



Crash Magnets

Headline News



Headline News

1. A mother, who was stranded when her teething baby ate a vital part of her car key, managed to start the engine by pressing him close to the steering wheel. Her child swallowed a pill-sized electronic chip but when she pressed him against the wheel and turned the key the car started.

Serious points to think about making: modern gadgets and gizmos in cars are becoming common. Security systems are stopping theft. Manufacturers must consider the safety of small children when designing cars. Automatic devices can be dangerous for children.

Headline idea *Vroom baby vroom – better still, make up your own.*

Headline News

Student Card



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2. Eight people were injured when an overhanging tree sliced the roof off a double-decker bus.

Serious points to think about making: cutting back overgrown trees and bushes at the roadside of roads is vital for the safety of buses and lorries. Bus drivers should report any overhanging trees to the council. Is it now safer to travel downstairs on the bus? Upstairs you get a better view but perhaps things go on there that don't happen downstairs, why is that?

Headline idea *Tree chops number three – better still, make up your own.*

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3. A policeman on a mountain bike chased and arrested a drink driver who had driven off in a van. The man was banned from driving for a year and fined £200 by the court after being convicted of driving with excess alcohol.

Serious points to think about making: people who drink and drive are a danger to themselves and others on the road. Is the fine heavy enough? Supposing someone had been hurt. Is a year long enough for a ban?

Headline idea *Van man cops it – better still, make up your own.*

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4. The police have accused a motorist of treating his crate of beer better than his 9-year-old son. Officers pulled over the motorist after seeing a child jumping around in the back seat. They discovered the man and his child were not wearing seatbelts, while a case of beer was fastened in the passenger's seat.

Serious points to think about making: Bulky items should be properly secured in a car. A small child could be badly injured by a flying bottle of beer. Imagine the headline if the car had crashed. What kind of parent doesn't make sure their child has his seatbelt on?

Headline idea *Not VIP, a case of VIB – better still, make up your own.*

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5. Lorry drivers have been caught with televisions wired up in their cabs so they can watch programmes while driving. During a month-long operation police discovered trucks with screens attached to their dashboards.

Serious points to think about making: There are some things that are dangerous to do whilst driving, like watching TV. What else? Are they watching the match? Lorries carry huge loads, what could happen? What should happen to a driver who is caught doing this?

Headline idea *Telly'n truck – better still, make up your own.*

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6. A biker who raced his 1,000cc motorbike at more than 120 miles per hour to escape a pursuing police car, has been given a 15 month jail sentence. The court was told that the biker had played cat and mouse for miles with a police car.

Serious points to think about making: Why are bikes manufactured to do 120mph when the speed limit in this country is 70mph? Other people who are at risk in these dangerous road chases are often innocent bystanders. Do people get a cheap thrill from doing this? Is the sentence fair?

Headline idea ***Biker mouse trapped*** – better still, come up with your own idea.

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7. A 68-year-old woman took a wrong turn on to a harbour slipway, driving straight into the sea. She swam ashore as her car filled with water.

Serious points to think about making: Should it be necessary for drivers to have regular eye tests? People panic at times like this, what is the danger in panicking? Is she still safe to drive?

Headline idea News splash – better still, come up with your own.

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8. A 23-year-old man has been banned from driving for 12 months after he was caught reading a newspaper while driving at 60 miles per hour. He admitted dangerous driving.

Serious points to think about making: What kind of person does this? You could list all the dangerous things that drivers do whilst in control of a car. At 60 mph a driver needs 100% concentration. Maps are things that drivers often have to look at – what should they do?

Headline idea *Daily male does 60 – better still, come up with your own.*

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9. Motorists caught speeding outside a high school Technology College will avoid a £60 fine if they agree to face a panel of pupils and explain their bad driving. The school students are studying police work as part of their efforts to gain a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Serious points to think about making: Drivers are probably more scared of facing a group of school pupils than facing a court. Why do you think that is? What is the appropriate speed for a driver to be doing when passing a school?

Headline idea *Kids get tough on speed – better still, think up your own.*

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10. Millions of peas cause a rush-hour traffic jam after a lorry shed its load on a busy dual carriageway. The lorry collided with a bus and overturned, dumping 18 tons of peas onto the A1.

Serious points to think about making: What are the risks to other road users when a load is spilled. Supposing it had been a petrol lorry? Should heavily-laden vehicles be going through town at rush-hour?

Headline idea *Pea jam on A1 – better still, think up your own.*

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11. A car thief who drove at more than 100 miles per hour was jailed for 18 months. The 25 year old drove away from police in a new car he had stolen from a Honda factory. When police burst his tyres using a stinger device, he drove off on the wheel rims.

