

1 READING & LISTENING

a In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- Are the roads in your country safe? Why (not)?
- Look at the photos below. Why do you think these things can be dangerous to road users? Give reasons for your answer.

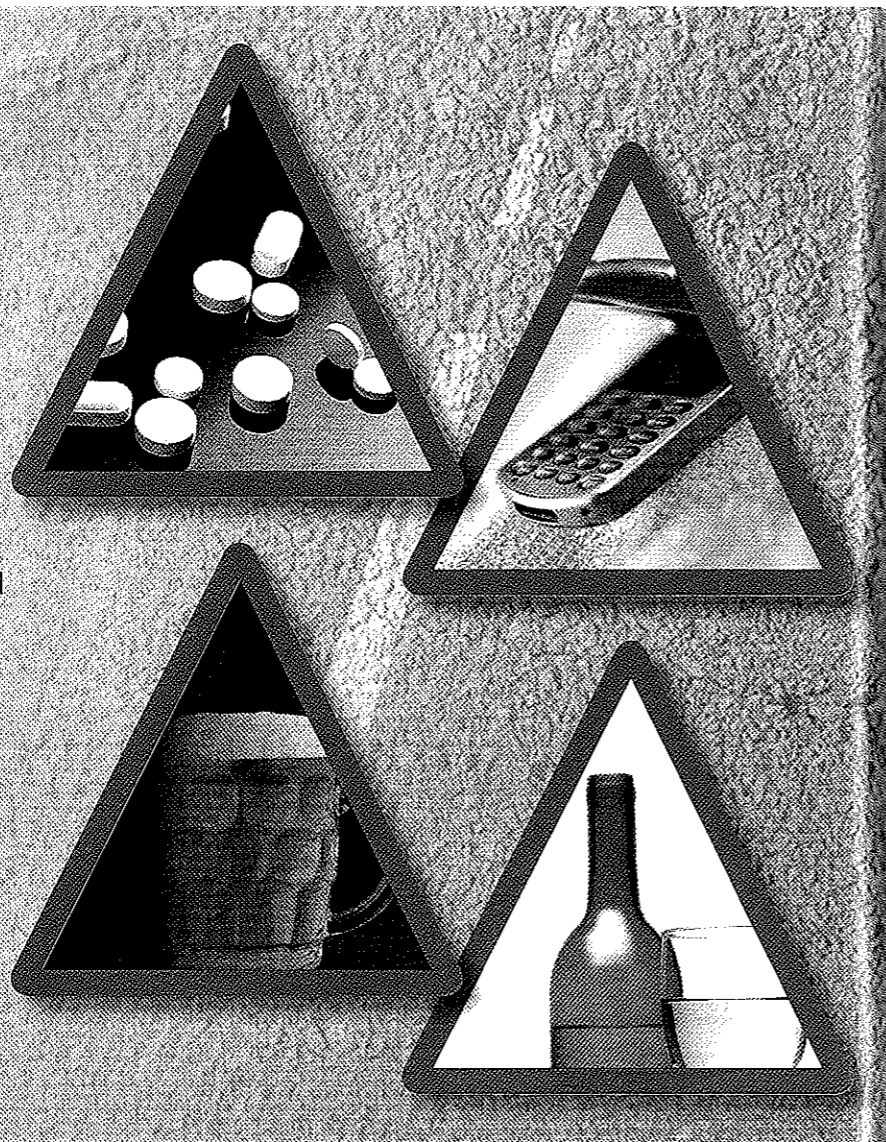


Road safety

The 27th April is European Road Safety Day for young road users. Its aim is to educate young road users to ¹ _____ road safety, and to reduce by 50 percent the number of road accidents in Europe within two years. Road accidents are the main cause of death in Europe ² _____ between the ages of 10 and 24. On 27th April, many schools in Europe organize special events, for example discussions, workshops, and poster exhibitions to promote a road safety culture.

Each year 40,000 people die on the roads in Europe in road accidents. One third of fatal accidents are caused by drivers ³ _____.

Other causes of accidents are drinking and driving, or driving under the effect of drugs or medicine; drivers and passengers ⁴ _____ or moped riders not wearing a crash helmet, and road users not respecting ⁵ _____.



b Read the article and put phrases A–E in the correct places.

- A road signs or markings
- B for young people
- C driving too fast
- D think more about
- E not wearing seat belts

c 5.1 Listen and check your answers.

2 READING & SPEAKING

a Read the article. In pairs, answer the questions.

What three things must you not do if you are driving?
What do you think the title means?

ZERO LIMIT IS THE SAFEST LIMIT!

Alcohol affects your ability to drive safely. You may feel fine but you are not. Drinking alcohol seriously affects your driving. It can slow down your reactions or overstimulate you and cause you to take risks. Even if you drink one glass of wine, a can, or a bottle of beer you are 30–40% less reactive than someone who has not drunk anything. Also, alcohol can make you sleepy, and reduce your concentration. Each year around 3000 people in the UK are killed or seriously injured in car crashes where drivers have been drinking. The only safe option is a 'zero limit' option which means do not drink any alcohol if you plan to drive, and never offer an alcoholic drink to anyone else who is driving.

Drugs can also affect the way you drive, slowing reactions, coordination, and sometimes making you sleepy or likely to take risks. It is not safe to be a passenger in a car if the driver has been drinking alcohol or taken drugs.

Another danger is mobile phone use. Speaking on the phone is a distraction, and driving at the same time can cause accidents. They are also dangerous for other road users. Sometimes accidents happen because of a pedestrian sending a text message, or speaking on a mobile phone while crossing the road. The safest option is to turn off your mobile phone when driving and never use your phone when crossing or waiting to cross a road. Remember, it is not safe to be a passenger in a car if the driver is using a mobile phone without a hands-free set.

b Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 What are the effects on you if you have drunk alcohol and drive?
- 2 What is a safe amount of alcohol to drink if you are driving?
- 3 How can drugs effect your driving?
- 4 Why are mobile phones dangerous when you are driving?
- 5 Why are mobile phones dangerous if you are a pedestrian?

c In pairs, underline any words or phrases you don't know. Try to guess their meaning. Then check them in your dictionary. Choose five to learn.

What do you think?

- ☀ What do you think young people should do to improve their road safety?

PROJECT

You are going to organize a special event for European Road Safety Day in your school next year. Design a poster for the day and plan an activity for your class. Include information on:

- what the Road Safety Day is
- when it is
- what the aims are
- what event your school is organizing
- what time the event starts
- how students can participate

