

### Activity 3 Unsafe at Any Level of Protection?

**Directions.** Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Read the clues assigned to your group. Be careful. While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

#### **Handy Dandy Guide**

1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

#### **The Mystery**

Cars today come loaded with safety equipment: padded dashboards, seat belts, collapsible steering columns, antilock brakes, air bags, and so forth.

But recent studies show that antilock braking systems are not reducing the number of accidents people suffer, or the cost of those accidents. Similarly, auto crash injuries have increased in number since cars have been equipped with airbags.

*Why aren't safer cars producing fewer accidents?*

#### **The Clues**

1. In 1965, Ralph Nader published a book entitled *Unsafe at Any Speed*.
2. The federal government has established many laws concerning how cars are to be made safe.
3. Some drivers will drive more aggressively when they are driving a car that is well equipped with safety features.
4. Most high school students complete courses in driver's training.
5. People are often in a hurry to get to their destinations.
6. Consumers pay more for cars with anti-lock brakes and airbags.
7. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading killer for people under 35 years of age.
8. The National Highway Traffic Safety Commission (NHTSC) is the federal agency responsible for reducing highway deaths, injuries, and property damage.
9. Sport utility vehicles continue to be popular with many Americans.

**Record your solution and explain it briefly here:**

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