



# Lucky Brake?

by Kieran McGovern

English language level:

B2/intermediate+

On a quiet street in Moscow a **mechanic** is working on Nissan Primera. The car is parked front of a **garage**.



The mechanic goes back inside the garage. He does not **lock** the Nissan Primera. He even leaves the car keys in the **ignition**.

## Easy?

A 24-year-old thief named Yuri watches from the window of his third-floor apartment. Yuri is talking to his friend on the phone. 'The idiot has just left the car unlocked,' he says. 'This is my lucky day!'

Yuri rushes down the stairs. He hurries across to the car. The mechanic is still inside the garage.

Yuri gets into the driving seat. The hand-brake is off. Yuri turns the ignition key. The car starts first time.

Glancing in his rear mirror, Yuri drives out into the road. He looks in the mirror again. Nobody is following the stolen car!

Yuri puts his foot down on the accelerator. He is beginning to relax. With one hand on steering wheel he texts his friend: *I've got the car!!!*

At the first junction there are traffic lights. They turn red. Yuri tries to brake. But his foot goes straight down to the floor. The car does not slow down.

## Not so lucky?

Unfortunately for Yuri, the brakes of the Nissan Primera are not inside the car. They are in the hands of the mechanic working in the garage. He has taken them out of the car to repair them.

This is why Yuri cannot stop the car going through the red **traffic light**. 'Oh no!' he cries.

A police car is crossing the **junction** from the side. It crashes into the Nissan Primera.

A policeman gets out of the police car. Yuri wants to run. But he is trapped by the Primera's air bag. His phone falls out onto the road.

'What were you doing?' asks the policeman. 'Why did you got through a red light?'

He picks up the phone from the road. There is a new message from his friend.

*Well done, Yuri! It's your lucky day.*

But it is not Yuri's lucky day, **after all**. He spends the rest of it in a police cell

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## Vocabulary

**Brake** - slow or stop a car

**Break** - a chance/opportunity

**Lucky** - to have good fortune

**Mechanic** - repairs cars

**Ignition** - starts car

**Garage** - place to store car

**Lock** - close & secure

**Traffic Lights** - see *right*

**Junction** - where roads meet

**After all** - in the end



**Break & Brake** are homophones.

*Homophones are words with the same sound but different spellings and meanings.*

**Why do you think this story is called Lucky Brake? Is Yuri lucky? Why?/Why not?**

## Quick Check: True or False?

1. Yuri notices a man working on a car
2. The mechanic drives the car away
3. The brakes do not work
4. The mechanic drives the Nissan away
5. Stealing the car is easy
6. A police car chases Nissan
7. Yuri goes through a red traffic light