

## Lesson 20

### TRAVELING BY CAR

*Sara and Nick are taking a car trip. Nick has taken a wrong turn, and now they need to stop and ask for directions.*

*Sara:* Do you think we can make it to Joe and Mary's by 7?

*Nick:* I hope so. It's only 5 o'clock now and we've only got about 120 miles left to go. We're **making good time.**

*Sara:* Yes, but we still need to **make a pit stop.** Don't you want to stop somewhere and **grab a bite?**

*Nick:* I guess so. Let's look for a place we can **turn off.**

*Sara:* I just saw a sign that said Route 584 North. Aren't we supposed to be on 80 East!

*Nick:* Yes. We must've **taken a wrong turn** somewhere.

*Sara:* I thought you said you **knew these roads like the back of your hand.** Did you **doze off** or what?

*Nick:* We'd better stop at a gas station and ask for directions.

*(at the gas station)*

*Sara:* Hi, we're lost. Can you tell me the quickest way to get on 80 East?

*Clerk:* **Hang a left** out of the gas station. **Hop on 35 South.** Take it about 10 miles and you'll see a sign for 80 East.

*Sara:* Thanks a lot.

*(back in the car)*

*Nick:* Did you get the directions?

*Sara:* Yes. Left out of here, then 35 South to 80 East.

*Nick:* **Got it.**

*Sara:* Careful! You almost hit a piece of tire in the road.

*Nick:* Please don't be a **backseat driver!**

*Sara:* I try to **bite my tongue**, but sometimes **I can't help myself.**

## IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

**backseat driver** – a passenger who offers unwanted driving advice

- “You’re driving too close to the car in front of us.” — “Don’t be a **backseat driver!**”

**(to) bite one’s tongue** – to not say what one is really thinking; to resist saying something one wants to say

- Mary doesn’t like her husband’s snacking habits, but she tries to **bite her tongue.**

**(to) doze off** – to fall asleep

- Matt stayed up so late doing his homework, he ended up **dozing off** in class.

**got it** – I understand; do you understand

- “Take a right at the light and go three blocks. The restaurant will be on your right.” — “**Got it.**”
- “You can borrow my car, but bring it back by 9. **Got it?**” — “**Got it.**”

**(to) grab a bite** – to get something quick to eat

- Let’s meet at 7 o’clock and **grab a bite** before the concert.

**(to) hang a left / a right** – to turn left / right

- **Hang a right** at the next stoplight and you'll see the Whole Foods on your right.

**(to) hop on** – to get on a road

- If you're going downtown, **hop on** the highway. It's the fastest way.

**I can't help myself** – I can't stop myself; I can't resist

- "Stop telling me how to drive!" — "Sorry, **I can't help myself.**"

**(to) know something like the back of one's hand** – to know very well (said most often about streets or places)

- We don't need to bring a map with us. I **know Boston like the back of my hand.**

**(to) make a pit stop** – to make a quick stop, usually to use the bathroom or to get something to eat

- "Would you mind **making a pit stop**? After drinking so much coffee, I need to use the bathroom."

**(to) make good time** – to travel efficiently; to get somewhere in less time than expected

- It's noon and we're already in Pennsylvania? We're **making good time!**

**(to) take a wrong turn** – to turn where one shouldn't have

- We were headed to Manhattan, but we **took a wrong turn** and ended up in Brooklyn.

**(to) turn off** – to exit the highway

- I think we're going the wrong way. **Turn off** here and we'll check the map.

## Practice the Expressions

Fill in the blanks using the following expressions:

**grab a bite                  taken a wrong turn                  doze off**  
**turn off                          like the back of your hand**  
**backseat driver                  made a pit stop                  bite my tongue**  
**making good time                  I can't help myself**

*Doug:* I just saw a sign that said "Entering New York." We must have (1) somewhere.

*Lynn:* Oh no! You told me you knew these roads (2).

*Doug:* I thought I did.

*Lynn:* I'm getting hungry anyway. Let's stop somewhere to (3), and we can ask for directions.

*Doug:* Yeah, I'd better get some coffee so I don't (4). We haven't (5) in a few hours.

*Lynn:* Let's (6) at the next exit and look for a restaurant.

*Doug:* I can't believe we're going the wrong way. I thought we were (7). Now we're going to be late.

*Lynn:* Hey, slow down! We don't want to miss the exit.

*Doug:* Please don't be a (8).

*Lynn:* Sorry, sometimes (9), but I'll try to (10) in the future!



## Language Lens: Phrases with “so”

To give a positive reply, use “so” instead of “yes” after: afraid, believe, guess, hope, suppose, and think.

| Say           | Do NOT Say                |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| I’m afraid so | <del>I’m afraid yes</del> |
| I believe so  | <del>I believe yes</del>  |
| I guess so    | <del>I guess yes</del>    |
| I hope so     | <del>I hope yes</del>     |
| I think so    | <del>I think yes</del>    |
| I suppose so  | <del>I suppose yes</del>  |

“I’m afraid so” means “unfortunately, yes.”

Say “I guess so” or “I suppose so” to mean you are not too happy about doing something.

### *Examples:*

- “Did your team lose?” — “I’m afraid so.”
- “Do we have next Monday off?” — “I believe so.”
- “Should we invite Brad to the party?” — “I guess so.”
- “Don’t you think we’ll have good weather?” — “I hope so.”
- “Will it snow tonight?” — “I think so.”
- “Can I borrow the car on Friday night?” — “I suppose so.”

## **Quick Quiz**

**Give a positive reply to the following, using the verb in parentheses + so:**

Example:

1) Is John coming home for Thanksgiving? (hope)

*Answer: I hope so.*

1) Are Ken and Tanya going to get married? (hope)

2) Are you going to Ivan's party on Saturday night? (think)

3) Did you forget to water the plants while I was away? (afraid)

4) Do you think we should take a taxi downtown? (guess)

5) Are they serving dinner at the holiday party? (think)

6) Did somebody drink the last can of Diet Coke? (afraid)

7) Are we getting off work early this Friday? (hope)

8) Can you loan me your iPod? (guess)

9) Is Keith going to get promoted? (think)

10) Is David joining us for dinner on Saturday? (hope)