



Level Crossings - DANGER!

The text below is from part of a BBC television program called 'Top Gear'. It is presented by Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond.



Richard



Jeremy

Check the meaning of the following words and phrases in a dictionary or with your teacher.

inundated

level crossing

announce

belief

crash

elderly

wrong way

Read the text and answer the questions in the box below.

Jeremy: Now in the summer we were inundated with a letter from a Railway company who asked us to do a feature on the show about the dangers of level crossings.

Richard: Yeh, but even though we don't make health & safety public information films I thought I could pull it off, until HE barged into the office and announced he wanted to do it.

Jeremy: Yes, so I practiced my serious voice and this is what I came up with...

Film: (Jeremy)

It is a commonly held belief that younger drivers are the ones who cause all Britain's car accidents - tearing about on drugs with their hats on back-to-front. But the truth is that elderly people are 4 times more likely to have a crash than their grand children.

When was the last time you heard of a young person driving the wrong way down a motorway? Never, it's always an old person in their 80's.

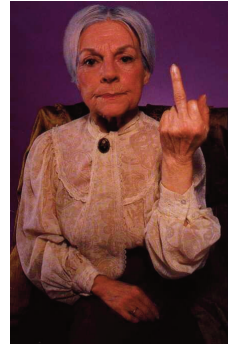
And how often do you hear of a young person driving their car into the sea? Again, never. It's always an old lady in a Fiesta.

But now it seems Britain's old people have found a new way to get their kicks...

Terrifyingly, they are jumping the lights at level crossings!

1. Who wanted the Top Gear team to make a 'public information film' ?
2. Who cause the most accidents in Britain?
3. Who wear their hats on back-to-front
4. How often do you hear of young people driving into the sea?
5. How have old people found a new way to get their kicks?

How old is old?



Young people think old people, or Seniors as they are called in America, should not drive. Many Seniors disagree. What do you think? Who is the oldest person you know who drives a car?

The text below is from a blog (Weblog) where the author writes about Seniors & driving. Read the text - do you agree?

Old Driving Force
March 3rd, 2007



Yet another reason to keep old people out of the drivers seat. An 80 year old woman crashed into the test centre where she was sitting a road safety exam, injuring 11 people.

How can someone take control of a car when they can't even control their bladder?

Old people are given bus passes for a reason. It's selfish and in complete denial to operate a car when your joints make more noise than a deisel engine.

It's ridiculous. We've got a 100 year old woman renewing her drivers license in the US while a report from the Association of British Insurers found that drivers aged 70 or over are three times more likely to be in a car crash than those aged between 45-60.

Don't get me wrong, there will be super-oldies who are brilliant drivers and could reverse park me into oblivion. I just think that most should be queuing for a bus rather than a petrol pump.

If they retired the car, they could invest in something more appropriate. Perhaps a stairlift?

DIY Questions - Make 4 questions from the text

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Driving service for seniors



This news story is about a special taxi service for seniors. Read the text and complete the DIY box below.

Driving Miss Daisy is a cab and companion service for senior citizens, that takes them shopping, to doctor's appointments, social events, etc. The company prides itself on providing extra care and security to its elderly customers, at affordable prices. Driving Miss Daisy currently has seven cars in Edmonton, Calgary, and is looking to expand to other cities.

The Senior population in most of Europe and North-America are creating ample opportunities for products and services aimed at making older consumers' lives easier. Particular for those that allow them to remain independent. While non-profit, government-subsidized transportation services are fairly wide-spread, they usually can't offer the extra time and convenience that a commercial service can.

Driving services should work particularly well if marketed not only to senior customers, but also to their (busy) children, who don't always have enough time to help out their parents as much as they would like. A rewarding business idea for caring entrepreneurs!

DIY - True or False

Think of 5 true or false questions using the text above.

	True	False
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>