



Industry Of The Month

Road Transportation

Our monthly feature "Become An insider" focuses on the lingo for a specific industry, business sector or area of a company. Our aim is to help you become familiar with some of the standard vocabulary in various areas and put you on the path to expanding your business English.

This month our focus is on transportation, or to be more precise, the underlying infrastructure used by vehicles and trucks.

Road or street?

The terms road and street are, for the most part, interchangeable. The official definitions illustrate where the difference lies however:

Road - a long, hard surface built for vehicles to travel along

Street - a road in a city or town that has buildings that are usually close together along one or both sides

On the road

Can you match the basic English term with the German translation?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1) bypass | A) Vorfahrt |
| 2) traffic light | B) Zebrastreifen |
| 3) roundabout | C) Ampel |
| 4) right-of-way | D) Nebenfahrbahn |
| 5) intersection | E) Kreisverkehr |
| 6) crosswalk | F) Spur |
| 7) lane | G) Ortsumgehung |
| 8) frontage road | H) Kreuzung |

Beltway/beltway

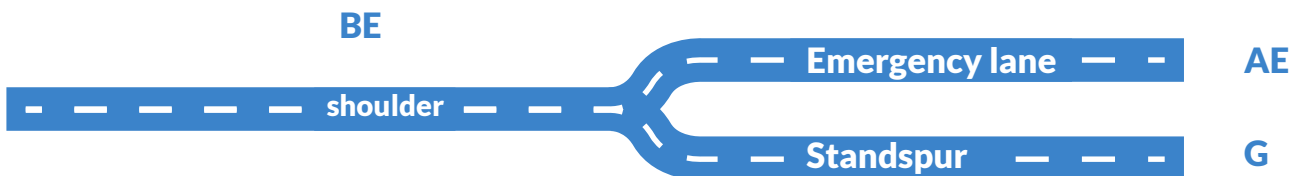
Those who follow national politics in the US may have heard the term **Beltway (capitalized)** and perhaps wondered what that means. In a literal sense, a **beltway** is a highway skirting an urban area, like a ring road. (German = Auto-bahnring)

Figuratively speaking, **Beltway** refers to the political and social world of Washington, D.C., viewed especially as insular and exclusive.

The solutions are on page 38.

British vs. American English

British and American English obviously have a lot in common, but in some things, such as transportation, the two have completely different vernacular. For instance:



Now take a look at the rest of the British English traffic terms in the table below. Using the list of American English and German terms provided, fill out the remainder of the table. And have a safe journey!

BRITISH ENGLISH	AMERICAN ENGLISH	GERMAN
shoulder	emergency lane	Standspur
dual carriageway		
entry slip road		
lay-by		
crash barrier		
exit slip road		
centre strip		
overtaking lane		
flyover		

AMERICAN ENGLISH

divided highway
emergency lane
on-ramp
turnout
guard rail
off-ramp
overpass
median strip
passing lane

GERMAN

Schnellstraße
Auffahrt
Parkbucht
Mittelstreifen
Leitplanke
Überholspur
Überführung
Standspur
Ausfahrt

The solutions are on page 38.

Become an Insider

1) G 2) C 3) E 4) A 5) H 6) B 7) F 8) D

1) emergency lane/Standspur 2) divided highway/Schnellstraße
3) on-ramp/Auffahrt 4) turnout/Parkbucht 5) guard rail/
Leitplanke 6) off-ramp/Ausfahrt 7) median strip/Mittelstreifen
8) passing lane/Überholspur 9) overpass/Überführung