

Teachers: Have the students read and discuss these paragraphs. Ask them to define the underlined words.

Applying for a license

1. In Texas the DPS issues driver's licenses and monitors vehicle inspections. What does DPS stand for? The initials DPS stand for Department of Public Safety.

2. If you have a driver's license from another state or country, you have 90 days to get a valid Texas driver's license. If you have an International Driver's Permit (IDP) you have one year to get a Texas license.

3. Application for a driver license must be made in person. You can download an application form at the website www.dps.texas.gov.

4. To apply for a Texas driver license you must provide identification documents. Identification documents must be originals or certified copies. No photocopies can be accepted.

5. When you apply for a license, you must provide documents that verify:

- your identity
- your residence in Texas
- your citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S.
- your social security number (SSN)

(Individuals who do not have a SSN, or are not eligible for a SSN can visit any driver license office and complete an affidavit attesting to such. Take your passport and visa paperwork with you.)

6. If you are using a name other than what is on your birth certificate (ex: a married name), you must provide documents that verify a legal name change.

7. There is a very useful brochure available online at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/DL-57.pdf> which explains what documents are acceptable.

The required fee(s) must be submitted before any tests will be given for an original Texas driver license. The fee allows you to take three tests for each type of exam required. **If you fail after three attempts**, a new application and fee must be submitted before any additional tests can be taken. The required tests must be completed within **90 days**. The application fee is valid at any driver license location. You must pass both a written test and a driving test.

The Texas DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) requires vehicle registration.

New Texas residents have 30 days to get their vehicles registered in Texas.

A registration sticker will be issued which must be displayed on the lower driver's side section of the windshield. It looks like this:



The numbers indicate that this registration sticker is valid until the last day of December, 2015. Registration renewal notices are mailed to all registered vehicle owners. To register by mail, send the following to your county tax office:

- Renewal notice (keep the vehicle owner's section for your records)
- Proof of current liability insurance
- All fees plus \$1 mail-in fee

Vehicle Inspection

All motor vehicles in Texas must be inspected each year by an official motor vehicle inspection station. New residents have thirty days to get their car inspected. Many gas stations are certified inspection stations. After the inspection, they will put a sticker on the bottom left side of your windshield indicating your car has been inspected. It will look like this:



The numbers indicate the month and the year that the inspection certificate expires. This certificate expires at the end of October in 2013.

Discuss these questions in your group: (Teachers, please let the students lead the discussion.)

1. Do you think car pooling is a viable answer to traffic congestion? Should it be mandatory?
2. Some cities, like London, have made it very difficult to drive a car in the city center. They encourage everyone to park outside the city and take public transportation within the city center. Do you know of other cities that have done this? Do you think this is an acceptable solution to traffic congestion?
3. Americans are very protective of their right to drive their own car wherever they want. Do you think this will change as traffic congestion worsens?
4. Did you learn to drive at a driving school or from a friend or relative?
5. At what age can you drive in your country? Do you think that is too low or too high?

Vocabulary: Expressions

1. If you “part with” something, you give it up. EX: I hate to part with my old books, but I don’t have enough room to store them all in my new apartment.
2. If you “fall out with someone” you no longer have a relationship with them. EX: They used to be best friends, but now Jess and Jan have fallen out with each other. Note: You can also say, “We’ve had a falling out.”
3. If someone says they will be here “within the hour”, they will arrive before one hour is up.
4. If something is “within your reach”, it is attainable.
5. “Without a doubt” means “certainly”. EX: Without a doubt, she is the best school administrator we have ever had.
6. “Without fail” means without exception. EX: The trains start running at 5 AM each morning without fail.
7. If you say, “that goes without saying”, you mean something that is understood to be true. EX: It goes without saying that working for one of the big three investment firms is a very lucrative job.