

## Prime Minister Sunak will apologise for no seatbelt

The British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised for not wearing his seatbelt in a car. Downing Street said Mr Sunak made a “brief error” and that he should not have removed it when promoting himself in a social media video. As an issue of safety, Downing Street said that the Prime Minister believes “everyone should wear a seatbelt”.

In the video on Instagram, Mr Sunak is facing the camera without a seatbelt for a short period of time. Police motorbikes could be seen following the car with the Prime Minister in the back. People can be punished for not wearing a seatbelt with fines up to £500. Exceptions to this include when a car may be used by rescue services.

Some leaders say that it must be embarrassing for the Prime Minister to break such a basic law. Other groups such as the AA, the Automobile Association, warned about the importance of wearing a seatbelt. The British government might make seatbelt rules stronger so people will take the law more seriously.

Mr Sunak is also said to be out of touch with society for recently taking a private jet when he could have taken a train. He said that, to make himself as effective as possible, “I travel around so I can do lots of things in one day”. He would add, “I’m not travelling around just for my own enjoyment – although this is very enjoyable, of course”.

## Warm-up activities

Finish this sentence so that it is true for your beliefs – “*Everyone should...*”

What types of transport can you list that falls into these categories – *cheap, expensive, safe, dangerous, serious, fun*.

Make one single sentence that includes the three words (in any order), *rule, basic, warn*.

Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- *being careful* (paragraph 1) s...
- *length* (paragraph 2) p...
- *special reasons* (paragraph 2) e...
- *simple* (paragraph 3) b...
- *personal* (paragraph 4) p...

What does the italicised word below mean – *mistake, exit, or pause*?

- Mr Sunak made a “brief *error*”

### Comprehension true or false

1. The Prime Minister removed his seatbelt after dropping his phone. T / F
2. Downing Street said everyone should be fined for removing seatbelts. T / F
3. Mr Sunak was in trouble for driving while watching Instagram. T / F
4. A fine of up to £500 is given for not wearing a seatbelt. T / F
5. There are some exceptions to this law. T / F
6. Some leaders said this law is easy to understand for Mr Sunak. T / F
7. The acronym AA stands for *Avoid Accidents*. T / F
8. The government are going to double the £500 fine in the future. T / F
9. The Prime Minister flew by jet instead of by train recently. T / F
10. Rishi Sunak does enjoy travelling. T / F

### Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. rescue       | A. touch       |
| 2. fines        | B. jet         |
| 3. period of    | C. services    |
| 4. warned       | D. as possible |
| 5. out of       | E. up to £500  |
| 6. as effective | F. about       |
| 7. basic        | G. a seatbelt  |
| 8. private      | H. safety      |
| 9. an issue of  | I. law         |
| 10. wearing     | J. time        |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. issue     | A. tell      |
| 2. brief     | B. look at   |
| 3. apologise | C. short     |
| 4. warn      | D. topic     |
| 5. face      | E. say sorry |

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. serious | A. danger   |
| 2. basic   | B. silly    |
| 3. safety  | C. advanced |

**Grammar pairs: modal verbs**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A. should / B. shall | 6. A. must / B. can     |
| 2. A. may / B. should   | 7. A. would / B. might  |
| 3. A. must / B. could   | 8. A. will / B. must    |
| 4. A. can / B. should   | 9. A. might / B. can    |
| 5. A. may / B. could    | 10. A. would / B. could |

The British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised for not wearing his seatbelt in a car. Downing Street said Mr Sunak made a “brief error” and that he 1. \_\_\_\_\_ not have removed it when promoting himself in a social media video. As an issue of safety, Downing Street said that the Prime Minister believes “everyone 2. \_\_\_\_\_ wear a seatbelt”.

In the video on Instagram, Mr Sunak is facing the camera without a seatbelt for a short period of time. Police motorbikes 3. \_\_\_\_\_ be seen following the car with the Prime Minister in the back. People 4. \_\_\_\_\_ be punished for not wearing a seatbelt with fines up to £500. Exceptions to this include when a car 5. \_\_\_\_\_ be used by rescue services.

