road** is a novel by American writer **Jack Kerouac**, written in April 1951, and published by Viking Press in 1957.

It is a largely autobiographical work that was based on the spontaneous road trips of Kerouac and his friends across mid-century America. It is often considered a defining work of the post-war Beat Generation that was inspired by jazz, poetry, and drug experiences. While many of the names and details of Kerouac's experiences are changed for the novel, hundreds of references in On the Road have real-world counterparts.

The two main characters of the book are the narrator, Salvatore "Sal" Paradise and his new friend Dean Moriarty much admired for his care-free attitude, sense for adventure, a free-spirited maverick eager to explore all kicks and an inspiration and catalyst for Sal's travels. The novel contains five parts, three of them describing each a road trip from New York to the West Coast, one to Mexico, and the last part relating their final encounter when Dean comes to visit Sal in New York. During their trip and searches they change and their relationship changes. The narrative takes place in the years 1947 to 1950.

On the Road has been a huge influence on many poets, writers, actors and musicians, including Bob Dylan, Jim Morrison, Hunter S. Thompson and many more. "It changed my life like it changed everyone else's," Dylan would say many years later. Tom Waits, too, acknowledged its influence, hymning Jack and Neal in a song, and calling the Beats "father figures." At least two great American photographers were influenced by Kerouac: Robert Frank, who became his close friend - Kerouac wrote the introduction to The Americans - and Stephen Shore, who set out on an American road trip in the 1970s with Kerouac's book as a guide. It would be hard to imagine Hunter S. Thompson's road novel, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, had On the Road not laid down the template - likewise films such as Easy Rider, Paris, Texas, even Thelma and Louise.

# Activity 8

On the following pages you will see a series of photos from the famous photographer Stephen Shore who followed the Road Trip from Kerouac's famous book. These pictures were taken near Route 66.

With your partner, or alone, tell a story about what just happened in one of the photos, using the past tenses.

**EASY ACCESS ENGLISH**

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