

## Emergencies

*Noun clauses with **if** or **whether***

### 9:30 - 9:40 Ice Breaker

- What was the best thing that happened this last week?
- What was the worst thing that happened this last week?



If you're like the **average** person, you spend time planning your day. This includes planning who will pick up the kids, planning enough time to go to and from work, or even planning what to eat for dinner. How often do you plan an **emergency** in your schedule? Emergencies can interrupt our schedules and may even **alter** our lives forever. For example, you don't expect to be **pulled over** by a police officer when you have a burned-out head light or tail light. And, you certainly don't expect to be hit by another car! What are you to do in these situations? This lesson will teach what to do when you have an automobile accident.

### 9:40-10:00 Vocabulary and Conversation

- average: can be used as another word for more than half.
- emergency: an unexpected situation that requires immediate action.
- alter: to change or make different.
- pulled over: the situation that occurs when an officer flashes his lights behind you when driving. Therefore, you drive your car off the road on the right side in a safe location.
- groggy: unsteady, dazed; some people are groggy when they first wake up
- shaken up: to be disturbed or agitated after an emergency, for example.

**Conversation:** *A car accident is one type of emergency that doesn't happen very often, so it is easy to forget what action we should take. (Tutors might want to bring in their vehicle registration to show students.)*



Barb: Hi Patty, are you okay?

Patty: Well, Barb, I'm a little **shaken up**. I was in a car accident earlier.

Barb: Was anyone hurt?

Patty: No. Thank God. But it was stressful, and there were many decisions I had to make very fast. I wasn't sure if I should call the police or move my car. And I didn't know if it was safe to drive home.

Barb: I know. The first thing to do after an accident is to ask if everyone is okay. If anyone seems **groggy** or unsure of his or her response, call 9-1-1. Did you move your car?

Patty: Yeah, because the damage was minor. And the accident was straightforward, so we moved our cars to the shoulder of the road.

Barb: Yes, but if there had been any injuries, questions about the safety of driving the car, or who was at fault, you should leave your cars where they are – not move them. No one wants to cause a traffic jam! But sometimes you can't avoid it.

Patty: While we were waiting for the police to arrive, I exchanged contact and insurance information with the other driver, for example:

- My name and contact information
- Insurance information
- License plate number
- Vehicle registration
- Type, color and model of vehicle
- Location of accident
- Full names and phone numbers of any witnesses

Barb: Do you have to call the police every time there's a car accident?

Patty: Yes, it's important to call the police so that they can write a police report with the facts of the accident. Also, don't talk about who is at fault. Only speak with the police about the details of the accident.

Barb: Well, I'm glad you're okay.

Patty: Thanks. I'm going home to relax.

Barb: Drive carefully!

### 10:00-10:25 Discussion

Here are some questions about emergencies. Discuss them together as a group. It's not necessary to discuss all the questions; choose the ones that are most interesting to you.

1. Have you ever been pulled over by a police officer? If so, what happened?
2. Have you ever been stopped by the police for having a burned-out headlight or taillight?
3. What are some things that police officers do?
4. Have you ever bribed a policeman in your country after he pulled you over? Is it common for traffic cops to accept bribes?
5. Have you ever been in an emergency situation? What happened? How did you feel?
6. What advice would you give someone if they were in an automobile accident?
7. What is 9-1-1? Ask someone in the group to explain it if you're not sure.
8. Does your home country have a number to call in case of an emergency? What is it?
9. What are some ways to stay safe while driving a car?
10. Have you ever driven a car in a foreign country? If yes, which side of the road did they drive on? Were the road signs different?
11. Is drunk driving a problem in your country? What kind of laws does your country have about drunk driving?
12. Who taught you to drive? How long did it take you to learn to drive?
13. What is the longest trip you have ever taken by car?
14. How do American drivers compare to drivers in your country?
15. What are the speed limits in your country?
16. On what occasions do you honk your car horn? Is it acceptable to honk in your country?
17. Do you have a GPS (Global Position System)? What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a GPS?
18. Does the type of car a person drives tell us about the person who drives it?
19. Is road side assistance common in your country?
20. According to insurance statistics women are better driver than men. Do you agree

### 10:25 - 10:40 Grammar: Noun clauses that begin with *If* or *Whether*

Yes/No Question	Noun Clause	When a yes/no question is
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Should I call the police?	I wasn't sure <b>if I should call the police.</b>	changed to a noun clause, if is usually used to introduce the clause.
Is it safe to drive home?	I didn't know <b>if it was safe to drive home.</b>	
I wonder <b>if there's any damage to my car or not.</b>	When <b>if</b> introduces a noun clause, the expression <b>or not</b> sometimes comes at the end of the clause.	
I wonder <b>whether there's any damage to my car (or not).</b>	<b>Whether</b> has the same meaning as <b>if</b> .	

*Change the yes/no questions to noun clauses.*

Yes/No Question: Is my car registration in the glove box?  
Noun clause: Can you tell me if/whether my car registration is in the glove box?

Yes/No Question: Will the police arrive soon?  
Noun clause: Do you know \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No Question: Was the other driver wearing his seat belt?  
Noun clause: I wonder \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No Question: Should I drive my car to the shoulder of the road or leave it where it is?  
Noun clause: I'm not sure \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No Question: Do you have the other driver's contact information and insurance?  
Noun clause: Can you confirm \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete the noun clause in each conversation. Use **if** to introduce the noun clause.*

- A: Are you all right?  
B: Why do you want to know \_\_\_\_\_ all right?  
A: You look shaken up. I'm worried about you.
- A: Are my vehicle registration and insurance card in the glove box?  
B: Why are you asking me? How am I supposed to know \_\_\_\_\_ in the glove box?  
A: Because you were the last person to drive the car.
- A: Does your car have a GPS?  
B: What is that?



A: I want to know

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4. A: Did you get the name of the other driver's insurance company?

B: Sorry. I wasn't listening. I'm a little nervous after the accident.

A: Did you talk to the other driver? We need to find out

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