Some leaders say that it 6. \_\_\_\_\_ be embarrassing for the Prime Minister to break such a basic law. Other groups such as the AA, the Automobile Association, warned about the importance of wearing a seatbelt. The British government 7. \_\_\_\_\_ make seatbelt rules stronger so people 8. \_\_\_\_\_ take the law more seriously.

Mr Sunak is also said to be out of touch with society for recently taking a private jet when he could have taken a train. He said that, to make himself as effective as possible, “I travel around so I 9. \_\_\_\_\_ do lots of things in one day”. He 10. \_\_\_\_\_ add, “I’m not travelling around just for my own enjoyment – although this is very enjoyable, of course”.

## Missing vocabulary

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. basic     | F. importance |
| B. private   | G. warned     |
| C. rescue    | H. fines      |
| D. effective | I. punished   |
| E. brief     | J. safety     |

The British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised for not wearing his seatbelt in a car. Downing Street said Mr Sunak made a “1.\_\_\_\_\_ error” and that he should not have removed it when promoting himself in a social media video. As an issue of 2.\_\_\_\_\_, Downing Street said that the Prime Minister believes “everyone should wear a seatbelt”.

In the video on Instagram, Mr Sunak is facing the camera without a seatbelt for a short period of time. Police motorbikes could be seen following the car with the Prime Minister in the back. People can be 3.\_\_\_\_\_ for not wearing a seatbelt with 4.\_\_\_\_\_ up to £500. Exceptions to this include when a car may be used by 5.\_\_\_\_\_ services.

Some leaders say that it must be embarrassing for the Prime Minister to break such a 6.\_\_\_\_\_ law. Other groups such as the AA, the Automobile Association, 7.\_\_\_\_\_ about the 8.\_\_\_\_\_ of wearing a seatbelt. The British government might make seatbelt rules stronger so people will take the law more seriously.

Mr Sunak is also said to be out of touch with society for recently taking a 9.\_\_\_\_\_ jet when he could have taken a train. He said that, to make himself as 10.\_\_\_\_\_ as possible, “I travel around so I can do lots of things in one day”. He would add, “I’m not travelling around just for my own enjoyment – although this is very enjoyable, of course”.

## Spelling

Spell the words from the text correctly.

- |                                                         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. has p d o a e o g l i s for not wearing his seatbelt | apo... |
| 2. r o g o p t n i m himself in a social media video    | pro... |
| 3. as an issue of f s e t y a                           | saf... |
| 4. for a short i r e d p o of time                      | per... |
| 5. u i n s d p e h for not wearing a seatbelt           | pun... |
| 6. c e o x t p i n s e to this include                  | exc... |
| 7. it must be m r a n b e r s a g i s                   | emb... |
| 8. take the law more l e i r o s y s u                  | ser... |
| 9. taking a r i v t a p e jet                           | pri... |
| 10. as f e c f e t e v i as possible                    | eff... |

## Fill-in vowels

Th\_ Br\_t\_sh Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r R\_sh\_ S\_n\_k h\_s \_p\_l\_g\_s\_d f\_r n\_t w\_\_r\_ng h\_s  
s\_\_tb\_lt\_n \_c\_r. D\_wn\_ng Str\_\_t s\_\_d Mr S\_n\_k m\_d\_\_ “br\_\_f\_rr\_r” \_nd th\_t h\_  
sh\_\_ld n\_t h\_v\_r\_m\_v\_d \_t wh\_n pr\_m\_t\_ng h\_ms\_lf \_n \_s\_c\_\_l m\_d\_\_ v\_d\_\_. \_s  
\_n \_ss\_\_ \_f s\_f\_ty, D\_wn\_ng Str\_\_t s\_\_d th\_t th\_ Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r b\_l\_\_v\_s  
“\_v\_ry\_n\_ sh\_\_ld w\_\_r \_s\_\_tb\_lt”.

