

IELTS Listening Lesson 30

Setting statement:

You will hear a town official giving a public announcement about new traffic regulations, including changes to parking zones and updated fines.

Questions 1–5: Fill in the blanks

Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

1. The new traffic regulations will begin on _____.
 2. In the Blue Zone, parking is limited to _____ hours.
 3. The Green Zone is mainly used by _____.
 4. Fines will now be sent by email and also placed on the _____.
 5. The fine for idling is _____ pounds.
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Questions 6–10: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct letter, A, B, or C.

6. What is the main purpose of the Yellow Zone restrictions?
 - A. To provide short-term parking near shops
 - B. To make room for delivery vehicles
 - C. To ensure emergency and school access
7. What happens if you park in a Green Zone without a permit?
 - A. You receive a warning
 - B. You get a £60 fine
 - C. You are towed immediately

8. How can drivers learn more about the new parking rules?
- A. Only by calling the transport hotline
 - B. By attending sessions at the Community Center
 - C. Through letters mailed to residents
9. What is one feature of the new parking signs?
- A. Digital countdown timers
 - B. Contactless payment devices
 - C. QR codes for more information
10. When will warnings be issued instead of fines for minor violations?
- A. During the first week of enforcement
 - B. Only to residents over 65
 - C. On Sundays only
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Script

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for attending this public information session, either in person or through our community radio livestream. I'm Claire Reynolds from the Department of Transportation here in Millbridge, and I'll be going over the new traffic regulations that will come into effect starting next Monday, the 21st of this month. These changes involve new parking zones, updated fine structures, and revised enforcement hours, all aimed at improving traffic flow and making our streets safer and more accessible.

Let's begin with the parking zones, as this is the area where most residents will notice an immediate impact. Starting Monday, we will be introducing three new color-coded parking zones in the town center and adjacent neighborhoods. These are the Blue Zone, Green Zone, and Yellow Zone.

The Blue Zone will cover the commercial district, including Maple Street, Eastgate Avenue, and the southern end of Jefferson Road. In this zone, short-term parking is encouraged. You'll be allowed to park for up to two hours, and this will be strictly enforced from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Parking in the Blue Zone is free on Sundays, but not during the rest of the week.

The Green Zone includes residential areas such as Willow Creek, Pine Hollow, and parts of Northbridge. In this area, only residents with a valid permit will be allowed to park for extended periods. Others can park there for up to one hour, and only between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. To get a residential permit, you'll need to provide proof of address and vehicle registration, and you can apply online or at Town Hall.

Now, the Yellow Zone covers the perimeter of our schools and hospitals. It has the most restrictive rules, with no parking allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. These rules are designed to ensure clear access for emergency services and school buses. That said, 15-minute loading bays will be clearly marked and can be used for quick drop-offs and pickups—but not for long-term parking.

Now, let's talk about fines and enforcement. The fine for overstaying in a short-term spot, such as in the Blue Zone, will increase from £25 to £40. Parking in the Yellow Zone during restricted hours will incur a fine of £75, up from the previous £50. And parking without a valid permit in a Green Zone will now cost offenders £60. These fines are part of an effort to reduce congestion and ensure fairness among all road users.

Enforcement will be handled by our expanded team of parking officers, who will now be operating seven days a week. They'll be issuing tickets electronically, and these will be sent via email as well as placed on the windshield. To avoid a fine, please make sure your email address is up to date in our system—particularly if you've recently moved or changed your vehicle registration.

We've also updated signage throughout the town. All parking zones are now marked with larger, color-coded signs, including operating hours and applicable fines. You'll notice QR codes on the signs, which can be scanned to access our interactive parking map, real-time updates, and to pay for parking digitally. We encourage everyone to download the Millbridge Parking App, which allows you to pay, extend your time remotely, and even find available spaces in real time.

In terms of accessibility, we've increased the number of disabled parking bays in each zone. These spaces will be reserved for vehicles displaying a

valid blue badge and are exempt from most time restrictions. However, even badge holders must avoid parking in prohibited Yellow Zone areas during restricted hours.

We also want to emphasize that idling, or leaving your engine running while parked, is now considered a fineable offense in all zones. The fine for idling is £20, and this rule applies especially in front of schools and healthcare facilities. It's both a noise and pollution issue, so we ask for your cooperation.

Now, a few words on exceptions and appeals. If you believe you've received a parking fine in error, you may file an appeal online through our new traffic services portal. You must submit supporting documentation—such as photos or receipts—within 10 working days of receiving the ticket. In certain cases, such as attending a hospital emergency or vehicle breakdown, you may be eligible for a waiver.

Additionally, we've set up a grace period of one week after the launch date, during which warnings will be issued instead of fines for minor infractions, to allow everyone time to adjust. After that, full enforcement will resume.

Finally, let's cover where to get help or more information. We've printed informational leaflets, available at the Town Hall, the public library, and most retail shops. These contain zone maps, penalty breakdowns, and FAQs. You can also call our traffic hotline at 0800 246 8811, or visit the transportation page on the official town website. We'll also be holding short information sessions every evening this week at 6 p.m. in the Community Center on Brookside Lane.

To summarize, the main goals of these new regulations are to ensure equitable access, reduce traffic congestion, improve emergency vehicle movement, and promote a cleaner environment. With your cooperation, we believe these changes will result in a safer and more efficient town for all.

Thank you for listening, and please help spread the word to friends and neighbors who may not have been able to attend this session. We appreciate your support and your attention today.

Answer Key

1. next Monday / the 21st
2. two
3. residents
4. windshield
5. 20
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. A