

6.1 Man and machine

GOALS ■ Talk about machines in our lives ■ Use defining and non-defining relative clauses

Vocabulary & Reading machines

1 Do you prefer to be a passenger or the driver in a car. Why?

2a Complete paragraphs 1 and 2 in the online car magazine article with the words in the box.

brake (v) busy traffic driverless lane motorway
park (v) steering wheel

b Complete paragraphs 3 and 4 of the article with the words and phrases in the box.

accidents at speed injured junctions overtake (v)
speed limit traffic lights traffic jams

c 6.1))) Listen and check your answers.

d Which words and phrases are illustrated in the photos?
What is happening at the junction?

FEATURE

Your car is now in charge:
driverless cars are already here.

- 1 Driving along the ²_____ in ³_____, the driver presses a button on the ⁴_____. The car is now driving itself.
- 2 This may sound like science fiction, but driverless cars are already on the roads in California. Many cars can already ⁵_____ themselves by the side of the road, ⁶_____ automatically when the car needs to slow down, and warn the driver if they are slipping out of the correct ⁷_____, so going driverless is just the next step.
- 3 Driverless cars come with fast broadband, allowing them to ⁸_____ other cars safely, and even communicate with ⁹_____ as they approach ¹⁰_____. Being stuck in ¹¹_____ could become a thing of the past, as driverless cars will be able to drive ¹²_____ much closer to each other.
- 4 More than fifty million people die or are ¹³_____ in road ¹⁴_____ every year, and 90% of these accidents are caused by human error. Google's driverless car sticks to the ¹⁵_____ and doesn't get tired. So wouldn't it be much safer if all cars were driverless?

3a Work with a partner. Answer the questions on advantages and disadvantages of driverless cars.

- 1 Would driverless cars actually reduce busy traffic or traffic jams? Why/Why not?
- 2 Would they reduce the number of people injured in accidents? Why/Why not?
- 3 Who might particularly benefit from not having to hold a steering wheel or use the pedals?
- 4 Would you trust the car's computer with your life?

b Work with another pair and compare your ideas.

Grammar & Speaking defining and non-defining relative clauses

4 Read comments a-c. Are they for or against driverless cars?

COMMENT

a

16 MAY Ecco254

I hate commuting to work – it’s so stressful. ¹ Having a car that drives itself would be wonderful for me, and ² anyone else who has to drive a lot, but doesn’t enjoy it. I must spend about 15 hours a week driving. ³ Think of all the extra time that I could use to check my emails or read a book.

b

16 MAY Dobs

@Lucyloop – People were worried about seat belts too at one time! ⁴ My cousin, who has actually been in one of these cars, said he felt perfectly safe, and so would I.

c

16 MAY Itsme22

Driverless cars would provide transport to people who can’t drive themselves, such as blind people or those who are physically disabled. ⁵ My own physical disability, which I have had since birth, means that I will never be able to drive a ‘real’ car, so a driverless car could really change my life. ⁶ It would also be great for people whose eyesight has got worse with age, or who have simply lost confidence in their driving.

5a Read the information in the Grammar focus box and match examples 1–6 in exercise 4 to a–f in the box.

GRAMMAR FOCUS defining and non-defining relative clauses

- We use defining relative clauses to identify who or what we are talking about.
 - 1 *Who* or *that* – for people a _____
 - 2 *Which* or *that* – for things b _____
 - 3 *Whose* – for possessions c _____

We can leave out the relative pronoun if it is the object of the verb. d _____
- We use **non-defining relative clauses** to give extra information.

It is already clear who or what we are talking about.

 - 1 *Who* (NOT ~~that~~) – for people e _____
 - 2 *Which* – for things f _____


We use commas around the relative clause, to show that it is extra information.

→ Grammar Reference page 146

b Look at the sentence *Think of all the extra time that I could use to check my emails or read a book.* What does ‘that’ refer to? Why can it be left out?

6a 6.2))) Complete the extract from a newspaper article with the correct relative pronouns. Sometimes no relative pronoun is necessary. Listen and check your answers.

NEWS > TECHNOLOGY



Intelligent machines ¹ _____ can serve us in supermarkets, give us directions and even drive for us as we are becoming part of all our lives. Some of the things ² _____ machines can do now would have seemed impossible just a few years ago. And there’s more to come. Amazon promises robot drones ³ _____ will deliver our packages, and Rolls-Royce says robo-ships, ⁴ _____ won’t need any crew, will soon be sailing our seas.

But what will this mean for our workers? Some think that only people ⁵ _____ skills are better than the machines’ abilities will have work. Those ⁶ _____ don’t have high-level skills risk being unemployable, or will have to work for very low wages.

b Decide which examples in the article are defining relative clauses and which are non-defining.

c Compare answers with a partner.

7a **TASK** Work with a partner. Make two lists, one of arguments for and one of arguments against intelligent machines.

b Work with another pair. One pair should argue in favour of intelligent machines, the other should argue against. Which arguments are most convincing?