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Does a Cell Phone Conversation Affect Reaction Time?

The purpose of this investigation is to determine how cell phone conversations affect reaction times. I hypothesized that a cell phone conversation would affect reaction time by slowing reaction time down. As cell phones are becoming more common and texting is mode of communication for many teens and adults, the idea of texting while driving is a dangerous one.

To test the question, 20 middle school students were tested. Students were asked to read a script while performing the ruler drop test. During the conversation a ruler was dropped and the distance the ruler fell was measured. By comparing the results to the speed of gravity reaction time could be measured. Times were measured with a conversation and without as the control test.

Data found that during a conversation reaction time was slower. The reaction times for those not in conversation averaged .12 seconds. While in conversation reaction times averaged .23 seconds. According to the data having a cell phone conversation causes someone to react twice as slow.

In conclusion, the original hypothesis was supported. Therefore the original hypothesis must be accepted. Performing multiple tasks dramatically slows reaction time. This investigation proves that while driving one should only be focused on driving.