Europe's cars to have speed limiters

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All new cars sold in Europe from 2022 will have technology to limit their speed. New safety rules from the European Union will require new cars to have "intelligent speed assistance" systems. These will be standard equipment on cars, just like seatbelts and airbags. There are other things that cars will be fitted with. All cars will have breathalyzers that won't allow driving if the driver has drunk too much alcohol. Cars must also have advanced emergency braking, a built-in data recorder, drowsiness and distraction monitoring, and sensors to help when reversing. The EU said 25,000 people are killed each year on Europe's roads. Most accidents are caused by human error. The new safety systems will reduce road deaths.

There has been mixed reaction to the new safety features. Some people agree with them, while others disagree. The EU said the features would make driving a lot safer. It said: "With the new advanced safety features...we can have the same kind of impact as when safety belts were first introduced." It added that the new safety features could save up to 10,500 lives and avoid up to 60,000 serious injuries by the year 2030. Many drivers are unhappy with the technology. They say it could make roads more dangerous because driving requires human judgment. One British driver said he didn't want data recorders in his car because that was like Big Brother was watching him.

Sources: mashable.com / fortune.com / cnn.com

Writing

Cars should be designed so they cannot exceed the speed limit. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

new cars / technology / speed / safety / intelligent / assistance / alcohol / reversing / road deaths / mixed reaction / advanced / impact / unhappy / technology / data

True / False

a) Europe's cars will have speed-limiting technology by 2022. T / F

b) Cars in Europe will also have a breathalyzer to check alcohol in drivers. T / F

c) Technology in cars will check to see if the driver is sleepy. T / F

d) Road accidents kill around 25,000 people a year in Europe. T / F

e) Most people hate the idea of the speed limiters in cars. T / F

f) The EU said the safety features will have a similar effect to seatbelts. T / F

g) There could be up to 60,000 fewer injuries by 2030. T / F

h) A British motorist said data recorders were like Big Brother is watching. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**limit**	a.	permit
2.	**standard**	b.	stay away from
3.	**allow**	c.	mistake
4.	**drowsiness**	d.	effect
5.	**error**	e.	normal
6.	**reduce**	f.	motorist
7.	**impact**	g.	restrict
8.	**avoid**	h.	reasoning
9.	**judgment**	i.	sleepiness
10.	**driver**	j.	lower

Discussion – Student A

a) What are speed limits like in your country?

b) How safe is driving?

c) What do you think of a speed limiter in cars?

d) Do you think these features will make driving safer?

e) How important are safety belts and airbags?

f) How useful is a built-in data recorder?

g) What do you think of driving?

h) How can we reduce the number of deaths on the roads?

Phrase Match

1. New safety rules from
2. These will be standard
3. if the driver has drunk
4. a built-in
5. sensors to help when
6. There has been mixed
7. have the same kind
8. avoid up to
9. driving requires human
10. like Big Brother was

a. too much alcohol
b. judgment
c. reversing
d. 60,000 serious injuries
e. watching him
f. equipment on cars
g. data recorder
h. reaction
i. the European Union
j. of impact

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What do you think of speed limits?
c) What do you think of breathalyzers in cars?
d) What other safety features do cars need?
e) How could a built-in data recorder make driving safer?
f) Is car technology safer than human judgment?
g) Do you think the new technology is like Big Brother?
h) What questions would you like to ask the EU about this technology?

Spelling

1. New afesty rules
2. speed sitsaascne systems
3. standard upiqmenet on cars
4. dvancaed emergency braking
5. rosdniwess and distraction monitoring
6. deruce road deaths
7. There has been mixed ecritaon
8. while others igasrdee
9. have the same kind of mpaict
10. avoid up to 60,000 serious ujirneis
11. driving requires human ugjemdnt
12. data crdroeers

Role Play

Role A – Speed
You think speed is the most important aspect of road safety. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): traffic police, wearing a seatbelt or drivers wearing a helmet.

Role B – Traffic Police
You think more traffic police is the most important aspect of road safety. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): speed, wearing a seatbelt or drivers wearing a helmet.

Role C – Wearing a Seatbelt
You think wearing a seatbelt is the most important aspect of road safety. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): traffic police, speed or drivers wearing a helmet.

Role D – Drivers Wearing a Helmet
You think drivers wearing a helmet is the most important aspect of road safety. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): traffic police, wearing a seatbelt or speed.

Speaking – Road Safety

Rank these with your partner. Put the best important aspects of road safety at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- age of cars
- seatbelts
- airbags
- driver helmets
- speed
- overtaking
- police
- radar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. f

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d T	e F	f T	g T	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.