

## UK trial modified cameras to end noisy vehicles

A new type of traffic camera that detects noisy vehicles has been trialled in the UK. The “noise cameras” catch illegally-loud sounds coming from modified exhausts or supercars and motorbikes revving their engines. The acoustic cameras have microphones specially fitted and capture the numberplate and sound level of the vehicle. If the sound detected exceeds the legal limit of 74 decibels, then a fine is automatically sent to the driver.

Alongside the trial was a survey commissioned by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to gather drivers' thoughts on the cameras. Of those polled, almost 60% were in favour of them, but around 20% were against the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were undecided. Those who fail to comply with the legal noise limit face a £50 fine, which around 40% of drivers felt was in proportion to the offence committed. Others felt that motorists should face a steeper fine and a temporary ban if they breach the rules.

The survey revealed that around a third of the UK regularly hear unnecessarily loud vehicle noises. According to the government up to £10 billion a year is lost in productivity at work due to disturbed sleep and other resulting health problems. The RAC said they want the trialled cameras in the worst areas affected, and “the sooner effective camera enforcement can be put in place the better”.

## Warm-up activities and vocabulary

Activities:

How many parts of a car can you name?

Make a list of the top 3, 5, or 10 most annoying sounds.

Which famous person would you like in the passenger seat alongside you on a trip?

Vocabulary:

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

- |                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| A. <i>tested</i> (paragraph 1)      | t... |
| B. <i>changed</i> (paragraph 1)     | m... |
| C. <i>vehicle ID</i> (paragraph 1)  | n... |
| D. <i>charge</i> (paragraph 1)      | f... |
| E. <i>quiz</i> (paragraph 2)        | s... |
| F. <i>respect</i> (paragraph 2)     | c... |
| G. <i>drivers</i> (paragraph 2)     | m... |
| H. <i>pointlessly</i> (paragraph 3) | u... |
| I. <i>effort</i> (paragraph 3)      | p... |
| J. <i>application</i> (paragraph 3) | e... |

2. What does the italicised word below mean – *free*s, *fix*es, or *break*s?

if the sound detected *exceeds* the legal limit

3. Which word below doesn't belong?

exceed – modify – acoustic – breach

### Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

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

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. temporary  | A. limit         |
| 2. disturbed  | B. revealed      |
| 3. modified   | C. their engines |
| 4. specially  | D. ban           |
| 5. 74         | E. fitted        |
| 6. legal      | F. cameras       |
| 7. the survey | G. sleep         |
| 8. illegally- | H. decibels      |
| 9. detection  | I. exhausts      |
| 10. revving   | J. loud          |

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

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. detect    | A. study    |
| 2. disturb   | B. catch    |
| 3. survey    | C. sound    |
| 4. acoustic  | D. not sure |
| 5. undecided | E. trouble  |

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

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. motorist | A. passenger |
| 2. comply   | B. comfort   |
| 3. disturb  | C. disobey   |

## Reading comprehension questions

1. Has the UK fully adopted noise cameras?
  2. What kinds of sounds do noise cameras catch?
  3. What sound level must vehicles not pass?
  4. What did the RAC do?
  5. How did the majority of those asked feel about the cameras?
  6. What do drivers get if they exceed the noise limit?
  7. Some people felt the punishment should be more what?
  8. What do companies lose because of the problem?
  9. What do people lose because of noisy vehicles?
  10. What do the RAC want to see from the trial?
- 

- A. The legal 74 decibel limit.
- B. Good sleep.
- C. A £50 fine.
- D. Those from exhausts and engines.
- E. Severe, including a temporary ban.
- F. Not yet, they are still being trialled.
- G. Surveyed drivers.
- H. They approved of the cameras.
- I. Effective sound camera enforcement.
- J. Productivity.

**Grammar gap-fill cloze: past participle adjectives**

Change the verbs into their correct forms before putting them in the correct spaces.

