

Name: _____

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Two Accounts of an Accident

Below are written statements that Paul and Mrs. Brown made to the police about an accident. To what extent do Mrs. Brown's and Paul's accounts corroborate each other? Is one more believable than the other?

Paul's account

My friend and Amanda and I were driving in my car on our way to the beach. As I turned onto Main Street I pulled up behind a car driven by some old lady, who was crawling along at 40 km/h, a full 20 km/h below the speed limit. I patiently followed her for about twenty blocks then I politely honked twice to remind her that she was going too slow. She increased her speed by a couple km/h and because she is so unaware, she didn't see a kid go crossing the street on a bike. She slammed on her brakes, but it was too late. She skidded into the kid on the bike, although I am not sure how hard she hit him. Because the sun was shining so brightly, I couldn't see her brake lights go on, and by the time I realized she was stopping I slammed on my brakes, but it was too late, and I lightly bumped the back of the old lady's car. I got out of the car and ran to check on the kid, while the old lady stayed in her car.

Mrs. Brown's account

I was driving down Main Street to go visit my friend Dolores, driving the 50 km/h speed limit as I always do. A car pulled up really close behind me and repeatedly began to honk the horn and yell out the window. I wasn't sure why the driver was yelling at me, as I was doing nothing wrong. I looked for a place to pull over but there wasn't any. I began to closely watch the car behind me in the rear-view mirror, and I failed to notice a young person crossing the pedestrian walkway on a bike. I slammed on my brakes immediately, but unfortunately I was too late and I skidded forward and lightly knocked the young person off their bike. Because the driver behind me was following so closely, he slammed into the back of my car. I was so dazed after being hit that I remained in my car until the police arrived on the scene.