



ROAD  
TRAVEL  
REWARDS

**NRMA Young Driver Road Safety Program**  
**Unit 6: Buying a safe first car**  
**Teaching Notes**

## PROGRAM DESIGN

Students to watch the video either individually or as a class group. The following multiple choice questions appear throughout the video to check engagement and understanding - If students have logged into EdPuzzle individually their responses and progress will be shared with you at the start of the following week. This document contains further discussion questions and extension tasks.

## SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

These questions pop-up as part of the video to check student engagement and understanding.

Which demographic of people tend to buy the oldest cars?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>young drivers</b></li> <li>b. experienced drivers</li> <li>c. families with children</li> </ul>
Research has found that there would be a ___% reduction in death and serious injury if a young driver chose to buy the safest car they could, within the same budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 16%</li> <li>b. <b>60%</b></li> <li>c. 86%</li> </ul>
The 1998 Toyota Corolla is rated with 0 stars according to ANCAP. Which of the following is NOT a comment by ANCAP regarding its condition following the crash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Catastrophic structural failure</li> <li>b. <b>Walked away</b></li> <li>c. Extremely high risk of serious head, chest and leg injury</li> <li>d. Unsurvivable</li> </ul>
Howsafeisyourcar.com uses over 26 years of data from crashes in Australia and New Zealand. The database provides a rating for each car based on how well:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>the car protected the car's occupants in a crash</b></li> <li>b. the car was able to structurally withstand a crash</li> <li>c. the occupants were able to manoeuvre the car to avoid a crash</li> </ul>
Is it safe to assume that a reliable car is also a safe car?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes</li> <li>b. <b>No</b></li> </ul>
According to ANCAP, if you buy a new car it is guaranteed to be safe because it has all the newest safety features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. True</li> <li>b. <b>False</b></li> </ul>
You have completed Unit 6. Do you understand the safety features to consider when buying your first car?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Yes</b></li> <li>b. <b>No</b></li> </ul>

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Facilitated class or group discussion is highly recommended for these questions.

1. Rates of death and serious injury are higher for 17-20 year olds in older cars compared with newer cars. Provide a possible reason for this.

Student responses: Combining risk factors - in-experience, risk taking and a lack of modern safety features.

2. In the video of the 1998 Toyota Corolla and 2015 Toyota Corolla involved in a head-on collision, explain the difference between the two cars in the crash. Compare this to a current model?

*From the video the most obvious difference is the presence of air bags in the newer model.*

*An online search reveals that:*

*The 1998 model was described as having minimal passive safety but by 2015 passive safety (8 airbags) and a reinforced body structure, had improved but also Active Safety features like Electronic Stability Control, Anti-Skid brakes were included.*

*2025 models have advanced airbags, strong chassis, whiplash-injury lessening seats, plus a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, and lane departure alert.*

**Key Takeaway:** *The gap between 1998 and 2015 showed huge leaps in how cars survive impacts, while the jump to 2025 is about preventing impacts altogether with intelligent driver aids, making the modern Corolla vastly safer.*

3. Discuss what someone should consider when buying their first car.

Student responses will vary but may include:

- Cost
- Colour
- Size
- Car condition/history/mileage
- Make and Model - reliable/features
- Safety rating

4. How has ANCAP improved both the manufacturing and consuming of cars?

ANCAP: -made safety a primary purchasing consideration for consumers.

-encourages manufacturers to continuously improve vehicle safety ahead of regulatory mandate.

5. Name one thing that you learnt from "Unit 6: Buying a safe first car" that you will share with your friends/family.

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

ON THE MOVE – Transport for NSW

### [The knock-on effect - impact of road crashes on family and community | On the move](#)

This activity will help students plan, rehearse and evaluate options for managing situations where their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing is put at risk by getting into a car with a person under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

### [Transport options in the local community | On the move](#)

Students learn that while transport is an essential part of life for them as young people, enabling them to access education, training, employment, and social and recreational opportunities, many young people face significant transport barriers, which are even more severe in regional and rural areas.

### [Social media and the risk-taking culture | On the move](#)

By analysing how norms, stereotypes and expectations may influence individual and group identity, students learn to understand how social media can encourage high levels of risk taking amongst young people and think twice about messages portrayed in posts.

### [Play It Safe | On the move](#)

Play It Safe requires students to work on a project over an extended period of time. The resource has been developed as eight activities that are about 60 minutes each in duration. Individual project diaries allow each student to record their successes and challenges as they work to design a product that answers the question: "How can we promote safer road use amongst young people in our local community?"