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| A. detect     | F. modify  |
| B. decide     | G. commit  |
| C. fit        | H. disturb |
| D. affect     | I. poll    |
| E. commission | J. trial   |

A new type of traffic camera that detects noisy vehicles has been trialled in the UK. The “noise cameras” catch illegally-loud sounds coming from 1.\_\_\_\_\_ exhausts or supercars and motorbikes revving their engines. The acoustic cameras have microphones specially 2.\_\_\_\_\_ and capture the numberplate and sound level of the vehicle. If the sound 3.\_\_\_\_\_ exceeds the legal limit of 74 decibels, then a fine is automatically sent to the driver.

Alongside the trial was a survey 4.\_\_\_\_\_ by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to gather drivers’ thoughts on the cameras. Of those 5.\_\_\_\_\_, almost 60% were in favour of them, but around 20% were against the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were 6.\_\_\_\_\_. Those who fail to comply with the legal noise limit face a £50 fine, which around 40% of drivers felt was in proportion to the offence 7.\_\_\_\_\_. Others felt that motorists should face a steeper fine and a temporary ban if they breach the rules.

The survey revealed that around a third of the UK regularly hear unnecessarily loud vehicle noises. According to the government up to £10 billion a year is lost in productivity at work due to 8.\_\_\_\_\_ sleep and other resulting health problems. The RAC said they want the 9.\_\_\_\_\_ cameras in the worst areas 10.\_\_\_\_\_, and “the sooner effective camera enforcement can be put in place the better”.

## Vocabulary multiple-choice cloze

A new type of traffic camera that 1. \_\_\_\_\_ noisy vehicles has been trialled in the UK. The “noise cameras” catch illegally-loud sounds coming from modified 2. \_\_\_\_\_ or supercars and motorbikes revving their engines. The acoustic cameras have microphones specially fitted and capture the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and sound level of the vehicle. If the sound detected exceeds the legal limit of 74 decibels, then a 4. \_\_\_\_\_ is automatically sent to the driver.

Alongside the trial was a 5. \_\_\_\_\_ commissioned by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to gather drivers’ thoughts on the cameras. Of those 6. \_\_\_\_\_, almost 60% were in favour of them, but around 20% were against the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were undecided. Those who fail to 7. \_\_\_\_\_ with the legal noise limit face a £50 fine, which around 40% of drivers felt was in proportion to the offence committed. Others felt that 8. \_\_\_\_\_ should face a steeper fine and a temporary ban if they breach the rules.

The survey revealed that around a third of the UK regularly hear unnecessarily loud vehicle noises. According to the government up to £10 billion a year is lost in 9. \_\_\_\_\_ at work due to disturbed sleep and other resulting health problems. The RAC said they want the trialled cameras in the worst areas affected, and “the sooner effective camera 10. \_\_\_\_\_ can be put in place the better”.

- |                    |                 |                |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. A. rejects      | B. inspects     | C. detects     | D. ejects      |
| 2. A. exhausts     | B. accelerators | C. brakes      | D. satnavs     |
| 3. A. numeral      | B. volume       | C. settings    | D. numberplate |
| 4. A. good         | B. nice         | C. fine        | D. sure        |
| 5. A. speciality   | B. survey       | C. sully       | D. storey      |
| 6. A. tolled       | B. prompts      | C. stamps      | D. polled      |
| 7. A. comply       | B. imply        | C. opt in      | D. opt out     |
| 8. A. chauffeurs   | B. motorists    | C. couriers    | D. motorcades  |
| 9. A. productivity | B. photography  | C. perception  | D. priceless   |
| 10. A. force       | B. contribution | C. enforcement | D. tribute     |

## Writing cloze

- |                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. cedtset     | 6. infe         | 11.smostrito    |
| 2. xuahstse    | 7. idmoesmscoin | 12.heacbr       |
| 3. ouatcics    | 8. ldlope       | 13.uysrve       |
| 4. arlmetpebnu | 9. ycpmol       | 14.tvrpitiuoydc |
| 5. cesxede     | 10.rotnpoipro   | 15.mereoctnefn  |

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Alongside the trial was a survey 7.\_\_\_\_\_ by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to gather drivers’ thoughts on the cameras. Of those 8.\_\_\_\_\_, almost 60% were in favour of them, but around 20% were against the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were undecided. Those who fail to 9.\_\_\_\_\_ with the legal noise limit face a £50 fine, which around 40% of drivers felt was in 10.\_\_\_\_\_ to the offence committed. Others felt that 11.\_\_\_\_\_ should face a steeper fine and a temporary ban if they 12.\_\_\_\_\_ the rules.

