



## What's going on?

Many petrol stations have been forced to temporarily close due to a shortage of delivery drivers. The government has said people should continue to buy fuel as normal, though many petrol stations have seen lengthy queues with people trying to fill up their vehicles whilst they can. Government ministers have met to try to find a solution and have agreed to allow 5,000 temporary visas for foreign fuel tanker and food lorry drivers, which means they will be able to work in the UK for three months, until Christmas Eve.

### Question:

How do lorry drivers keep our country moving?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about what we can see. Are you aware of current fuel shortages? Has it impacted any of your journeys, or have you seen any queues in petrol stations? Discuss what the current situation is like where you are.
- Explain that there are a few different reasons as to why numbers of lorry drivers are so low at the moment. Does anyone know what they could be? Coronavirus has been influential as many drivers are from other countries in Europe and chose to go back to their home country at the start of the pandemic. Brexit has also played a factor as when the UK was part of the single market, the drivers used to be able to come and go as they pleased but the additional border paperwork after Brexit meant it was a lot of hassle to drive into and out of the UK. Another reason is that the average age of a lorry driver is 55, meaning that young people aren't choosing to train to do the job.
- Discuss the importance of lorry drivers, considering all of the resources, food and other supplies they transport.
- Read through the information found on the resource, which explores the issue further. Do you think enough is being done to help solve the problem?
- Watch the day in the life of an HGV (lorry) driver video clip, link found in the web links below. Do you know anyone who works as a lorry driver? Share your experiences. What do you think would be the benefits of being a lorry driver and what parts do you think would be hard? Is it a job you think you would like to do? Are you surprised that there is a shortage of lorry drivers at the moment? What do you think may make more people consider the role?

### Reflection

Lorry drivers play a key role in so many areas of our lives. They help to transport much of the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the fuel to power our vehicles. Their role is vital to help keep the country moving!

### Web Links

**Useful video – A day in the life of an HGV driver**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRSpOLUxKoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRSpOLUxKoE)

**News story**

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58701620](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58701620)