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## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Hello future driver, my name is Stephanie and I work at the NRMA. Unit 6 of our young driver road safety program is all about buying a safe first car. In this unit you'll find what you need to do and what you need to look for when choosing your first car. Everyone dreams of buying their first car but sometimes we fall in love with a car that just doesn't have the safety features that are needed to prevent or protect us if we were to have a crash.

We have seen this graph before. The significant spike in fatal and injury crashes in the first years of driving mean that having a safe car is vital to increasing your safety on the road. This presentation will help you to find the car with the most safety features at the price you can afford.

So who tends to drive the oldest cars? It is usually people on a tight budget. This typically includes older people as well as young people. Some young people may end up with an older car as a gift or a result of a great deal from a family member or friend who is buying a newer car. Because these cars are older, often they cost less to buy and they also have fewer safety features.

Cars come at all prices, and some cars are safer than others. Australian researchers looked at what would happen if young drivers bought the safest car they could find within their budget. Their research showed that safer cars would reduce injury and death stats by 60%.

The age of the car is also crucial. Research data from 2021 shows road deaths for drivers aged between 17 and 25 had the highest occurrence in cars between 15 and 19 years old. More than 80% of fatalities occurred in cars that were over 10 years old. This doesn't mean that there were fewer crashes in newer cars. Newer cars just have better technology to protect drivers and passengers in these crashes, resulting in fewer deaths. Based on this research it's clear that when buying a car, we must make sure it's less than 10 years old and that we buy the safest car that we can find within our budget.

This next video shows the difference the age of a car makes. The girl in the video is driving a 1998 Corolla whereas the man is driving a 2015 Corolla.

### **(VIDEO :59)**

Both cars had the best technology available at the time. From looking at the colour coded dummies, it's clear that the man would have walked away with very few injuries. For the girl, unfortunately, survival is not likely in the crash with the 98 Corolla.

When buying a used car your first step is to research its safety rating. Look up "used car safety ratings" and you'll find this website. It is a database of all real-world crashes that happened in Australia and New Zealand over the past 26 years. Each car is rated from 1 star to 5 stars.

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Aim to always to buy a 5-star car. If your car is less than 5 – then save up for a bit longer to ensure you buy a car that can protect you in a crash.

Do this research a few days before buying to make sure you get the most recent crash data included.

There may come a time when a family member or friend wants to gift or sell you their ‘reliable’ old car because they’re trading up for something newer. This car may well be over 10 years old, and it may not have the safety features needed to keep you safe. So the first thing you need to do is go to the used car safety ratings site and check it out. If the car is not a 5-star car then start the discussion about selling that car and using it as a deposit for a safer car, one that can protect you if you were to crash.

If you are buying a used car privately, you won’t get any warranty, so you need to protect yourself by having an independent NRMA vehicle inspection. This will make sure the car doesn’t have any mechanical faults that could end up costing you heaps of money to repair.

If you are fortunate enough to buy a brand-new car then ANCAP or the Australasian New Car Assessment Program is where you go to find out the safety rating for your car. Remember it is not illegal to sell an unsafe car – even a new unsafe car.

### **(VIDEO 3:14)**

It costs a lot of money for a car company to undertake an ANCAP test. Don’t be fooled by car ads that say a car is safe. Go to ANCAP to check that it has a 5-star rating before you buy.

Do 5 stars really matter? Let’s have a look at how well the passenger and driver were protected in these dummy crashes.

The 5-star car on the right allowed the passenger and the driver to get out of the car and walk away safely. Unfortunately, the drivers and passengers of the other cars were not that lucky.

ANCAP has a convenient app for you to do your research. It even provides a helpful tool with step-by-step instructions on what you need to do and what information you need to obtain if you have a crash with another driver.

*NOTE: Visit [www.ancap.com.au](http://www.ancap.com.au) for more information.*

Let’s review our Key Learnings from Unit 6.

- Do your research Buy the safest car within your budget.
- Make sure the car is less than 10 years old.
- Aim for a 5-star new or used car.
- Remember, ‘reliable’ doesn’t always equal safe.
- Be confident to explain to your parents why you need the safest car possible.

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When we get on the road as a driver, passenger, or pedestrian, we join a network of people who are connected by a shared responsibility to get each other where we are going safely.

Remember: you're counting on others to make good choices, and others are relying on you!

In addition to this program, the NRMA offers a range of support services to help young drivers. Find out more by searching for us online.

*NOTE: Visit [Roadside assistance for young drivers | Free2Go up to 2 years free | The NRMA](#) to explore support services for young drivers.*



