



Should the UK introduce fast lanes for shoppers? (video by On Demand News)

Level: Medium

Language: Transport, Shopping, City, Technology, Word Formation

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edfil5k2fqM>

In some parts of the UK, the authorities are thinking about introducing a system in shopping areas to divide people who walk slowly and people who walk quickly.



Task 1: Before you watch, read the definitions for these words from the video. Complete the gaps using one letter per space.

a **lane** = a division of a street or corridor (e.g. a street sometimes has a bus lane or a cycle lane)

a **dawdler** = a person who walks very slowly

to **faff** = to waste your time (usually because you are stressed)

to **w _ _ _ e r** = to walk without direction

the **H _ _ _ Street** = a shopping area which is popular with the general public

to **take a back seat** = to take a relaxed position in a fast, chaotic situation

to **o _ _ _ t a k e** = when a car passes in front of another car on the road

to **b r _ _ _ e** = to look at (and consider) items in a calm way, maybe because you want to buy them

to **get revved up** = to become stressed/angry

to be **willing** to do something = to be open to the possibility of doing something

Now check your suggestions in the Answer section.

Task 2: Watch the video once and answer these general questions.

- Why do some people want separate fast and slow lanes for shoppers?
- There are four shoppers in the video. Generally, do they agree or disagree with the idea?
- Why does the reporter mention China?





Task 3: Now watch the video again and complete the gaps, using the clues in brackets.

Are you a high street dawdler? Faffing on your phone? Wandering by windows? According to new research, the British public has become _____ (adjective: very tired) with people blocking _____ (noun: an area next to the street) and slowing them down. Almost half of shoppers would welcome the introduction of fast lanes on High Streets to _____ (phrasal verb: to go faster) their experience and reserve another lane for those who like to take a back seat. Customers at the Trafford shopping centre in Manchester have their own _____ (noun: opinions/perspectives).

Girl 1: Yeah, (I get) just really angry. To the point you storm just past. But yeah, (they're) just shopping slowly.

Guy 1: Sometimes yeah, I overtake them though.

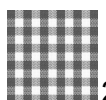
Guy 2: I'd be very much in favour.

Girl 2: It's a good idea but maybe that's going a _____ (adjective: very small) bit too far.

The boss thinks the idea has merit.

Boss: I like to think of it as a browsing lane or an inside lane and an overtaking lane like you have on a _____ (noun: a big road) rather than fast and slow. When we're quiet you probably wouldn't need to move out of the browsing lane.

The UK is not the only country to get revved up about the _____ (noun: idea). Last year the Chinese city of Chongqing introduced a designated walking lane for smartphone users. However, schemes like this can only really work if people are willing to stop _____ (verb: sending written messages by phone) on tablets and start paying more attention to the road.



**ANSWERS****Task 1:**

a **lane** = a division of a street or corridor (e.g. a street sometimes has a bus lane or a cycle lane)

a **dawdler** = a person who walks very slowly

to **faff** = to waste your time (usually because you are stressed)

to **wander** = to walk without direction

the **High Street** = a shopping area which is popular with the general public

to **take a back seat** = to take a relaxed position in a fast, chaotic situation

to **overtake** = when a car passes in front of another car on the road

to **browse** = to look at (and consider) items in a calm way, maybe because you want to buy them

to **get revved up** = to become stressed/angry

to be **willing** to do something = to be open to the possibility of doing something

Task 2:

a. The British public is tired of slow walkers blocking shops and streets. Almost 50% of shoppers agree with the idea of separate lanes.

b. They generally agree but the final shopper thinks the idea is a little extreme.

c. They have a similar scheme in China, with a slow lane for people who are walking while using their mobile phones.

Task 3:

exhausted, pavements, speed up, views, tiny, motorway, concept, texting

