Driving With High-Tech Tools

Hala Abou Seka

Using your smart phone in the car can sometimes make sense. For example, if you want to know how the traffic is, all you need to do is to check your phone. You can also use your phone as a navigation system, which cuts down on your need for other gadgets such as a GPS.

However, it is unsafe to be looking at your phone while you are trying to drive. You might get distracted and cause accidents. Some teenagers like to text while driving, but it’s very dangerous to do so. Do you know that texting takes your eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds? At 55 miles per hour, that’s like driving an entire football field while blindfolded!

When people talk on the phone while driving they think it’s less dangerous than texting. But what they don’t realize is that even with their eyes on the road, their mind is not on driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2010, driver distraction was the cause of 18% of all fatal crashes in the United States.

It’s discouraging that this generation has grown up with these tools, but they don’t always understand when it’s inappropriate or risky to use them. I am afraid that without rules or common sense, constant use of so-called “smart” phones will endanger the community and cause terrible problems for future generations.

I agree with states whose laws ban cell phones while driving. If a person needs to text or make a call, they should pull over to a safe place. That way, they can save their own life as well as their passengers’ lives. This is especially important if you are transporting children. Adults will teach their kids a valuable lesson because children learn from their parents’ behavior.

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Say What You Think

First, a little grammar practice. Add the correct punctuation to the sign above.

Now...make up your own sign. Or write a Tweet, a Facebook post, a blog entry, or a phrase you might see on a bumper sticker. Be persuasive. Try to convince people of your opinion about driving with high-tech tools.

Collect/share comments and responses.