The 13.\_\_\_\_\_ revealed that around a third of the UK regularly hear unnecessarily loud vehicle noises. According to the government up to £10 billion a year is lost in 14.\_\_\_\_\_ at work due to disturbed sleep and other resulting health problems. The RAC said they want the trialled cameras in the worst areas affected, and “the sooner effective camera 15.\_\_\_\_\_ can be put in place the better”.

## Fill in missing letters

Fill in the text with these five missing letters: b f g v y

A new t\_p\_e o\_ tra\_\_ic camera that detects nois\_ \_ehicles has \_een trialled in the UK. The “noise cameras” catch ille\_all\_-loud sounds comin\_ \_rom modi\_ied exhausts or supercars and motor\_ikes re\_\_in\_ their en\_ines. The acoustic cameras ha\_e microphones speciall\_ \_itted and capture the num\_erplate and sound le\_el o\_ the \_ehicle. I\_ the sound detected exceeds the le\_al limit o\_ 74 deci\_els, then a \_ine is automaticall\_ sent to the dri\_er.

Alon\_side the trial was a sur\_e\_ commissioned \_\_ the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to \_ather dri\_ers' thou\_hths on the cameras. O\_ those polled, almost 60% were in \_a\_our o\_ them, \_ut around 20% were a\_ainst the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were undecided. Those who \_ail to compl\_ with the le\_al noise limit \_ace a £50 \_ine, which around 40% o\_ dri\_ers \_elt was in proportion to the o\_\_ence committed. Others \_elt that motorists should \_ace a steeper \_ine and a temporar\_ \_an i\_ the\_ \_reach the rules.

The sur\_e\_ re\_ealed that around a third o\_ the UK re\_ularl\_ hear unnecessaril\_ loud \_ehicle noises. Accordin\_ to the \_o\_ernment up to £10 \_illion a \_ear is lost in producti\_it\_ at work due to distur\_ed sleep and other resultin\_ health pro\_lems. The RAC said the\_ want the trialled cameras in the worst areas a\_\_ected, and “the sooner e\_\_ecti\_e camera en\_orcement can \_e put in place the \_etter”.



## Cool-down discussion, game, and keywords

Discussion questions:

- What is the loudest thing you've ever heard or listened to?
- What are some examples of noise pollution?
- Could you teach someone how to drive? What would you teach first?
- Why is sleep important?
- Do you like surveys?

CEFR C1 10 lesson keywords:

(adj = adjective, adv = adverb, n = noun, v = verb)

comply (v), detect (v), enforcement (n), exhaust (n/v), fine (adj/adv/n/v), motorist (n), numberplate (n), poll (n/v), productivity (n), survey (n/v)

Language game:

In the table below, add one word to each box that matches both the category and the beginning letter, e.g. a sound beginning with *C* is *click*.

	C	A	R	S
A sound				
Something you can drive				
Something you can sleep on				
Part of a car				
Something on a road				

## Answers

### Page 2 Warm-up activities and vocabulary

1. A. trialled, B. modified, C. numberplate, D. fine, E. survey, F. comply, G. motorists, H. unnecessarily, I. productivity, J. enforcement
2. breaks
3. acoustic (the others describe changing something)

### Page 3 Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

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

### Page 4 Reading comprehension questions

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

### Page 5 Grammar gap-fill cloze: past participle adjectives

- 1F modified, 2C fitted, 3A detected, 4E commissioned, 5I polled,  
6B undecided, 7G committed, 8H disturbed, 9J trialled, 10D affected

### Page 6 Vocabulary multiple-choice cloze

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

### Page 7 Writing cloze

1. detects, 2. exhausts, 3. acoustic, 4. numberplate, 5. exceeds, 6. fine,  
7. commissioned, 8. polled, 9. comply, 10. proportion, 11. motorists,  
12. breach, 13. survey, 14. productivity, 15. enforcement

For this lesson's interactive and listening exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/lesson-20230821-higher-c1-noise-cameras>

Thanks for using this lesson!