

Language development: from five years to adult

Transcript of Andrew (13 years old) talking about a crash

James screamed from the pain in his chest, wondering if someone would hear him. Large cracks were still appearing on the windscreen. The glove compartment flung open, the contents strewn everywhere. Outside was silent. Debris covering the ground of smashed ice and snow.

Starting to make sense of what had happened, James tried to move down to his pocket to get his phone. Again he cried in pain. He got his phone and clumsily thumbed 999 on the keypad. "H_E_L_P" me" mumbled James, struggling to get his words out. The phone abruptly fell from his hand, hitting the floor cracking the screen into a thousand pieces. James painfully tried and tried to get his seatbelt off but – to his dismay – it was broken. Pull after pull it never moved. Inside of him, he was weeping, believing an ambulance would never arrive. That's when the wailing of a siren became audible.

The ambulance arrived at the crash, crushing the snow beneath it. Then footsteps started, getting louder and louder – closer and closer. They stopped next to the car. Then an Asian man, with a piercing on his right ear and a tattoo of a word in another language on his left hand poked his head through the car window and tried to pull the seatbelt off. That's when they heard it, the pitter-patter of fuel instantly recognisable. Then the pool of petrol trickled to the floor, spreading the pool to the floor. Without warning the petrol caught on fire making its way to the source – the engine. The paramedic quickly took a knife out of his pocket in the hi-vis jacket and started to cut the belt. The fire was almost at the engine as the sliced belt fell off James as the paramedic quickly pulled him out of the car. Then it exploded like a bomb. It left James and the nameless paramedic with severe burns across their bodies. James, with five broken ribs, a paralysed left arm and the need for a new phone.