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## **Level 6**

### **Funeral discounts for Japan's elderly who quit driving**

**25th March, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety strategy in central Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company that operates 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who surrenders their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the full backing of the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to hand in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral home as proof that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts on entry to public baths and cheaper noodles.

The latest initiative is a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is becoming a serious problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is double the number from a decade ago. In that same period, there has been an increase in the number of fatal collisions involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 per cent of fatal traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into reverse.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-39327663>  
<http://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20170320/p2g/00m/0fe/048000c>  
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/03/20/national/social-issues/funeral-discounts-deployed-rein-elderly-drivers/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ELDERLY DRIVERS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about elderly drivers. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

road safety / strategy / funeral / discount / driving licence / police / taxi fares / noodles initiative / traffic accidents / problem / double / a decade ago / accelerator/ reverse

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. AGE LIMIT:** Students A **strongly** believe people over 75 should not be allowed to drive; Students B **strongly** believe there should be no age limit. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ROAD SAFETY:** How can we improve road safety? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Improvements?	How popular would they be?
Speed		
Cars		
Police		
Roads		
Driver testing		
Mobile phones		

**5. FUNERAL:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "funeral". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to avoid traffic accidents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- reduced speed limits
- huge speeding fines
- road bumps
- more police patrols
- dashboard cameras
- more CCTV
- speed radar everywhere
- regular driver re-testing

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

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

- a. A company with 89 funeral homes is part of a road-safety campaign. **T / F**
- b. The company is offering a 15% discount to anyone who stops driving. **T / F**
- c. The local police force has big doubts about the strategy. **T / F**
- d. Old people in Japan have been offered cheaper noodles to stop driving. **T / F**
- e. Over 5 million people with driving licences in Japan are over 75 years old. **T / F**
- f. The number of elderly drivers in Japan has hardly changed in a decade. **T / F**
- g. There has been an increase in fatal collisions involving elderly people. **T / F**
- h. Police said some elderly people mistake the accelerator for the brake. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>1. strategy</b>    | a. gives up      |
| <b>2. encourage</b>   | b. inadvertently |
| <b>3. surrenders</b>  | c. plan          |
| <b>4. backing</b>     | d. additional    |
| <b>5. proof</b>       | e. deadly        |
| <b>6. further</b>     | f. support       |
| <b>7. double</b>      | g. crashes       |
| <b>8. fatal</b>       | h. urge          |
| <b>9. collisions</b>  | i. twice         |
| <b>10. mistakenly</b> | j. evidence      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                                         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. a new road-                        | a. 15 per cent discount                 |
| 2. offering a                         | b. from a decade ago                    |
| 3. The scheme has the full backing    | c. price taxi fares                     |
| 4. proof that they are no             | d. and brake pedals                     |
| 5. cut-                               | e. into reverse                         |
| 6. The latest initiative is a further | f. safety strategy                      |
| 7. This is double the number          | g. collisions involving elderly drivers |
| 8. an increase in the number of fatal | h. attempt to reduce the number         |
| 9. seniors confusing the accelerator  | i. longer allowed to drive              |
| 10. mistakenly putting the vehicle    | j. of the local police force            |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in central Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the full (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral home as (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-(7) \_\_\_\_\_ taxi fares, discounts on entry to public baths and cheaper (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*proof*  
*operates*  
*noodles*  
*backing*  
*strategy*  
*price*  
*hand*  
*surrenders*

The latest initiative is a further (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is becoming a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the number from a decade ago. In that same (12) \_\_\_\_\_, there has been an increase in the number of fatal (13) \_\_\_\_\_ involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older (14) \_\_\_\_\_ for 13.2 per cent of fatal traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*serious*  
*accounted*  
*period*  
*reverse*  
*attempt*  
*confusing*  
*double*  
*collisions*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