Serious points to think about making: The stinger is a good device but it can be difficult to use. Why? Are there people who do this for the thrill of it? What are the dangers to innocent people?

Headline idea *Driver gets stung – better still, think up your own.*

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12. A famous TV comedian was fined £1,000 and banned for three months after he was caught speeding on the M5 at 113 miles per hour. He was driving to his home in London when police stopped him.

Serious points to think about making: Should rich people pay the maximum fine? Celebrities, Royalty and public figures have a duty to set an example to others. Is this a good example? He was doing 43 mph over the speed limit, was he late or doing it for the thrill? Where can this kind of thrill end?

Headline idea *A grand ha ha – better still, think up your own.*

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13. A local radio presenter triggered a three-car pile-up when drivers, who were tuned in to his station, took their eyes off the road to look at a dirty building. The presenter had criticised a firm for failing to clean the windows of its property. Within minutes, the crash was reported to the radio station. No one was injured.

Serious points to think about making: Drivers are distracted by things going on outside the car: the radio, pedestrians, adverts, shops, eyeing up talent, etc. Is it the driver's fault or are there too many distractions on the road? Is it possible that one of the drivers might blame the radio station for causing the distraction?

Headline idea *Dirty pile-up* – better still, think up your own.

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14. A survey by an Ambulance Trust reveals that almost a third of drivers did not notice sirens and flashing lights used on emergency calls.

Serious points to think about making: Seconds can count in an emergency, everyone knows that. Sirens will need to be louder still to be heard above the noise of super woofers in some cars. Are drivers not looking in their mirrors? Could there be some kind of satellite control to slow cars down in emergency situations?

Headline idea *Nee naw nee naw!!!! – better still, think up your own.*

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15. An elderly motorist drove his car through a garage showroom window and damaged a Rolls-Royce. The 84-year-old man's foot struck the accelerator when he was at the petrol pump. His car shot through the window and hit a £120,000 Silver Shadow. He was unharmed.

Serious points to think about making: Other than paying for damages, what else should happen? At the age of 70 a driver has to apply for a new licence. There is no need to resit a test. Is there an age when a driver should have to be checked to see if they are still fit to drive?

Headline idea *Grandpa ram-raider – better still, think up your own.*

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16. A former Government road safety minister was banned from driving for six months after his fourth driving offence in two years.

Serious points to think about making: If a former road safety minister is banned from driving what message does that send out to people? Would he get your vote at the next election? When asked the MP was not available for comment.

Headline idea MP grounded – better still, think up your own.

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17. The teenage daughter of a TV game show host has been banned from driving after being nearly twice over the legal alcohol limit. The court ordered a 16-month ban for the girl after hearing how she was driving erratically and smelling strongly of alcohol, when she was stopped.

Serious points to think about making: If she was driving erratically what kind of thing was she doing to attract the attention of the police? Why is a teenage girl particularly vulnerable where alcohol is concerned? What are the chances that she was given a new car for her 17th birthday? She could afford a taxi, why didn't she take one?

Headline idea *Alco pop babe breathalysed – better still, think up your own.*

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18. Officials at a college have threatened wheelchair speeders with speeding tickets or expulsion. The measures are designed to prevent pedestrians being hurt.

Serious points to think about making: Should there be speed restrictions for wheelchairs, skateboards, rollerblades and scooters when it comes to using pedestrian walkways? If people on foot want to speed up, they can sprint. What's wrong with people in wheelchairs whizzing along? Is this college just worried about insurance claims?

Headline idea ***Chitty chitty whiz bang** – better still, think up your own.*

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19. A bus careered out of control as it swung around a corner in the south west. It ploughed through a garden before embedding itself into a house. The bus company's insurers are expected to pay for the damage.

Serious points to think about making: We put our trust in those who drive us in public transport be it road, rail or air. What do we expect from a driver or pilot in terms of responsible behaviour? Might this driver have been distracted by goings on in the bus? If this incident had resulted in casualties who is to blame? What is the responsibility of road engineers in cases like these?

Headline idea *Bus stops in for tea – better still, think up your own.*

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20. A 10-year-old boy was banned from driving for a further two years after being previously disqualified in January. The boy appeared in court charged with five motoring offences. He had taken his father's car without permission. He was sentenced with other previous offences and issued with a 12-month parenting order. The boy was also sentenced to an 18-month supervision order.

Serious points to think about making: Some young people, like this boy, seem to be out of control. What is the role of the family and how should he be supervised by social work? This boy may be looking for some excitement in his life, what would you suggest that he takes up instead of cars?

Headline idea *Bad lad, dad mad – better still, think up your own.*

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