

11 Many car manufacturers now have car ‘configurators’ on their websites. These allow customers to design their cars online before they buy. Look at the configurator and match the menu titles (a–f) to the menus (1–6).

- a Audio/Communication
- b Safety/Technology
- c Exterior equipment
- d Seats
- e Interior equipment
- f Wheels/Tyres

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CAR CONFIGURATOR: CHOOSE YOUR EQUIPMENT



1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric adjustable and heated door mirrors, with memory <input type="checkbox"/> Remote control central locking <input type="checkbox"/> Electric slide and tilt glass sunroof <input type="checkbox"/> Towing equipment (removable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic tyre pressure monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> 8J x 17 ‘seven spoke’ design alloy wheels with 235/55 R17 tyres <input type="checkbox"/> 8.5J x 19 ‘twelve spoke’ design alloy wheels with 255/40 R19 tyres	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic climate control with individual driver and front passenger controls <input type="checkbox"/> Garage door opener <input type="checkbox"/> Rear window blind, electrically operated <input type="checkbox"/> Interior light pack	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric front seats – 14 way adjustable, with memory for front seats <input type="checkbox"/> Leather upholstery <input type="checkbox"/> Heated front and rear seats <input type="checkbox"/> Sports seats	<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-theft alarm with tow-away protection <input type="checkbox"/> Cruise control <input type="checkbox"/> Xenon headlights <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive air suspension	<input type="checkbox"/> DVD-based navigation system <input type="checkbox"/> Hands-free dual-band/GSM car telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Voice control system <input type="checkbox"/> Active speakers

Which of the menus would the following items belong to?

- A Driver and front passenger two-stage airbags
- B Child seat mounting system
- C CD autochanger for 6 discs
- D 255/45 R18 low profile tyres
- E Deluxe front centre armrest
- F Headlight cleaning system

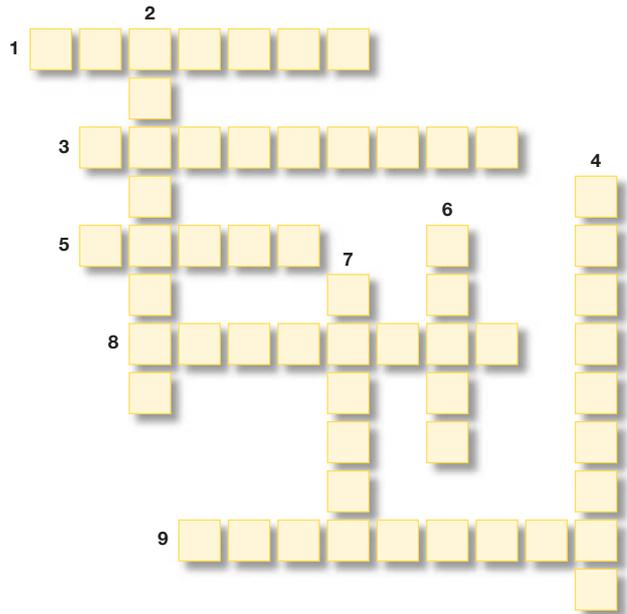
12 Complete the puzzle. The answers are all words from this unit.

Across

- 1 You put your cigarette here when it's finished.
- 3 The instruments are on this.
- 5 This is the middle pedal in a car.
- 8 This stops the sun from shining into your eyes.
(2 words)
- 9 You use this to change gear.

Down

- 2 This protects your head and neck in an accident.
- 4 You operate this when you park your car to stop it from moving.
- 6 You can put your maps and documents in this:
... compartment
- 7 You look in this to check the traffic behind you:
rear-view ...



Tail light

Read the magazine article and answer the questions which follow.

Navigation aids, telematics equipment, audio system features and the standard instruments are all fighting for space on the instrument panel (IP). This creates a challenge for interior designers and engineers who need to keep the IP simple so that the driver is not distracted by too many buttons and instruments. Customers also equate a spacious interior with luxury – another reason why the IP shouldn't look overcrowded.

Designers deal with the problem in various ways. They reduce the size of 'space-eaters' such as heating and cooling systems, or even remove them completely from the IP by putting them under the seat or in the boot. They also put many functions, such as station pre-set buttons for audio systems, on



touch screens. Touch screens save space on the IP but there is still the danger of overcrowding the screen, which could distract the driver and thus cause an accident. Another problem is the position: the touch screen needs to be located high on the dashboard so that the driver can use it easily while driving. But if it is too high it can be

hard to read because of reflections and the sun 'washing out' the screen.

Some engineers see voice recognition as a way to get rid of many manual controls and to simplify the IP. But voice recognition can also be overused. There needs to be an optimal balance between visual displays and voice instructions, so that the driver can deal safely with all the information he or she receives. ■

Over to you

Is the IP of your car user-friendly? Why or why not?

Which do you prefer – an IP that looks like a cockpit with lots of switches and controls, or a more simplified version?

How do you feel about voice recognition controls?