- 1) discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who \_\_\_\_\_ licence
  - a. surrender their driving
  - b. surrendering their driving
  - c. surrenders their driving
  - d. suspenders their driving
- 2) The discount also applies to family members of those \_\_\_\_\_ licence
  - a. relinquishing their
  - b. delinquents in their
  - c. refurbishing their
  - d. relishing in their
- 3) The scheme has the full backing of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. local police forces
  - b. local police force
  - c. local police farce
  - d. local police fierce
- 4) hands to the funeral home as proof that they are no longer \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. allowable to drive
  - b. allowing to drive
  - c. allows to drive
  - d. allowed to drive
- 5) Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. entry to publicly baths
  - b. entry to public baths
  - c. entry to publicity baths
  - d. entry to publics baths
- 6) a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. involve in seniors
  - b. involved in seniors
  - c. involving in seniors
  - d. involving seniors
- 7) In that same period, there has been an increase in the number \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of fatal colliding
  - b. of fatal collusions
  - c. of fatal co-lesions
  - d. of fatal collisions
- 8) Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 per cent of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fatally traffic accidents
  - b. fare all traffic accidents
  - c. fatality traffic accidents
  - d. fatal traffic accidents
- 9) This is up from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. involved senior
  - b. involve seniors
  - c. involved seniors
  - d. involve senior
- 10) confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. onto reverse
  - b. unto reverse
  - c. into reverse
  - d. alto reverse

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company (2) \_\_\_\_\_ funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral (3) \_\_\_\_\_ over the age of 75 who surrenders their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to hand in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts on (6) \_\_\_\_\_ baths and cheaper noodles.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from a decade ago. In that same period, there has been an increase in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ collisions involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 per cent of fatal (11) \_\_\_\_\_ central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say (12) \_\_\_\_\_ involved seniors confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into reverse.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

1. How many funeral homes does the company operate?
2. What discount is the funeral home company offering?
3. Who else can benefit from the discount?
4. Who has given the discount scheme its full backing?
5. What have seniors got discounted entry to in other parts of Japan?
6. How many over 75-year-olds in Japan have a driving license?
7. What percentage of fatal accidents in Aichi last year involved seniors?
8. What percentage of fatal accidents in Aichi in 2007 involved seniors?
9. What do some seniors confuse with the brake pedals?
10. What do some seniors mistakenly put their car into?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

- 1) How many funeral homes does the company operate?
  - a) 89
  - b) 98
  - c) 75
  - d) 57
- 2) What discount is the funeral home company offering?
  - a) 22.5%
  - b) 75%
  - c) 15%
  - d) 50%
- 3) Who else can benefit from the discount?
  - a) the police
  - b) family members
  - c) funeral home directors
  - d) insurance companies
- 4) Who has given the discount scheme its full backing?
  - a) old people
  - b) young people
  - c) Japan's Prime Minister
  - d) the local police
- 5) What have seniors got discounted entry to in other parts of Japan?
  - a) public baths
  - b) soccer games
  - c) museums
  - d) bullet trains
- 6) How many over 75-year-olds in Japan have a driving license?
  - a) around five million
  - b) exactly five million
  - c) just over five million
  - d) nearly five million
- 7) What percentage of fatal accidents in Aichi last year involved seniors?
  - a) 21.3%
  - b) 13.2%
  - c) 12.3%
  - d) 32.1%
- 8) What percentage of fatal accidents in Aichi in 2007 involved seniors?
  - a) 4.4%
  - b) 5.5%
  - c) 6.6%
  - d) 7.7%
- 9) What do some seniors confuse with the brake pedals?
  - a) foot rests
  - b) steering wheels
  - c) accelerators
  - d) gear shifts
- 10) What do some seniors mistakenly put their car into?
  - a) the wrong garage
  - b) reverse
  - c) rivers
  - d) the back of other cars

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

## **Role A – Reducing Speed Limits**

You think reducing speed limits is the best way to reduce traffic accidents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more police patrols, dashboard cameras or re-testing of drivers.

## **Role B – More Police Patrols**

You think more police patrols is the best way to reduce traffic accidents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): reducing speed limits, dashboard cameras or re-testing of drivers.

## **Role C – Dashboard Cameras**

You think dashboard cameras is the best way to reduce traffic accidents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more police patrols, reducing speed limits or re-testing of drivers.

