

Learner Level: Intermediate-Advanced

Theme: Travel

Language focus: Uses of "need" and "need to". Describing.

Skills: Speaking

Time: 10 minutes +

Materials: None

Grouping: Small Groups of 4-5

Preparation: Review "need to" vs. "need + noun" " need + ing" if necessary. Explain the words "pit stop" and "road trip".

Quick Reference:

Students get into small groups and pretend to be on a road trip. Each "car" makes pit stops along the way. The driver decides whether or not to stop.

Teacher Instructions: 

1. Put students in small groups of about 4-5. Each group takes part in the activity simultaneously. Imagine the classroom is a large highway. **WARNING:** It may get loud!
2. Tell students they are going to pretend to be on a road trip. Students must decide:
 - a. the type of group they are (a family, a group of roommates, a group of colleagues)
 - b. who the driver is
 - c. where the group is going
3. Groups pretend to drive towards their chosen destinations. Passengers describe the view out the window, including sites of interest, traffic signs, and other cars on the road.

For example: ✓

Look at the beautiful lake! Uh-oh construction ahead! That car beside us has a flat tire!

4. Passengers in each car take turns shouting Pit Stop! The driver asks why the passenger needs to stop. The passenger tries to convince the driver why the pit stop is necessary.

For example: ✓

Passenger A: *Pit Stop!*

Driver: *What now?*

Passenger A: *I'm getting hungry. We need to pick up some snacks.*

Driver: *We just left. We don't **need** snacks yet. You can wait until lunch. (doesn't stop) OR I'm getting hungry too. You're right. We **need to** stop. Let's stop for ice cream. (stops)*

...the road trip continues until all of the passengers have convinced the driver to make at least one pit stop and the car has reached its destination. The driver can say "We're here!".

5. As each group finishes, go around and ask the following questions. (Or, make a cutoff point for the warm up and have each group present the answers to the class.)
 - a. Where did you go?
 - b. What did you see along the way?
 - c. Where did you stop?Groups that finish early can be told to keep driving further or to listen to other road trips.

Teacher 2 Teacher: ☀

If you have a small group this activity can be done using just one car. If you want to offer error correction during the warm up you can pretend to be a traffic cop and pull drivers over for speeding or other infractions. Enforce the proper use of the word "need to + base verb" and "need + noun (or ing)". If the activity goes too quickly, have students change cars or take turns being the driver.

Related Topics from the ESL-Library.com: **Flashcards:** Cars**Traveling in English:** Renting a Car**Discussion Starters:** Road Rage**Famous Things:** Hybrid Cars**Grammar Stories:** Passive-The Stolen Car