

Pick a Word

Use the word or words in the box that best matches each statement below.

auditory distraction	gawking
biomechanical distraction	projectile
cognitive distraction	rubbernecking
distracted driving	visual distraction
driver inattention	

- _____ 1. When a person continually looks all around the scene of a crash or fire
- _____ 2. You are not focusing mentally on the primary task of driving
- _____ 3. When a driver’s awareness and focus drift to anything other than the driving task
- _____ 4. Anything that causes you to take your eyes off the roadway ahead
- _____ 5. When an event, person, activity, or object draws a driver’s attention away from the driving task
- _____ 6. Any distraction caused by sounds
- _____ 7. Flying objects that could be a hazard to a driver or passenger
- _____ 8. Any mechanical act not specifically related to driving that is performed by a driver
- _____ 9. When a person stares

Match the Distraction

Match the categories of distraction in the box below to each statement.

auditory distractions	cognitive distractions
biomechanical distractions	visual distractions

- _____ 1. Pushing a button or turning a dial
- _____ 2. Holding a conversation with a passenger
- _____ 3. A billboard
- _____ 4. A crying child or a siren
- _____ 5. Eating
- _____ 6. Picking up a CD
- _____ 7. A large dog blocking your rearview mirror
- _____ 8. Your favorite song on the radio
- _____ 9. Colorful street performers
- _____ 10. Thinking about what you will wear to a party

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Test Your Knowledge

Check correct or incorrect for each situation. If the statement is incorrect, write the word or words that would make the statement correct.

1. Driver distraction does not necessarily deal with a specific event.
2. There are four categories of distraction.
3. Driver inattention is a major factor in most crashes and near-crashes.
4. A person can multitask and still focus enough on the driving task to be a low-risk driver.
5. If you are fatigued, stop and stretch, or switch drivers.
6. Manipulating your cell phone can possibly fall into all four categories of distraction.
7. If you are already in traffic and notice an insect in your car, brake immediately.
8. Eating or drinking while driving can create both visual and biomechanical distractions.
9. Gawking that causes a traffic backlog is only a minor distraction.
10. Novice drivers are less likely to be distracted by passengers than experienced drivers.

	Correct	Incorrect	Corrections
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Reduce Distractions Inside the Vehicle

List five examples of how to reduce inside-the-vehicle distractions.

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

Use the Charts

Use the charts shown to answer the questions below.

Chart A
Cell phone behavior compared by selected demographics

Driver Cell Phone Use as Observed from the Roadside		
	Drivers holding phones to their ears	Drivers speaking with headsets
All Drivers	5%	0.6%
Males	4%	0.4%
Females	6%	0.8%
<i>Apparent Age:</i>		
16–24	8%	0.7%
25–69	4%	0.6%
<i>Drivers with:</i>		
no passengers	6%	0.8%
at least one passenger	2%	0.1%


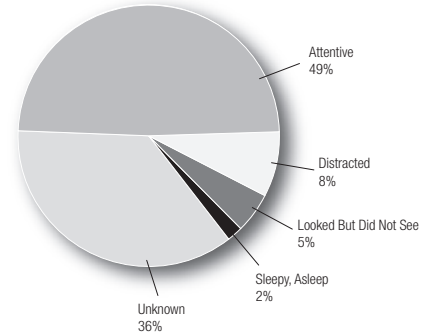


Chart B
Attention status of drivers in crashes



1. What information does chart B measure? _____

2. Do more drivers hold phones to their ears, or use a headset? _____
3. In chart B, what percentage of drivers was focused on the driving task? _____
4. How does the presence of a passenger affect cell phone use while driving? _____

5. In chart B, what is the total percentage of drivers who were distracted by a specific event or activity? _____

6. Which gender uses the phone more while driving? _____
7. Why do you think younger drivers use cell phones while driving more than older drivers? _____

8. In chart B, what do you think is the cause behind the unknown 36 percent? _____

Inside or Outside Distractions

Check the box to the right that best applies to each distraction below.

1. Street carnival
2. Roadside fire
3. Changing the radio station
4. Talking on your cell phone
5. Wasp on the dashboard
6. Raccoon carcass
7. AMBER alert message board
8. Cluttered back window ledge

	Inside the Vehicle	Outside the Vehicle
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

Test Your Knowledge

Complete the statements about driver distraction.

- _____ 1. Although distracted driving is a form of driver inattention, it differs in that it is usually triggered by some _____.
- _____ 2. Drivers have very little, if any, control over _____ distractions.
- _____ 3. Drivers can _____ distractions within their vehicles by knowing the locations of controls, securing any objects or pets, avoiding the use of cell phones, and controlling passengers' behaviors.
- _____ 4. Driver _____ is often what causes a traffic backlog, not an actual crash.
- _____ 5. Safe driving requires drivers to stay _____ on the driving task.

Study the Statements

Check correct or incorrect for each statement.

1. Fatigue is a form of driver inattention.
2. Distraction occurs when a driver chooses to do something that is not necessary to the driving task.
3. You can take your eyes away from the road for up to four seconds and still have enough time to react appropriately to hazards.
4. In some communities, you can face police action for loud music.
5. Driving distraction-free is very easy; most people are just lazy.

	Incorrect	Correct
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		