

## Vocabuilder: Traffic Accidents

**collide (v.) / collision (n.)** – when two things (cars, etc.) hit each other

*Luckily, no one was injured in the collision.*

*The two cars collided, but both drivers were wearing their seatbelts.*

**T-bone** – when a car gets hit in the side by another car (it looks like a “T”)

*The passenger was injured when the car was T-boned by a truck.*

**rear-end (v.)** – when one car hits another car from behind

*Someone rear-ended me because I stopped too suddenly at a stop light.*

**insurance (n.)** – a system for protecting people when they get injured; if you buy car insurance, the insurance company will pay for your car if you are in an accident.

*Luckily my insurance paid for everything after the truck collided with my car.*

**jaws of life** – the tool used to cut people out of a car when they are trapped inside (after an accident)

*Rescuers had to use the jaws of life to rescue the woman from her car after the collision.*

**bumper (n.)** – the part of a car that usually hits other cars when they “bump” each other

*Most cars have bumpers on the front and back to protect them from minor collisions.*

**dent (n., v.)** – a small place that looks “pressed in” because it has been hit (but not too hard); usually a car is “dented” if it is hit by another car in a parking lot.

*There’s a dent in my car because someone backed into my car in the parking lot this morning.*

**totaled (adj.)** – when a car is completely destroyed after an accident; if a car is “totaled”, it lost all of its value due to an accident. It is cheaper to buy a new car than to fix a “totaled” car.

*After a high-speed collision, both cars were totaled. Luckily, no one was seriously injured.*

**whiplash (n.)** – a neck injury caused when the neck moves too quickly or suddenly (often in rear-end collisions)

*I’m wearing a neck brace because I got whiplash when a car rear-ended me last week.*

**skid marks (n.)** – the black lines on the road that are caused when a vehicle brakes suddenly

*Police can tell from the skid marks how fast the driver was going.*

**breath test / breathalyzer (n.)** – a test to determine if a person has been drinking alcohol

*After the accident, police gave both drivers a breathalyzer to see if they had been drinking or not.*

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collide	T-bone	rear-end	insurance
jaws of life	bumper	dent	
totaled	whiplash	skid marks	breathalyzer

Fill in the blanks below with words from the box above.

1. Mary's car was \_\_\_\_\_ after the accident, so her insurance company paid for a new car.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ prove that the driver tried to stop before the accident.
3. There is a small \_\_\_\_\_ in my passenger-side door because someone backed in to my car while I was buying groceries.
4. I accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ someone at the stop light today. I wasn't paying attention and the car in front of me stopped suddenly, so I accidentally hit it from behind. The other driver had to go to the hospital because he had \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My \_\_\_\_\_ won't pay to fix that dent in my car, so I'm just going to ignore it.
6. After the collision, rescuers had to use the \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue the woman and her daughter from the wreckage.
7. The passenger in my car was seriously injured when someone ran a red light and \_\_\_\_\_ my car.
8. A car gently rear-ended me at a stop light today, but neither car was dented because we just hit our \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The motorcyclist was seriously injured after he \_\_\_\_\_ with an oncoming car.
10. The police officer gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ because he said he thought he smelled alcohol.