Can you really multitusk?

competing	suffer	unfairly	research	perception
focusing	actively	react	over-stretched	include
accurately	images	experience	directly	

Talking on the phone actually uses some of the same mental resources which are needed for _____ of the driving scene. When you talk to someone who isn't physically present in the car, you create mental _____ of where they are, what they're saying, and what they're doing. The mental resources needed to create these pictures in your head are also needed to accurately perceive the driving situation.

So, the tasks of talking on the phone and driving are actually _____ for limited mental resources in your brain. What this means is that a driver who is _____ on their phone conversation may fail to _____ perceive the driving scene. This means that they can look _____ at a hazard, yet fail to see it, because their mental resources are _____. This is known as 'Inattention blindness'. Dual tasking drivers can _____ from inattention blindness to the extent that they are more likely to crash, less likely to notice hazards, and take much longer to _____ to any hazards that they do see.

If you missed some of the hazards in the video, you may have been surprised when you looked back at it again. You had your eyes on the screen the whole time, and were _____ looking for hazards, yet perhaps still failed to see some of them. If you noticed most of the hazards – well done – but remember, this task didn't _____ any real driving. It's likely that if you were actually having to control your vehicle at the same time as looking for hazards, your performance would have been worse.

You may also feel that perhaps the shopping list task was _____ difficult, and that in real life someone would just text you their list. This is a fair point, but we've used this approach here as it demonstrates how easily people can _____ inattention blindness. We've carried out lots of _____ in this area, using more natural conversation tasks, and have still been able to demonstrate that drivers talking on the phone can look but fail to see.

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