



Dangerous talk

People who have cellular phones in their cars are more likely to have traffic accidents, says an American researcher. "If you have a cellular phone in your vehicle, you have a 34 per cent greater risk of having an accident than those who do not have a car phone in their vehicle", says John Violanti, professor of criminal justice at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

5 Violanti and his colleagues came to this conclusion after looking at accident reports involving more than 100 New York drivers. Of this group, nearly 14 per cent had cellular phones in their cars.

They found that among a similar group of drivers who had never been involved in crashes, only 10-6 per cent used cellular phones. The difference implies that having a phone in the car – and, presumably, using it while driving – increases the risk of an accident.

10 However, Violanti stresses that his findings are preliminary, and that cellular phones can be useful in emergencies. He suggests that voice-activated phones, which would allow the driver to keep both hands on the wheel while chatting, could be the solution.

NEW SCIENTIST, 8 April 1995. In EVARISTO S. et al., *Inglês Instrumental: estratégias de leitura*. Teresina, Halley S.A., 1996.

06

What are the advantages of voice-activated phones over cellular phones?

- (A) Cellular phones are more useful in emergencies.
- (B) Voice-activated phones permit drivers to hold the wheel with two hands.
- (C) Voice-activated phones are easier to operate than cellular phones.
- (D) Voice-activated phones can also be used in emergencies.
- (E) You cannot drive while chatting on voice-activated phones.

07

The text analyses the topic – **cellular phones** – from a _____ perspective.
Mark the option that best completes the gap.

- (A) theoretical
- (B) conclusive
- (C) criminal
- (D) geographical
- (E) statistical

08

The percentage of New York drivers not involved in accidents suggests that:

- (A) Drivers who have cellular phones in their cars are more involved in accidents.
- (B) Most car accidents are caused by the use of cellular phones in cars.
- (C) Having a cellular phone in the car is a prerogative of New York drivers.
- (D) The risk of accident is lower for drivers who have cellular phones in their cars.
- (E) New York drivers prefer to use voice-activated phones.

09

The word “it” (line 8) refers to:

- (A) difference
- (B) car
- (C) crashes
- (D) phone
- (E) drivers

10

Read the issues below and mark the one that is **not** discussed in the text.

- (A) Violanti and his colleagues favour voice-activated phones to be used while driving.
- (B) Drivers who use cellular phones have a greater risk of accidents.
- (C) The number of victims in car accidents is intrinsically related to the use of cellular phones.
- (D) Statistics point to the risks of using a cellular phone while driving.
- (E) Voice-activated phones are less risky than cellular phones.