

SECTION 4

TUTOR Well, good afternoon. In today's session John Upton will be sharing some of the findings of his research project from last term. John...

JOHN Thanks. Well, first of all, a little bit about the background to the project. Our title, as you can see, is pretty straightforward: 'car safety'. But these days there's a lot more to it than the usual injunctions about drinking and driving or speeding. I had been interested and horrified by several newspaper reports on what people call 'road rage'. For example the famous incident of a man getting out of his car in a car park and hitting the driver of a van who had overtaken him earlier. It seemed to me that there were almost as many serious problems when cars were parked... i.e. were stationary... as when they were travelling at 90 miles an hour. So I decided to make this the focus of the project. Q31

For our research we depended mainly on talking to individuals, asking them questions rather than using written questionnaires. We stopped people at a selected garage on the motorway over a two-day period, and asked them questions about what they'd observed or experienced themselves. Our respondents were both men and women, but the women were just slightly in the majority. We were pleased by the public's willingness to stop and Q32 Q33

chat to us...in the end we talked to a total of 135 drivers over those two Q34
days.

So what were our findings? Well, as you can see, 93% of respon-
dents had had some kind of problem. A surprisingly large percentage—
24% had had their car damaged in some way, but the main type of inci- Q35
dent was being shouted at – 79% had experienced that. 15% had experi-
enced violence on their own persons...they'd actually been hit by someone.
The police tended only to be informed when there was physical violence in-
volved.

So what strategies had people developed to ensure their own safety?
Let's have a look at the figures here. Well, first of all, it was quite strik-
ing that there were often distinct answers from the men and women. It
was mainly women, for example, who said one shouldn't ever stop to find Example
out how to get somewhere. Whereas it was men who said you should try to Q36
avoid looking directly at other drivers. Both men and ...oh sorry no... it
was women who said you had to tell someone when you were due to get to a Q37
particular destination. Then, I had thought that it would be mainly men,
but both sexes made the point that it's much safer to get keys out well in Q38
advance as you go towards your car. Men were very aware that muggers or
whatever might be concealed behind the car. They also made the point that Q39
you should leave plenty of room when you park your car so you can make a
quick getaway if you need to. Finally, locking doors at all times...men Q40
didn't think it was quite as important as women, but both gave it a high
safety rating.

When we asked them what they thought the best improvements had
been in the last five years in helping with road rage problems...

10-15	16-25	26-40
you are likely to get and recognize what's happening and we think that having more of time to think about before you get into the car is better than just driving and not thinking about it at all and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car	you are likely to get and recognize what's happening and we think that having more of time to think about before you get into the car is better than just driving and not thinking about it at all and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car	you are likely to get and recognize what's happening and we think that having more of time to think about before you get into the car is better than just driving and not thinking about it at all and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car and you're more likely to be in a better state of mind when you get into the car