



BREATHALYSER MACHINES

I. BEFORE YOU READ.

You are going to read an article about an initiative in Britain to install machines in car parks. Motorists can use these machines to check if they have had too much alcohol to drive legally. Before you read, match the words from the text in A with their definitions in B. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

A	B
prompted	supported
flashes	measure
breathalyser	commercial tricks used to attract attention to a product
gimmicks	very carefully with a lot of consideration to the consequences of your actions
accurate	machine which measures the level of alcohol in your body
full stop	measurement of the level of something
rate	piece of equipment designed to do a particular job
backed	punctuation which marks the end of a sentence
device	exact; precise
gauge	lights up at regular intervals
cautiously	encouraged or asked to do something



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2. NOW READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Do-it-yourself breath test machines in car parks

Do-it-yourself breath test machines have been installed in car parks so drivers can check if they are over the drink limit before they get behind the wheel. Drivers blow into a plastic pipe until prompted to stop and seconds later a reading flashes on a screen telling them whether they can legally drive. The car park machines use the same technology as police breathalysers.

But a spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers told motorists not to rely on the machines and issued a warning not to drink and drive. He said, "We see a lot of these gimmicks. It is difficult to know how accurate they are. Our message is: Do not drink and get behind the wheel. Full stop."

A spokesman for the company distributing the breathalysers said, "The whole point of having a breathalyser available in a car park is not to encourage drink-driving. It is to provide users with information. It does not give them a guarantee. It does not provide them with a defence if they are then stopped by the police and fail a test. The body absorbs alcohol at a regular rate and your alcohol level can rise for some time after you have had a drink. If you are close to the legal limit when you use the breathalyser, you should wait a few minutes and test yourself again."

Four machines have been installed in car parks in Leeds and Glasgow. It costs £1 to use a breathalyser and each user is provided with a clean pipe to blow through.

Frank Soodeen, of the charity Alcohol Concern, backed the machines. He said:

"This sounds like a good idea. We would welcome any device which allows drivers to accurately gauge the amount they have drunk. It encourages motorists to act responsibly. We support that."

Road safety charity Brake cautiously welcomed the breathalyser machines but warned drivers not to rely on them. Spokeswoman Dianne Ferreira said: "In principle it is good. It makes people think about how much they have drunk. But there is a danger motorists will try to drink to the limit and then use the machine to check they are OK. We urge caution." Adapted from the *Daily Mail* website



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a. Three organizations were asked for their opinion of the car park breathalyser machines: the Association of Chief Police Officers; Alcohol Concern ; Brake.

Which of these organizations was the most supportive of the machines?

Which of the organizations was the least supportive?

b. How much does it cost to use a breathalyser machine?

3. READ THE TEXT AGAIN.

Decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
You have to wait a long time for the machine to give you the results of your breath test.	___	___
The car park machines use more advanced technology than the breathalysers used by the police.	___	___
The police are not certain that the results from car park machines can be trusted.	___	___
If you are stopped by the police for drink driving, you can use the car park machine results in your defence.	___	___
As soon as you stop drinking alcohol, the alcohol level in your body starts to decrease.	___	___
The charity Alcohol Concern supports the car park breathalysers.	___	___



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4. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING EXPRESSIONS WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE TEXT.

The definition of each expression is in brackets to help you.

- a. Do-it-(do something without help from others)

- b. Get the wheel .(drive a car)

- c. The point. (the entire reason)

- d. Not to on. (not to trust)

- e. caution. (recommend strongly to do something carefully)

5. EXPRESSION.

Do you think breathalyser machines in public car parks are a good idea? Give reasons for your opinion. Would these machines be popular in your country? Why / Why not?