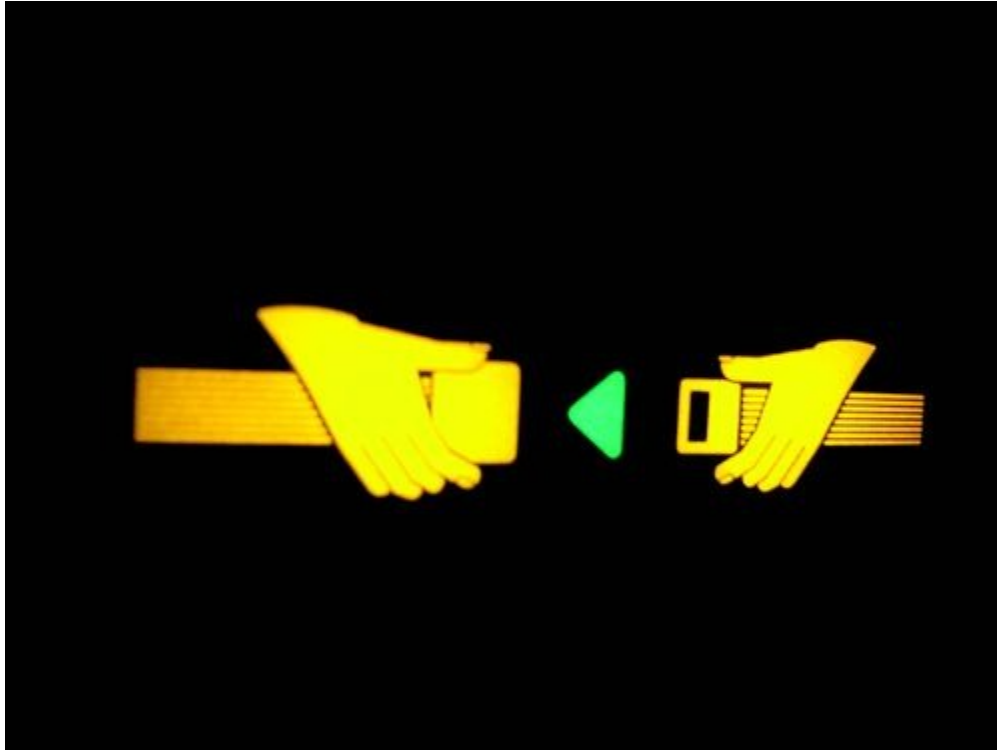


Seat Belts Mean Safety

by Linda Ruggieri



Seat belts have been keeping people safe in cars for more than fifty years. But cars did not always have seat belts.

If a car stops suddenly, people are pushed forward in their seats. In the days before seat belts, more people were thrown out of cars in accidents.

People started demanding that car companies do something to protect drivers and passengers. Companies began to develop seat belts. But designing the belts to work well was not a smooth process.

The first seat belts only went across a person's waist. These belts attached to the base of the seat in the car. These new belts held people in their seats. However, many people were still hurt in crashes.

New types of seat belts were tried. The best new ones went across a

person's chest *and* waist. These belts keep a person's whole body from moving around. As a result, fewer people get hurt in car accidents.

Although seat belts helped keep people safe, some people did not want to wear them. Later on, states passed laws that said people must wear seat belts.

Today, all cars come with seat belts. Using seat belts makes everyone safer.

Vocabulary

design

verb

definition: When you design something, you draw or make plans that show how it will look or how it will be made.

He designs costumes for movies.

She designed the new art museum for the city.

Spanish: diseñar

forms: designed, designing, designs

develop

verb

definition: When a scientist or business develops something, they create it starting from nothing.

The company developed a new version of the game last year and now people can buy it online.

Scientists are developing a new kind of plastic.

Spanish: desarrollar

forms: developed, developing, develops

process

noun

definition: When we talk about a process, we are talking about the small steps we take in order to do one big thing. For example, the process of making bread is all the things you do to make bread from the beginning to the end. The process starts with measuring the flour and ends with taking the bread out of the oven after it is baked.

At an interview, the singer talked about her process of writing a song.

Spanish: proceso, procedimiento

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What have seat belts been doing for more than fifty years?

- A. causing drivers to get into accidents
- B. keeping people safe in cars
- C. causing problems for car companies

2. The development of seat belts was an effect. What was the cause?

- A. People demanded that car companies do something to protect drivers and passengers.
- B. States passed laws that said people must wear seat belts.
- C. The best new seat belts went across a person's chest and waist.

3. Read this sentence from the text.

"Using seat belts makes everyone safer."

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A. As a result of wearing seat belts, fewer people get hurt in car accidents.
- B. People started demanding that car companies do something to protect drivers and passengers.
- C. Over fifty years ago, cars did not have seat belts.

4. Why might people have started demanding that car companies do something to protect drivers and passengers?

- A. They did not want there to be laws about wearing seatbelts.
- B. They did not like the way that seat belts felt or looked.
- C. They did not want to get thrown out of a car in an accident.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. The first seat belts went across a person's waist but not across a person's chest.
- B. Seat belts were developed to protect people in cars from getting hurt in accidents.
- C. People in a car are pushed forward in their seats when the car stops suddenly.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"These belts keep a person's whole body from moving around. As a result, fewer people get hurt in car accidents."

Why does the author use the phrase "as a result" in the second sentence?

- A. to contrast an idea in the first sentence with an idea in the second sentence
- B. to compare an idea in the first sentence with an idea in the second sentence
- C. to connect an idea in the first sentence with an idea in the second sentence

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"Seat belts have been keeping people safe in cars for more than fifty years. But cars did not always have seat belts."

Choose the answer that is closest in meaning to the second sentence.

- A. However, cars did not always have seat belts.
- B. Instead, cars did not always have seat belts.
- C. For example, cars did not always have seat belts.

8. What part of a person's body did the first seat belts go across?

9. What parts of a person's body did the best new seat belts go across?

10. Give a summary of the development of seat belts. Use no more than two sentences.
