

Going to a Gas Station

In this lesson, you will learn useful vocabulary and expressions for talking to a gas station attendant in an English-speaking country.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What is the difference between a full-serve and self-serve pump at a gas station?
2. What services are offered at a gas station?
3. Which types of vehicles use *unleaded* gas and which use *diesel*?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. regular | a) the wide glass window at the front of a vehicle |
| ___ 2. premium | b) to leave or go somewhere, to begin a journey |
| ___ 3. passenger's side | c) normal, unleaded fuel/gas |
| ___ 4. gas tank | d) a card used for paying for something later, a <i>credit card</i> |
| ___ 5. windshield | e) high-quality or cleaner gas, costs more than regular |
| ___ 6. oil | f) physical money that you can hand to someone |
| ___ 7. road trip | g) the money leftover after you pay a bill with cash |
| ___ 8. head off | h) a main road that you can drive fast on |
| ___ 9. cash | i) the liquid that keeps an engine running smoothly |
| ___ 10. credit | j) a journey in a motor vehicle |
| ___ 11. change | k) the compartment that holds the gas in a vehicle |
| ___ 12. highway | l) the side of the vehicle where the non-driver (in the front seat) sits |

Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Customer: Hello. **Fill it up, please.**

Gas Attendant: Sure. **Would you like regular or premium?**

Customer: Regular, please.

Gas Attendant: I'm afraid you'll have to turn your car around. Your gas tank is on the passenger's side.

Customer: Oh, sorry! It's a rental. I'm used to it being on the driver's side.

Gas Attendant: *(A few seconds later...)*
That's more like it. **Can I interest you in a car wash today?**

Customer: Maybe just a quick windshield wash. The mirrors could use a little cleaning, too.

Gas Attendant: Sure. **Can I check your oil?**

Customer: That would be great. I'm heading off on a road trip.

Gas Attendant: My pleasure.
(Later...)
You're all set here. Will that be cash or credit?

Customer: Cash, please.

Gas Attendant: Okay. The total today is \$55.43.

Customer: Here's \$60. **Keep the change.**

Gas Attendant: Thank you very much.

Customer: Thank you. Oh. **Can you tell me how to get back to the highway?**

Gas Attendant: Yep. Take a left out of the gas station. **The entrance is about two minutes down the road. If you're heading east, it will be on your right.** Have a safe trip.

Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.

1. **Fill it up, please.**

- Can you fill the tank, please?
- Can you put 20 dollars in, please?
- Just half a tank, please.
- Fill 'er up, please.

2. **Would you like regular or premium?**

- Do you want regular or premium?
- Will that be regular or premium today?

3. **Can I interest you in a car wash today?**

- Does your car need a wash today?
- Can we wash your vehicle for you?
- Can we give your vehicle a wash?

4. **Can I check your oil?**

- Do you want me to check your oil?
- Do you need your oil checked?

5. **You're all set here.**

- You're all ready to go.
- Everything is ready.

6. **Keep the change.**

- The rest is yours.
- I don't need any change, thank you.

7. **Can you tell me how to get back to the highway?**

- Where's the highway from here?
- How do I get back on the freeway?
- What's the best way to get back to the expressway?

8. **The entrance is about two minutes down the road.**

- The highway is a few miles down the road.
- The ramp is about five minutes from here.

9. **If you're heading east, it will be on your right.**

- If you're heading west, it will be on your left.
- If you're heading north, go right.
- If you're going south, take a left.

Listening Practice

Listen to the recording of the dialogue from page 2. Fill in the missing words as you listen. Listen again. Now look back at page 2 and check your work. Did you fill in the correct words? Did you spell everything correctly?

Customer:	Hello. _____, please.
Gas Attendant:	Sure. Would you like regular or _____?
Customer:	Regular, please.
Gas Attendant:	I'm afraid you'll have to turn your car around. Your gas tank is on the _____ side.
Customer:	Oh, sorry! It's a rental. I'm used to it being on the driver's side.
Gas Attendant:	<i>(A few seconds later...)</i> That's more like it. Can I _____ in a car wash today?
Customer:	Maybe just a quick _____ wash. The _____ could use a little cleaning, too.
Gas Attendant:	Sure. Can I check your oil?
Customer:	That would be great. I'm _____ on a road trip.
Gas Attendant:	My pleasure. <i>(Later...)</i> You're _____ here. Will that be cash or credit?
Customer:	Cash, please.
Gas Attendant:	Okay. The total today is \$55.43.
Customer:	Here's \$60. Keep the _____.
Gas Attendant:	Thank you very much.
Customer:	Thank you. Oh. Can you tell me how to get back to the _____?
Gas Attendant:	Yep. Take a left out of the gas station. The _____ is about two minutes down the road. If you're _____ east, it will be on your right. Have a safe trip.

At the Pump

A. Complete the Questions

Complete the unfinished questions with the words on the right.

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Did you tighten the | a) gas cap? |
| _____ | 2. Do you want a | b) nozzle all the way? |
| _____ | 3. Did you insert the | c) pump? |
| _____ | 4. Do the tires need | d) receipt? |
| _____ | 5. Did you turn off the | e) gas door cover? |
| _____ | 6. Do we pay at the | f) air? |
| _____ | 7. Do we pay | g) engine? |
| _____ | 8. Did you tip the | h) inside after dark? |
| _____ | 9. Do you have a | i) attendant? |
| _____ | 10. Did you close the | j) points card? |
| _____ | 11. Do we need unleaded | k) or diesel? |
| _____ / | 12. Did you choose | l) regular or premium? |

B. Practice with a Passenger

Work with a partner. Imagine that you are heading on a road trip and you are at a self-serve gas pump. One of you is the driver and the other is a passenger. Practice asking each other the questions above.

Review

Task 1

LISTEN & ANSWER

Listen to the conversation again and answer the questions.
Your teacher will tell you if you have to write or say the answers.

1. What does the customer need for her car?

2. What mistake did the customer make, and what was her excuse?

3. What other two car services did the customer receive?

4. What does the customer do to show her appreciation for the attendant's service?

5. What helpful information does the gas attendant provide?

Task 2

VOCABULARY CHECK

List five nouns and five verbs that you may need to use when talking to a gas attendant.

Nouns

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Verbs

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____