



Self-driving cars

WARM-UP

1. FUTURE CARS: Talk to other students about cars of the future. Change partners often. After 3 minutes of the activity share your findings.

2. SELF-DRIVING: What similar technology could help us? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Self-...	How would this help us?	Any problems?
doing homework		
cooking dinner		
downloading PC		
reading books		
cleaning house		
walking dog		

3. COMPUTERS: Do you believe the roads would be safer if computers drove cars or you **strongly** believe the opposite? Find several arguments for both.

4. BIG PROBLEMS: Which of these do we need to solve? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- traffic congestion
- air pollution
- rubbish and waste everywhere
- viruses and superbugs
- lack of clean water
- the digital divide
- Internet privacy
- shortage of energy

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Google is testing a new car and has named it the “Internet Giant”. | T / F |
| b. The car has already been driven on public roads in the USA. | T / F |
| c. Most of the self-driving cars are tested without people in them. | T / F |
| d. Google wants to diversify into areas outside of the Internet. | T / F |
| e. Google’s leaders aim to improve the world by using technology. | T / F |
| f. Google says safety on the roads is one of the world’s big problems. | T / F |
| g. Google doesn’t want to change the way we use our cars. | T / F |
| h. Google’s CEO believes we should not let computers drive cars. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. motoring | a. diversify |
|-------------|--------------|



- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2. giant | b. basically |
| 3. concerned | c. colossus |
| 4. branch out | d. addition |
| 5. extension | e. worried |
| 6. plans | f. answer |
| 7. solve | g. driving |
| 8. prevent | h. strategy |
| 9. fundamentally | i. regrettable |
| 10. unfortunate | j. stop |

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Audio's available - http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1010/101011-self-driving_car.mp3

Play with vocabulary-http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1010/101011-self-driving_car_fib.html

Google is testing a car it believes is _____. The Internet giant has been testing the car that drives itself for several months. _____ thousands of miles of public roads in California. The car is _____, lasers and video cameras. A Google spokesperson explained to concerned motorists that the car has never been driven "unmanned," and had test drivers, just _____ wrong. The tech company says its vehicles are still "_____ experimental stage". Google's interest in artificial intelligence is a sign that it _____ beyond the web. It is an extension of its Street View project, in which millions of streets have been photographed and put online.

Google's blog said the company's _____ of automotive technology is part of its plans to make the world a better place. "Larry [Page] and Sergey [Brin] founded Google because they _____ really big problems using technology," it wrote. The post continued: "One of the big problems we're working on today is car safety and efficiency. Our goal is to help _____, free up people's time and _____ by fundamentally changing car use." Google CEO Eric Schmidt said last month that _____ cars were invented before computers: "Your car should drive itself; it's amazing to me that we _____," he told reporters.

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

Google is testing a car it (1) ____ is the future of motoring. The Internet giant has been testing the car that drives (2) ____ for several months. It has driven along thousands of miles of public roads in California. The car is guided (3) ____ sensors, lasers and video cameras. A Google spokesperson explained to concerned motorists that the car has never been driven "unmanned," and had test drivers, just (4) ____ case things went wrong. The tech company says its vehicles are still "very (5) ____ at the experimental stage". Google's interest in artificial intelligence is a sign that it wants to (6) ____ out beyond the web. It is an extension of its Street View project, in which millions of streets have been photographed and put online.



Google's blog said the company's entry into the world of automotive technology (7) ___ part of its plans to make the world a better place. "Larry [Page] and Sergey [Brin] founded Google because they wanted to help solve really big problems (8) ___ technology," it wrote. The post continued: "One of the big problems we're working on today is car safety and (9) ___. Our goal is to help prevent traffic accidents, free (10) ___ people's time and reduce carbon emissions by (11) ___ changing car use." Google CEO Eric Schmidt said last month that it was (12) ___ that cars were invented before computers: "Your car should drive itself; it's amazing to me that we let humans drive cars," he told reporters.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) believes | (b) beliefs | (c) believable | (d) believing |
| 2. | (a) its | (b) itself | (c) self | (d) it |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) by | (d) in |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) so | (d) in |
| 5. | (a) many | (b) most | (c) more | (d) much |
| 6. | (a) twig | (b) bough | (c) branch | (d) trunk |
| 7. | (a) is | (b) are | (c) will | (d) would |
| 8. | (a) useful | (b) using | (c) uses | (d) used |
| 9. | (a) efficiently | (b) efficient | (c) efficiency | (d) inefficient |
| 10. | (a) up | (b) down | (c) over | (d) around |
| 11. | (a) fundamental | (b) fundamentals | (c) fundamentally | (d) fund |
| 12. | (a) unfortunates | (b) unfortunate | (c) unfortunately | (d) misfortunes |

WRITING

1. Write about **Google** for 10 minutes. Go to the Internet to collect the information.
2. Write a magazine article about Google's self-driving car. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.