\_n th\_ v\_d\_\_ \_n \_nst\_gr\_m, Mr S\_n\_k \_s f\_c\_ng th\_ c\_m\_r\_ w\_th\_\_t \_s\_\_tb\_lt f\_r \_  
sh\_rt p\_r\_\_d \_f t\_m\_. P\_l\_c\_m\_t\_rb\_k\_s c\_\_ld b\_s\_\_n f\_ll\_w\_ng th\_ c\_r w\_th th\_  
Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r \_n th\_ b\_ck. P\_\_pl\_ c\_n b\_p\_n\_sh\_d f\_r n\_t w\_\_r\_ng \_s\_\_tb\_lt  
w\_th f\_n\_s \_p\_t\_ £500. \_xc\_pt\_\_ns t\_ th\_s \_ncl\_d\_ wh\_n \_c\_r m\_y b\_\_s\_d by  
r\_sc\_\_ s\_rv\_c\_s.

S\_m\_l\_d\_rs s\_y th\_t t\_m\_st b\_\_mb\_rr\_ss\_ng f\_r th\_ Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r t\_br\_\_k  
s\_ch \_b\_s\_c\_l\_w\_. \_th\_r gr\_\_ps s\_ch \_s th\_ \_\_, th\_ \_\_t\_m\_b\_l\_\_ss\_c\_\_t\_n,  
w\_rn\_d \_b\_\_t th\_ \_mp\_rt\_nc\_ \_f w\_\_r\_ng \_s\_\_tb\_lt. Th\_ Br\_t\_sh g\_v\_rnm\_nt  
m\_ght m\_k\_ s\_\_tb\_lt r\_l\_s str\_ng\_r s\_p\_\_pl\_ w\_ll t\_k\_ th\_ l\_w m\_r\_s\_r\_\_sly.

Mr S\_n\_k \_s \_ls\_s\_\_d t\_b\_\_t \_f t\_\_ch w\_th s\_c\_\_ty f\_r r\_c\_ntly t\_k\_ng \_pr\_v\_t\_  
j\_t wh\_n h\_c\_\_ld h\_v\_t\_k\_n \_tr\_\_n. H\_s\_\_d th\_t, t\_m\_k\_ h\_ms\_lf \_s \_ff\_ct\_v\_\_s  
p\_ss\_bl\_, “\_tr\_v\_l\_r\_\_nd s\_\_c\_n\_d\_l\_ts \_f th\_ngs \_n \_n\_d\_y”. H\_w\_\_ld \_dd,  
“\_’m n\_t tr\_v\_ll\_ng \_r\_\_nd j\_st f\_r my \_wn \_nj\_ym\_nt – \_lth\_\_gh th\_s \_s v\_ry  
\_nj\_y\_bl\_, \_f c\_\_rs\_”.



## Cool-down activities

Discussion questions:

- What vehicles don't require a seatbelt?
- Should politicians use private jets to get to meetings? Or is public transport, a personal car, or attending digitally good enough?
- What would your dream car be?
- How much do you walk or cycle, and how much do you take transport?
- Does your country have good road safety laws for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles?

CEFR B1 10 keywords revision list:

basic brief effective fine importance

private punish rescue safety warn

How many words can you make from the letters in *apologise*? Write them below.

## Answers

### Page 2 Warm-up activities

being careful / safety  
length / period  
special reasons / exceptions  
simple / basic  
personal / private  
error / mistake

### Page 3 Comprehension true or false

1F, 2F, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6T, 7F, 8F, 9T, 10T

### Page 4 Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Phrases 1C, 2E, 3J, 4F, 5A, 6D, 7I, 8B, 9H, 10G

Synonyms 1D, 2C, 3E, 4A, 5B

Antonyms 1B, 2C, 3A

### Page 5 Grammar pairs: modal verbs

1A, 2B, 3B, 4A, 5A, 6A, 7B, 8A, 9B, 10A

### Page 6 Missing vocabulary

1E, 2J, 3I, 4H, 5C, 6A, 7G, 8F, 9B, 10D

### Page 7 Spelling

APOLOGISED, PROMOTING, SAFETY, PERIOD, PUNISHED,  
EXCEPTIONS, EMBARRASSING, SERIOUSLY, PRIVATE, EFFECTIVE

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20230122-sunak-seatbelt>

Thanks for using this lesson!