## **Role D – Regular Driver Re-testing**

You think regular re-testing of drivers is the best way to reduce traffic accidents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more police patrols, dashboard cameras or reducing speed limits.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'elderly' and 'driver'.

<b>elderly</b>	<b>driver</b>
----------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• new</li><li>• 89</li><li>• applies</li><li>• local</li><li>• hands</li><li>• entry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• further</li><li>• 5</li><li>• period</li><li>• 13.2</li><li>• 2007</li><li>• reverse</li></ul>
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# ELDERLY DRIVERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

Write five GOOD questions about elderly drivers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# ELDERLY DRIVERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'elderly'?
3. How safe are the roads in your country?
4. Who are the most dangerous drivers in your country?
5. In what ways are elderly drivers safer?
6. Do you think this is a good offer?
7. Why do you think family members also get the discount?
8. How successful do you think this strategy will be?
9. What would you do to make roads safer?
10. Should there be an age at which people should stop driving?

*Funeral discounts for Japan's elderly who quit driving – 25th March, 2017*  
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# ELDERLY DRIVERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'driver'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the risks of driving at an older age?
15. Should seniors have stickers on their cars to warn other drivers?
16. Should senior drivers pay more in insurance?
17. What kind of driver are you?
18. What other incentives could be given to senior drivers?
19. How would an elderly person's life change if they could no longer drive?
20. What questions would you like to ask an elderly driver?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety strategy in (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the full backing of the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral home (5) \_\_\_\_\_ proof that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts (6) \_\_\_\_\_ entry to public baths and cheaper noodles.

The latest initiative is a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is becoming a serious problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is double (8) \_\_\_\_\_ number from a decade ago. In that same period, there has been an increase in the number of fatal collisions (9) \_\_\_\_\_ elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 13.2 per cent of fatal traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle (12) \_\_\_\_\_ reverse.

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

- |     |               |                 |                |                 |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) central   | (b) centrally   | (c) centralize | (d) centralized |
| 2.  | (a) operating | (b) operative   | (c) operates   | (d) operational |
| 3.  | (a) surrounds | (b) surrogates  | (c) surrenders | (d) surreal     |
| 4.  | (a) back      | (b) face        | (c) head       | (d) hand        |
| 5.  | (a) has       | (b) was         | (c) as         | (d) is          |
| 6.  | (a) at        | (b) on          | (c) by         | (d) in          |
| 7.  | (a) fathered  | (b) further     | (c) fathom     | (d) farther     |
| 8.  | (a) those     | (b) the         | (c) of         | (d) a           |
| 9.  | (a) involve   | (b) involvement | (c) involving  | (d) involved    |
| 10. | (a) at        | (b) on          | (c) by         | (d) for         |
| 11. | (a) confessed | (b) confession  | (c) confusion  | (d) confusing   |
| 12. | (a) alto      | (b) onto        | (c) unto       | (d) into        |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. a new road-safety eartygst
2. oaregucen elderly drivers to stop
3. uessdrnrer their driving licence
4. The hecmse has the full backing of the local police
5. provide a mctouedn
6. orfpo that they are no longer allowed

## Paragraph 2

7. The latest intitaevii
8. accidents nlogvniiv seniors
9. the number of fatal inolsisocl
10. cuoctedna for 13.2 per cent
11. confusing the lcrecreaato and brake pedals
12. putting the cheiely into reverse



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 per cent
- ( ) in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors confusing
- ( ) the number from a decade ago. In that same period, there has been an increase in the number of fatal
- ( ) document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral home as proof that they are no longer allowed to
- ( ) collisions involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 per cent of fatal
- ( ) driver over the age of 75 who surrenders their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members
- ( ) force. Drivers must visit a police station to hand in their licence. Police officers then provide a
- ( ) serious problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is double
- ( ) drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts on entry to public baths and cheaper noodles.
- ( ) driving. A company that operates 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral services to any
- ( ) of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the full backing of the local police
- ( ) the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into reverse.
- ( ) The latest initiative is a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is becoming a
- ( **1** ) There is a new road-safety strategy in central Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

