Lesson 1: Introduction to the Driving Curriculum

Goal:
The goal of this lesson is to begin to build a relationship between tutor and tutee. This lesson should help you and your tutee to begin to form connections, to get to know each other, and to help them learn more about this driving curriculum. Specifically, this should introduce the motivation behind and sequence of this curriculum.

Getting to Know You: Part A

Both tutor and tutee should answer these questions in an informal discussion:

● Where have you lived?
● What languages do you speak and write among? Any at the same time?
● What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
● What is your past experience with ILI?
● What’s your favorite season and why?

Tutee should answer:

● What is your prior experience with driving?
● What are you excited about in this curriculum? What are you nervous about?
● What would make this experience best for you?

Getting to Know You: Part B

Background on the Curriculum:

● This curriculum is designed to introduce you to the English language associated with the RMV. At the end, with outside studying, you will know how to get your driving permit in Massachusetts. This curriculum is also designed to help you reflect and learn language skills for social situations you may encounter while getting your driver’s permit.
● The main steps to getting your driver’s permit are: 1) taking a written exam in a language of your choice, and 2) taking a road test. During the road test, you will drive a car with a RMV examiner in the passenger seat.
Overview of Curriculum:

*There are ten lessons in this driving curriculum*

- Getting to know you/intro to the driving curriculum: today
- Inside the Car: Learning the vocabulary of parts inside the car
- Road signs: Learning what the signs on the side of the road mean
- Fines/Drunk Driving: Learning the rules about drunk driving and fines (or tickets) because this will be on the written exam
- IDs and documentation: Learning what paperwork you will need to bring with you when you go the RMV to take your written exam
- Practice test 1 - content: Practicing possible questions on the written exam
- Practice test 2 - studying strategies: Discussing ways to study for the written exam
- At the RMV- Learning what you will need to do and what you will need to bring with you when you go the RMV
- Road Test: Practicing what the RMV examiner will ask you to do when you drive a car for the road test
- Cumulative review & critical reflection: Reviewing everything we have done and thinking about the effects of social interactions at the RMV

*Each lesson will point you to sections of the RMV driver’s manual so that you can also study (if you choose) in between tutoring sessions. During each lesson, we will spend time reviewing the one before it. Each lesson has planned activities, but is ultimately guided by your questions and what you want to do.*

*The goal of the curriculum is to provide the English language and driving knowledge tools to succeed. The tutors, however, are not associated with the RMV and may not always agree with these rules. We can succeed in earning driving licenses and still be critical of the ways that driving in the U.S. (through interactions at the RMV and with police officers if pulled over) might negatively impact or be more difficult for certain populations in the U.S. like immigrants, black or brown people, or those in earlier stages of learning English.*

Designed by the UMass Amherst/International Language Institute project on Driving in English. See https://ili.edu/ for more information and contact rlorimer@umass.edu with questions.