

Germany thinking about speed limit on autobahn

25th January, 2019



Germany may put a speed limit on its world famous autobahn network of highways. The autobahn has a total length of about 12,996 kilometers. There is no speed limit on it for many types of vehicles.

However, there are limits in some built-up areas, spots that are accident-prone, or roads that are under construction or undergoing repairs. On the parts of the network on which there is no limit, there is an advisory speed limit of 130 kilometers per hour (80 mph). Germany's government may now put a speed limit on all parts of the autobahn. This is because Germany has to meet fuel emission targets set by the European Union. It wants to reduce the damage done to the environment by cars that drive fast.

Many drivers in Germany are unhappy with a possible speed limit on the autobahn. They do not want the 130kph limit, even though that is normal in other EU countries. Some politicians say the proposed speed limit will never get passed in Germany's government. One politician, Ulrich Lange, said: "I don't think the suggestion of a speed limit is practical." One of Germany's best-selling newspapers Bild Zeitung disagreed with the speed limit. It wrote: "Our autobahn roads are a symbol of freedom. 'Tested on German autobahn' is a quality seal. There are enough speed limits." Germany could face big EU fines if it does not reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Sources: dw.com / theguardian.com / thedrive.com

Writing

Speed limits should be lower on all the world's roads. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

speed / limit / highways / vehicles / accident / construction / network / damage / cars / unhappy / normal / politicians / suggestion / practical / symbol / freedom / quality

True / False

- a) Germany's autobahn network is over 13,000 kilometers long. T / F
- b) There are some speed limits on parts of the autobahn. T / F
- c) Authorities advise drivers should not drive faster than 130kph. T / F
- d) Germany has met all EU fuel emission targets. T / F
- e) Most drivers in Germany are happy with an autobahn speed limit. T / F
- f) Some politicians said an autobahn speed limit would never become law. T / F
- g) A newspaper said there weren't enough speed limits on German roads. T / F
- h) Germany could get a big fine for not cutting greenhouse gas emissions. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. network | a. workable |
| 2. spots | b. goals |
| 3. repairs | c. potential |
| 4. targets | d. system |
| 5. damage | e. cut |
| 6. possible | f. fixing |
| 7. normal | g. independence |
| 8. practical | h. harm |
| 9. freedom | i. usual |
| 10. reduce | j. places |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the benefits of not having a speed limit?
- c) Are there any bad things about speed limits?
- d) Are autobahns a "symbol of freedom"?
- e) What other German things are high quality?
- f) What is your favourite road, and why?
- g) How much should countries get fined for greenhouse gases?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the autobahn boss?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. its world famous autobahn network | a. symbol of freedom |
| 2. There is no speed limit on it for | b. undergoing repairs |
| 3. spots that are accident- | c. never get passed |
| 4. roads that are under construction or | d. prone |
| 5. Germany has to meet fuel | e. gas emissions |
| 6. even though that is normal in | f. of highways |
| 7. the proposed speed limit will | g. selling newspapers |
| 8. One of Germany's best- | h. emission targets |
| 9. Our autobahn roads are a | i. other EU countries |
| 10. reduce its greenhouse | j. many types of vehicles |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the autobahn?
- What are the roads like in your country?
- Why do people like driving fast?
- What speed limits should there be on our roads?
- How safe are roads in your country?
- Is 130kph too fast or too slow?
- What is your country doing to cut greenhouse gases?
- What do you think of driving?

Spelling

- its world famous autobahn rwntkoe of highways
- a total gnlhte of about 12,996 kilometers
- spots that are niadccet-prone
- undergoing srperai
- there is an ryvdsaoi speed limit
- It wants to reduce the aemdga
- that is nrolma in other EU countries
- the seopodrp speed limit
- the nssgeuigot of a speed limit
- a bmylos of freedom
- a uiyaltq seal
- greenhouse gas snsmesiio

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. j	3. f	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. i	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – The Autobahn

You think the autobahn is the best German thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Black Forest gateau, Adidas or Grimm's Fairy Tales.

Role B – Black Forest Gateau

You think Black Forest gateau is the best German thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the autobahn, Adidas or Grimm's Fairy Tales.

Role C – Adidas

You think Adidas is the best German thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Black Forest gateau, the autobahn or Grimm's Fairy Tales.

Role D – Grimm's Fairy Tales

You think Grimm's Fairy Tales are the best German thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Black Forest gateau, Adidas or the autobahn.

Speaking – Germany

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about Germany at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| • the autobahn | • Karl Marx |
| • Porsche | • Adidas |
| • sauerkraut | • Black Forest gateau |
| • Beethoven | • Grimm's Fairy Tales |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.