

Road crash

Two men raced each other in sports cars at speeds of over 190 km/h along a rural road, which led to a collision killing one of them.

William Smith (38) caused the fatal crash that left Raymond Curtis (24) dead and injured three children -- including his own son -- when he overtook Mr Curtis while speeding.

Smith's car ploughed into the gable end of a house shortly after the two-car collision, seriously injuring a nine-year-old boy who was playing hide-and-seek at the time.

He was jailed for two years after he admitted dangerous driving causing the death of Mr Curtis and three counts of dangerous driving causing serious bodily harm to 3 children.

The tragedy was the culmination of a series of events on the night of July 2nd, 2000, which started when Smith was driving his red BMW towards Oxford, with his son and his son's friend as passengers.

When they saw Mr Curtis - who the accused didn't know - driving a white Audi in the opposite direction, Smith's son made a comment about the other car being "cool", a policeman explain later. He then turned around and followed Mr Curtis for 3 km, before attempting an overtaking manoeuvre that led to the fatal collision.

The two high-performance cars hit each other close to where a family was having a party at their house in Oxfordshire.

Some children were playing hide-and-seek in the garden when Smith's car flew through the air, crashed into the house's gate and landed on top of one of the boys. Smith's son, who was travelling in the front passenger seat, was also injured while his friend, back-seat passenger, suffered serious injuries and now has the use of just one kidney as a result.

1. Comprehension exercises (2 points)

1.a. According to the text (0.5 points)

- a. Mr Smith's son was playing hide-and-seek.
- b. Mr Smith's son was sitting in the front passenger seat.**
- c. Mr Smith's son lost one kidney in the accident.

1.b. According to the text (0.5 points)

- a. It all started when Mr Smith turned around and followed Mr Curtis.
- b. It all started when he overtook Mr Curtis
- c. It all started when his son made a comment about the Audi.**

1.c. The two drivers knew each other.

(Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write the sentence supporting this idea) (0.5 points)

- **FALSE- When they saw Mr Curtis who the accused didn't know**

1.d. The fatal collision was the result of a risky overtaking.

(Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write the sentence supporting this idea) (0.5 points)

- **TRUE- Before attempting an overtaking manoeuvre that led to the fatal collision.**

2. Do the following grammar exercises according to the instructions given (2 points)

2.a. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using 'look forward' (0.5 points)

- I want to see you.

- **I'm looking forward to seeing you.**

2.b. Turn the two sentences into a clause containing 'so' (0.5 points)

- Rod doesn't like painting. He didn't come to the Museum with us.

- **Rod doesn't like painting so he didn't come to the Museum with us.**

2.c. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using 'such' (0.5 points)

- His lecture was extremely interesting; I am going to focus on the matter.

- It was **such an interesting idea that I am going to focus on the matter.**

2.d. Write the appropriate verb form of the verb in brackets (0.5 points)

- I used to **study** (to study) English an hour a day when I was at High School.

3. Identify ONLY FOUR words from their definitions (1 point)

- Going by something that is moving in order to get in front of it. **(overtaking)**

- To accelerate, quicken, travel at an excessive or illegal velocity. **(to speed)**

- Imprisoned, put behind bars. **(jailed)**

- Fashionable and attractive by the time. **(cool)**

- Evasive action. **(manoeuvre)**

- To cause body harm to. **(to injure)**

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30 – 45 words using your own words (2 points)

5. Write a composition of about 100 – 150 words on ONLY ONE of the following topics (3 points)

5.a. We all should use public transport to avoid accidents.

5.b. Driving under 18, a good idea or a risk?