

Driving in a big city like L.A. can be so **stressful**. It sometimes feels like I'm **doing battle** just to get to the grocery store, much less **across town**. What is it about **getting behind the wheel** that brings out people's **aggressive** side? The most **mild-mannered** mother of three turns into a race car driver when she gets on the road.

In L.A., people rely on the freeway to **commute** to their jobs or just to get around town. I think driving on the freeway has its good and bad. On the one hand, there are no **stoplights** and the **speed limit** is over 55 miles per hour so you can get somewhere **in a flash**. But, on the other hand, there are **drawbacks**, too. People like to **gun their engines** and **cut off** other cars to get ahead. The other day, I saw a guy in a **Porsche** get into the **passing lane**, race ahead of the **Honda** that was in front of him, and cut that person off. Then, the guy in the Honda tries to **catch up to** the Porsche. They're both **zipping** in and out of traffic, almost causing an accident. They were **speeding** and **changing lanes** without looking or **signalling**. I was sure they were going to cause a big **pile up**.

As an **alternate** to the freeway, I sometimes take **surface streets**. Of course, surface streets have their drawbacks, too. If you have a long commute to work or school, it can take you ages to get there. There are **stop signs**, stop lights, and **crosswalks** to deal with. And, people sometimes **tailgate** if they think you're not going fast enough. Now that I think about it, there's sometimes even more **congestion** on surface streets than on the freeways!

There's no getting around it living in L.A. We need better public transportation and more people to walk, bike, or **rollerblade** to work. But as the famous song goes, "Nobody Walks in L.A." [by the Missing Persons]