1. road - strategy safety a is There Japan central in new .
2. members those their Family of relinquishing licence .
3. in must to visit their a licence police Drivers station hand .
4. that to are drive no Proof longer they allowed .
5. fares price Similar schemes taxi in Japan have included cut- .
6. to number accidents attempt the traffic further reduce of A .
7. in 5 Japan million There licence are holders almost .
8. number This from is a double decade the ago .
9. drivers elderly involving collisions fatal of number The .
10. accelerator brake Seniors the and pedals confusing .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety strategy in *centrally / central* Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company that *operates / operate* 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount *in / on* funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who *surrenders / surrendering* their driving licence. The discount also *applicable / applies* to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the *full / fully* backing of the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to *hand / handy* in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, *what / which* the elderly person hands to the funeral home as *prove / proof* that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi *fairs / fares*, discounts on entry to public baths and cheaper noodles.

The latest initiative is a *further / farther* attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents *involvement / involving* seniors, which is *becoming / become* a serious problem in Japan. There are *most / almost* 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is *doubling / double* the number from a decade *age / ago*. In that same period, there has been an increase in the number of *fatally / fatal* collisions involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 per cent of fatal traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is *up / increase* from 7.7 per cent in 2007. Aichi police say some of *those / them* accidents involved seniors confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle *into / onto* reverse.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

Th\_r\_ \_s\_ \_n\_w r\_\_d-s\_f\_ty str\_t\_gy \_n c\_ntr\_l J\_p\_n  
t\_ \_nc\_r\_g\_ \_ld\_rly dr\_v\_rs t\_ st\_p dr\_v\_ng. \_  
c\_mpn\_y th\_t \_p\_r\_t\_s 89 f\_n\_r\_l h\_m\_s \_s\_ff\_r\_ng \_  
15 p\_r\_c\_nt d\_sc\_\_nt \_n f\_n\_r\_l s\_rv\_c\_s t\_ \_ny dr\_v\_r  
\_v\_r th\_ \_g\_ \_f 75 wh\_ s\_rr\_nd\_rs th\_\_r dr\_v\_ng  
l\_c\_nc\_. Th\_ d\_sc\_\_nt \_ls\_ \_ppl\_\_s t\_ f\_m\_ly m\_mb\_rs  
\_f th\_s\_ r\_l\_nq\_\_sh\_ng th\_\_r l\_c\_nc\_. Th\_ sch\_m\_h\_s  
th\_ f\_ll b\_ck\_ng \_f th\_ l\_c\_l p\_l\_c\_ f\_rc\_. Dr\_v\_rs  
m\_st v\_s\_t \_p\_l\_c\_ st\_t\_\_n t\_ h\_nd \_n th\_\_r l\_c\_nc\_.  
P\_l\_c\_ \_ff\_c\_rs th\_n pr\_v\_d\_ \_d\_c\_m\_nt, wh\_ch th\_  
\_ld\_rly p\_rs\_n h\_nds t\_ th\_ f\_n\_r\_l h\_m\_ \_s pr\_\_f th\_t  
th\_y \_r\_ n\_l\_ng\_r\_ll\_w\_d t\_ dr\_v\_. S\_m\_l\_r sch\_m\_s  
\_n J\_p\_n h\_v\_ \_ncl\_d\_d c\_t-pr\_c\_ t\_x\_ f\_r\_s,  
d\_sc\_\_nts \_n \_ntry t\_ p\_b\_l\_c b\_ths \_nd ch\_\_p\_r  
n\_\_dl\_s.

