

Useful phrases

Read the German words in the box. Then see if you can match each German word to the bold words in the English sentences below.

The solutions are on page 34.

Reifendruck
Tankstelle
Reifenwechsel
Inspektion
Frostschutz
Alufelgen
Waschstraße
Einparkhilfe
Windschutzscheibe
TÜV-Termin
Abgassonderuntersuchung
Außenspiegel
Sommer- und Winterreifen
Öl
Werkstatt

1. My car needs to go in for a **service** tomorrow.

2. The **garage** I take my car to is just around the corner.

3. I really need to take my car to the **car wash** – it's filthy!

4. Luckily, the **wing mirrors** on my car are electric – and heated!

5. My dad's car has **parking sensors**, thank goodness – he's a terrible driver!

6. Oh no, there's a crack in my **windscreen**!

7. When's your next **MOT** due?

8. Will they do an **emissions test** as part of the MOT?

9. My car has **alloy wheels** – what about yours?

10. I check the **oil** and **coolant** levels in my car every week.

11. Don't forget you can check your **tyre pressure** at the **petrol station**.

12. Seasonal **tyre changes** are a good idea – they make driving much safer!

13. Does this car come with both **summer and winter tyres**?



British English versus American English

And finally, just to make sure you're as prepared as possible, let's take a look at a couple of differences between talking about cars in British

English and American English.

In British English, you either drive an automatic or a **manual** – but in the US, people say they drive an automatic or a **stick shift**. You might also hear phrases like 'I drive stick'.

In the UK, you open the **bonnet** if you want to take a look at your car's engine – but in the US you open the **hood**. At the rear of the car, Brits open the **boot** whereas Americans open the **trunk**.

When you're driving a car in the UK and it starts to rain, you turn on the **windscreen wipers** so that you can see through the **windscreen** better.

Across the pond, Americans turn on their **windshield wipers** so that they can see through the **windshield**.

And in the UK, you can check your **tyres** at a **petrol station**.

Not in the US! There, you would check your **tires** at a **gas station**.

So there you have it – a whole host of useful phrases to help you out the next time you need to talk about cars!

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