



## 'Belt Up'

**Wearing a seatbelt is one of the best ways you can avoid injury should you be in a crash. Whether you are nipping round the corner or travelling for hundreds of miles, it is a fact that in a car crash a driver or passenger not wearing a seatbelt is more likely to die or suffer serious injury than someone wearing one.**

By law, passengers aged 14 and upwards are responsible for ensuring they are wearing a seatbelt, not the driver.

### DISCUSS

**Some of the reasons given when passengers are caught not wearing a seatbelt:**

- I was only going round the corner.
  - The car was only going slowly.
  - Seatbelts are uncomfortable.
1. What other reasons do people give for not belting up whilst in a car?
  2. Why do all passengers on an aircraft obey the fasten seatbelt signs?
  3. Elderly people sometimes don't belt up in cars. Why is that?

In the light of a pilot project that is taking place in which convicted drink drivers are breathalysed at the point of the car ignition each time they get into the driver's seat, it is easy to imagine a device being fitted to the cars of drivers who have been involved in a previous driving offence, which triggers an in-car safety message before the engine starts.

### ACTIVITY

- Working in pairs or threes, invent a short in-car safety message, 30 seconds max. Have paper to write on. This would be transmitted prior to the car ignition engaging with the engine. It could have a serious tone giving sound advice on in-car safety matters or it could be a 'cheesy' informal message using slang but no swearing. Be creative, be cheeky if you like, imagine that the car has a bit of an attitude.

E.g. *"If you think this car is moving anywhere without the seatbelt fastened you better think again. I'm not having your innards all over my nice leather upholstery so put it on now or get your back-side off my seats."*

or

*"I'm going to ask you very, very, very, very, very, etc. nicely to put your seatbelt on, on, on, on."*

Act it up, use humour, different voices/accents, do it robot style if you want.

### DISCUSS

1. Would it work, would people belt up if they heard an in-car message? If not, why?
2. If it didn't have success how could you change it to make it work?
3. Supposing the engine was permanently immobilised if seatbelts were left unfastened.
4. What do you see as the future of seatbelts?