Th\_ l\_t\_st \_n\_t\_\_t\_v\_ \_s\_ \_f\_rth\_r \_tt\_mpt t\_ r\_d\_c\_  
th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f tr\_ff\_c \_cc\_d\_nts \_nv\_lv\_ng s\_n\_\_rs,  
wh\_ch \_s b\_c\_m\_ng \_s\_r\_\_s pr\_b\_l\_m\_n J\_p\_n. Th\_r\_  
\_r\_ \_lm\_st 5 m\_ll\_\_n l\_c\_nc\_ h\_ld\_rs \_n J\_p\_n \_v\_r  
th\_ \_g\_ \_f 75. Th\_s \_s d\_\_bl\_ th\_ n\_mb\_r fr\_m \_  
d\_c\_d\_ \_g\_. \_n th\_t s\_m\_ p\_r\_\_d, th\_r\_ h\_s b\_\_n \_n  
\_ncr\_\_s\_ \_n th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f f\_t\_l c\_ll\_s\_\_ns \_nv\_lv\_ng  
\_ld\_rly dr\_v\_rs. Dr\_v\_rs \_g\_d 75 \_r \_ld\_r \_cc\_\_nt\_d  
f\_r 13.2 p\_r\_c\_nt \_f f\_t\_l tr\_ff\_c \_cc\_d\_nts \_n c\_ntr\_l  
J\_p\_n's \_\_ch\_ Pr\_f\_ct\_r\_l st\_y\_\_r. Th\_s \_s \_p fr\_m  
7.7 p\_r\_c\_nt \_n 2007. \_\_ch\_ p\_l\_c\_ s\_y\_s\_m\_ \_f th\_s\_  
\_cc\_d\_nts \_nv\_lv\_d s\_n\_\_rs c\_nf\_s\_ng th\_ \_cc\_l\_r\_t\_r  
\_nd br\_k\_ p\_d\_ls \_r m\_st\_k\_nly p\_tt\_ng th\_ v\_h\_cl\_  
\_nt\_r\_v\_rs\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

there is a new road-safety strategy in central japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving a company that operates 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 per cent discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who surrenders their driving licence the discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence the scheme has the full backing of the local police force drivers must visit a police station to hand in their licence police officers then provide a document which the elderly person hands to the funeral home as proof that they are no longer allowed to drive similar schemes in japan have included cut-price taxi fares discounts on entry to public baths and cheaper noodles

the latest initiative is a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors which is becoming a serious problem in japan there are almost 5 million licence holders in japan over the age of 75 this is double the number from a decade ago in that same period there has been an increase in the number of fatal collisions involving elderly drivers drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 132 per cent of fatal traffic accidents in central japan's aichi prefecture last year this is up from 77 per cent in 2007 aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into reverse

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170325-elderly-drivers.html>

There is a new road-safety strategy in central Japan to encourage elderly drivers to stop driving. A company that operates 89 funeral homes is offering a 15 percent discount on funeral services to any driver over the age of 75 who surrenders their driving licence. The discount also applies to family members of those relinquishing their licence. The scheme has the full backing of the local police force. Drivers must visit a police station to hand in their licence. Police officers then provide a document, which the elderly person hands to the funeral home as proof that they are no longer allowed to drive. Similar schemes in Japan have included cut-price taxi fares, discounts on entry to public baths and cheap noodles. The latest initiative is a further attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving seniors, which is becoming a serious problem in Japan. There are almost 5 million licence holders in Japan over the age of 75. This is double the number from a decade ago. In that same period, there has been an increase in the number of fatal collisions involving elderly drivers. Drivers aged 75 or older accounted for 13.2 percent of fatal traffic accidents in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture last year. This is up from 7.7 percent in 2007. Aichi police say some of those accidents involved seniors confusing the accelerator and brake pedals or mistakenly putting the vehicle into reverse.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ELDERLY DRIVERS:** Make a poster about elderly drivers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. LICENCE-SURRENDER SCHEMES:** Write a magazine article about enticing elderly drivers to surrender their driving licence in exchange for discounts. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on elderly drivers. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on elderly drivers and road safety. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b F    c F    d T    e F    f F    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. strategy    | a. plan          |
| 2. encourage   | b. urge          |
| 3. surrenders  | c. gives up      |
| 4. backing     | d. support       |
| 5. proof       | e. evidence      |
| 6. further     | f. additional    |
| 7. double      | g. twice         |
| 8. fatal       | h. deadly        |
| 9. collisions  | i. crashes       |
| 10. mistakenly | j. inadvertently |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 89
2. 15%
3. Family members
4. The local police
5. Public baths
6. Almost 5 million
7. 13.2%
8. 7.7%
9. The accelerator
10. Reverse

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)