

Commuting to Work is NO FUN



Level:

Intermediate-Upper-Intermediate



Objectives:

the student will practice expressing complaints and frustrations



Timing

15-25 minutes



Prep/

Materials:

prepare phrases/ idioms to express complaints

Ask your student to imagine that they spend a lot of time commuting and are very pessimistic about the situation. Your student believes that they have the worst commute in the world. Describe the situation in detail. The student should complain about it as much as possible.

They should take notes on:

- Where they live
- Their daily routine
- Where they go to work
- What's so bad about the commute / What are the conditions of the commute
- How commuting makes them feel



Breakdown:

The student then has to tell one negative story that they have had during their commute.

A lot of good vocabulary can also come out of this one. You can even teach a couple of fun phrasal verbs related to driving when you talk about this topic:

- Cut (someone) off – “I hate when I’m driving and someone cuts me off and then I have to slam on my brakes.”
- Pull (someone) over – “I hate when I’m driving only a little bit above the speed limit and a police officer pulls me over.”
- Freak out – “I hate driving with my father. He always drives aggressively and freaks out about small things.”
- Run over – “I hate when I run over a nail or a sharp object and my tire goes flat.”
- Hold (someone) up – “I hate when traffic holds me up and makes me late for work.”

You can use this activity for teaching students other terminology that is useful for expressing complaints or frustrations:

- I get frustrated when...
- I get all stressed out when...
- It gets me so worked up when...
- It pisses me off when...
- I totally freak out when...
- I lose my mind when...
- It drives me nuts when...