

Perfect body to survive traffic accidents created

24th July, 2016



Picture Transport Accident Commission (Australia)

A road safety organisation in Australia has created a mock-up of the perfect body needed to survive a car crash. Australia's Transport Accident Commission (TAC)

has called its human-looking creation 'Graham'. TAC commissioned a sculpture of Graham and released a video to educate road users about road safety. Although Graham is humanesque, he is somewhat grotesque in parts and resembles a character from a horror movie. The BBC says: "He has a head shaped like a boulder, feet snarled like tree roots and a chest like a wrinkled battering ram." A spokesperson from TAC said Graham was designed to highlight how frail and vulnerable the human body is when involved in a vehicle collision on the roads.

TAC commissioned celebrated artist Patricia Piccinini to create the artwork for Graham. She collaborated with a leading trauma surgeon and a road crash investigation expert to get the right look and build for Graham. She gave Graham a thick skull, a wider neck, an inflatable chest that acts like airbags, and hoof-like legs that allow Graham to jump out of dangerous situations. TAC chief executive Joe Calafiore commented on why his organisation commissioned Graham as an educational tool. He said: "Cars have evolved a lot faster than humans and Graham helps us understand why we need to improve every aspect of our roads system to protect ourselves from our own mistakes."

Sources: bbc.com / sciencealert.com / news.com.au

Writing

There should be a limit on the engine size and speed of all cars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

road safety / perfect body / survive / car crash / sculpture / horror movie / tree roots / artwork / collaborated / trauma / surgeon / dangerous / educational / mistakes

True / False

- An Australian organisation has made a crash-proof car. T / F
- 'TAC' means Transport Accident Commission. T / F
- A creation called Graham came directly from a BBC horror movie. T / F
- TAC said its creation would make the human body less frail. T / F
- An artist, a surgeon and a crash investigator helped create Graham. T / F
- Graham has a thicker skull and a wider neck. T / F
- A TAC spokesman said Graham was an educational tool. T / F
- The spokesperson said cars evolved less slowly than humans. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. mock-up | a. ordered |
| 2. survive | b. joined forces |
| 3. commissioned | c. instrument |
| 4. grotesque | d. live through |
| 5. frail | e. specialist |
| 6. celebrated | f. easily broken |
| 7. collaborated | g. admired |
| 8. expert | h. model |
| 9. tool | i. feature |
| 10. aspect | j. ugly |

Discussion – Student A

- How dangerous are the roads in your town?
- What can towns do to increase road safety?
- Should there be stricter rules on motorists?
- Why do people drive dangerously?
- Are pedestrians, cyclists or motorists more careless?
- What do you think of road technology that slows cars down?
- What advice do you have for road users?
- What do you think of the idea of Graham?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. A road safety | a. roots |
| 2. he is somewhat | b. expert |
| 3. feet snarled like tree | c. vehicle collision |
| 4. highlight how frail and vulnerable | d. that acts like airbags |
| 5. involved in a | e. aspect of our roads system |
| 6. a leading trauma | f. lot faster than humans |
| 7. a road crash investigation | g. organisation |
| 8. an inflatable chest | h. surgeon |
| 9. cars have evolved a | i. the human body is |
| 10. improve every | j. grotesque in parts |

Discussion – Student B

- What is the scariest thing about being in a traffic accident?
- How safe are cars?
- Should all speed limits be reduced?
- What do you think about driverless cars?
- Should cars have a machine fitted that limits their top speed?
- What makes you angry about other road users?
- Why do we need cars with powerful engines?
- What questions would you like to ask a road safety expert?

Spelling

- TAC commissioned a trspucuel of Graham
- he is somewhat georuetsg in parts
- slmberese a character from a horror movie
- a head shaped like a edrulbo
- how frail and alerlbvenu the human body is
- involved in a vehicle lslioconi
- She aecobdlaotlr with...
- a leading mtauar surgeon
- an ellfabtian chest
- TAC chief xecveieut
- Cars have eevdlov a lot faster
- improve every ceptsa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. f
6. g	7. b	8. e	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Speeding

You think speeding is the most dangerous thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): tailgating, using mobile phones or overtaking.

Role B – Tailgating

You think tailgating is the most dangerous thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): speeding, using mobile phones or overtaking.

Role C – Using mobile phones

You think using mobile phones is the most dangerous thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): tailgating, speeding or overtaking.

Role D – Overtaking

You think overtaking is the most dangerous thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): tailgating, using mobile phones or speeding.

Speaking – Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers for motorists at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • speed | • overtaking |
| • tailgating | • lack of sleep |
| • using mobile phones | • inexperience |
| • ignoring red lights | • bad roads |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.