

Grammar Lesson

Lesson 18: I was just about to leave
レッスン 18: 今ちょうど出ようとしたところです

Target: Talking about the immediate future using "about to"
 目的: about toを使って、近い将来について話しましょう!

Reading
単語

New vocabulary introduced in the reading

• a guardrail	ガードレール	• a derby	ダービー
• a luxury	ぜいたく	• broadside...	～の側面にぶつかる
• maintain...	メンテナンスする	• skyrocket	急増する
• rise	値上がり	• oncoming	接近する
• dramatically	劇的に	• nowadays	最近
• the state government	州政府	• a blinker	ウィンカー
• a registration fee	登記料	• aggravating	一層悪化させる
• incessant	絶え間のない	• call... in	～に電話する
• petition	請願する	• swoop in	急に現れる

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Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them

The other day just as I was about to pass someone on the freeway, this crazy driver cut me off and I almost lost control and hit the guardrail. I swear, sometimes I feel like driving is more trouble than it's worth. Not having to use public transport is certainly a luxury, but the cost of owning and maintaining a car is about to rise dramatically. The state government plans to increase registration fees by 15% over the next three years. This in addition to the incessant rise in gas prices has me petitioning for more and better public transportation methods and options.

The 405 freeway is starting to feel more and more like a derby. The other day as a driver was exiting the freeway, another car suddenly changed lanes and without looking, broadsided him. Driving in Southern California is no picnic. It has its moments for sure, but as the population increases and the number of drivers on the road skyrockets there is less and less to enjoy about driving on the open road.

A few days ago, just as I was about to make a left turn, I had to slam on my brakes due to an oncoming car driving through a red light. And just yesterday, just as I was about to pull in to my driveway, this young kid on a bike crashed into the back of my car. Luckily he wasn't hurt, and he didn't really damage the car. He just hit the tire.

Whatever happened to driver safety? Young drivers nowadays seem to never use their blinkers and when they do turn on the blinker, they don't always make the turn. It's quite aggravating, but such is life on the road I guess.

This morning just as I was about to pull up at the curb to drop my son off for school, a policeman swooped in behind me and pulled me over. I of course, was shocked and startled as I hadn't done anything wrong. But I quickly found out that my registration was expired. I had completely forgotten to put my new sticker on... oops.

You'd never guess what the cop did. He actually let me go, which is rare, but I was thrilled. He was really nice and understanding. Plus, he was able to call it in and check that my registration was current. I'd better put my new sticker on tonight as soon as I get home from work!

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Answer the questions below

1. What happened just as he was about to pass someone?
2. What happened just as he was about to make a left turn?
3. What happened just as he was about to pull in to his driveway?
4. Who swooped in just as he was about to pull up to the curb?
5. What is he petitioning for?
6. What has skyrocketed?
7. Why did the policeman pull him over?
8. How many examples of "about to" can you find?

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