

PHONE-FREE ON THE ROAD?

A new law bans all cell phone use while you are driving—including talking on the phone and texting. The fine¹ for breaking the law² is high, but many drivers are ignoring the ban. What do you think about this problem?

Simon R. Peru

Look, I've got a phone, and I'm glad to have it. But come on! Talking on the phone, checking social media, or texting while you're driving is crazy. And yet, I see people doing things like this every day. Using your phone and driving at the same time causes accidents. There have been many studies to prove this. My question is, where are the police? They don't seem to care, so it's easy for drivers to ignore the law. When people are afraid of getting a large fine, phone use in the car will stop. Everyone needs to learn that when you drive, you should turn off your phone. It's very simple!

Alexis C. Greece

OK, I agree—texting while driving is hazardous. But can we really ban all phone use in cars? For example, yesterday I was driving home, and I saw an accident on the road. I called and reported it. Did I stop driving to make the call? No. But did I help someone? Yes. We need to talk more about this new law. I just don't think the answer to the problem is so simple.

Ann T. China

I don't think we can ban all phone use in cars—especially if you use a hands-free device³ while driving, like I do. Sometimes my friend is in the car with me. I talk to her while I'm driving. Isn't that dangerous? I mean, isn't talking on the phone the same as talking to a passenger? In my opinion, they are the same, and so I think we should be able to chat on the phone while we're driving.

¹A fine is money you pay when you break a law.

²If you break a law, you do something illegal.

³A hands-free device allows you to use your phone in the car without touching it or looking at it.

Read for opinions. Read the article. Then complete the sentences below. Why does each person have this opinion about cell phones and driving? Write a reason.

1. Simon thinks some / all cell phone use should be allowed / banned.
Reason: ..

2. Alexis thinks some / all cell phone use should be allowed / banned.
Reason: ..

3. Ann thinks some / all cell phone use should be allowed / banned.
Reason: ..

Infer meaning. Find these expressions in the reading:

come on, I mean, look

Match each expression with its meaning.

Use this expression to...

1. say you disagree with something

2. make something you've just said clearer _____

3. introduce an important point