Google Maps adds live UK fuel prices

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How do you choose where to buy petrol or diesel?
2. What apps do you use when you drive? Why?
3. When did fuel prices last surprise you? What happened?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

motorist
a person who drives a car

forecourt
the area in front of a petrol station where you fill up

diesel
a type of fuel used by many cars, vans and lorries

competition
businesses trying to offer better prices or services than others

transparent
easy to see and understand; not hidden

retailer
a business that sells goods to the public

government
the group of people who lead a country and make rules

app
a program you use on a phone or tablet

III. READING

From Thursday, drivers in the UK can see live petrol and diesel prices in Google Maps. The app uses data from the government's Fuel Finder platform. It shows real-time prices at about 99% of forecourts. Users can search nearby stations and compare the cheapest options before they set off.

The change aims to make pump prices more transparent. It should boost competition between fuel retailers. Many motorists face high costs. The average price of diesel recently hit a record £2 a litre in the UK. Fuel Finder launched in February after a recommendation from the Competition and Markets Authority.

It already appears in apps such as Waze and the AA. Officials say clear prices should help people save money. They hope stations keep prices fair.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "UK motorists can now see live fuel prices...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What new information does Google Maps show in the UK?
2. Which platform provides the price data to Google Maps?
3. About what percentage of forecourts does Fuel Finder cover?
4. What recent record price is mentioned for diesel?
5. Why is Google adding live prices to the map?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would this feature change where you buy fuel? Why or why not?
2. What other live travel info would you like to see in maps?
3. Are price comparison apps common in your country? Give examples.
4. Should fuel retailers update prices several times a day? Why?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Phrasal verbs (inseparable)

Some phrasal verbs are inseparable: the verb and particle stay together; you can't put the object between them. Form: verb + particle + object (look for something, come across something).

*"Drivers **look for** the cheapest station nearby."*
*"Users **come across** cheaper stations on the map."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Stations (look after customers / look customers after) well. _____
2. Users (listen updates to / listen to updates) at home. _____
3. Some drivers (wait for lower prices / wait lower prices for). _____
4. Many motorists (rely maps on / rely on maps) when travelling. _____
5. Many families (worry costs about / worry about costs). _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 8–10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: motorist, forecourt, diesel, transparent, retailer; drill £2 a litre and real-time as chunks.
- During reading, set a gist task first (What changed? Who provides data?), then scan for numbers (99%, £2). Pair-check before whole-class feedback.
- Differentiate: stronger students list benefits and risks of live pricing; others underline sentences showing purpose (clearer prices, competition) and paraphrase them.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick poll, then pair students to give one reason for or against changing station.
2. Board ideas (traffic, parking, EV chargers, opening hours) to prompt quieter students.
3. If answers stall, elicit examples like flights, hotels, groceries, taxis to spark ideas.
4. Split class: half argue yes, half no; then swap sides to add a second reason.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Survey: In small groups, design 5 questions and survey classmates about how they choose fuel stations; present results in 2 minutes.

Writing: Write a 70–90 word how-to for a new driver on using Google Maps to find cheaper fuel in the UK.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Phrasal verbs (inseparable)

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What new information does Google Maps show in the UK?
   Live petrol and diesel prices.
2. Which platform provides the price data to Google Maps?
   The government's Fuel Finder platform.
3. About what percentage of forecourts does Fuel Finder cover?
   About 99% of forecourts.
4. What recent record price is mentioned for diesel?
   £2 a litre in the UK.
5. Why is Google adding live prices to the map?
   To make prices clearer and boost competition, helping drivers save money.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Some phrasal verbs are inseparable: the verb and particle stay together; you can't put the object between them. Form: verb + particle + object (look for something, come across something). (Examples constructed.)

> *"Drivers* **look for** *the cheapest station nearby."*
> *"Users* **come across** *cheaper stations on the map."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Stations (look after customers / look customers after) well. **look after customers**
2. Users (listen updates to / listen to updates) at home. **listen to updates**
3. Some drivers (wait for lower prices / wait lower prices for). **wait for lower prices**
4. Many motorists (rely maps on / rely on maps) when travelling. **rely on maps**
5. Many families (worry costs about / worry about costs). **worry about costs**