Three crashes in Bellhaven

45–55 minutes • One-to-one, pairs or groups • Print learner pages 1–2

1 Set up the map · 5–7 min

Elicit two reasons a driver might brake. Mime **swerve** and **skid** to show the difference. Check **kerb**, **indicator** and **zebra crossing** only if needed. Before playing the recording, have students point north and trace an eastbound route along Shore Road.

2 Reconstruct the crashes · 10 min

Play the recording through once. Tell students to number the crash sites first, then add arrows or details they catch. Pause briefly between incidents if needed. Let students compare maps before showing the key. **One-to-one:** have the learner direct you to draw one route on a spare map.

3 Check what each witness knows · 10–12 min

Play it again with page 2. Ross and Mo describe the same crash. Ask what they agree on. Their accounts could both be true because they saw the boy at different times.

SECOND LISTEN · ANSWER KEY

1a Nisha checked her mirror after passing the library. She didn’t check again before turning.

1b The cyclist thought Nisha was stopping for the café.

2a Ross said a boy ran up to the kerb, so he stopped again in case the boy crossed.

2b Mo saw him by the bakery window, a couple of steps back from the kerb, after they got out.

3a It clipped an oncoming red car.

3b Ellis saw how close the taxi was to the bike, roughly a car length behind.

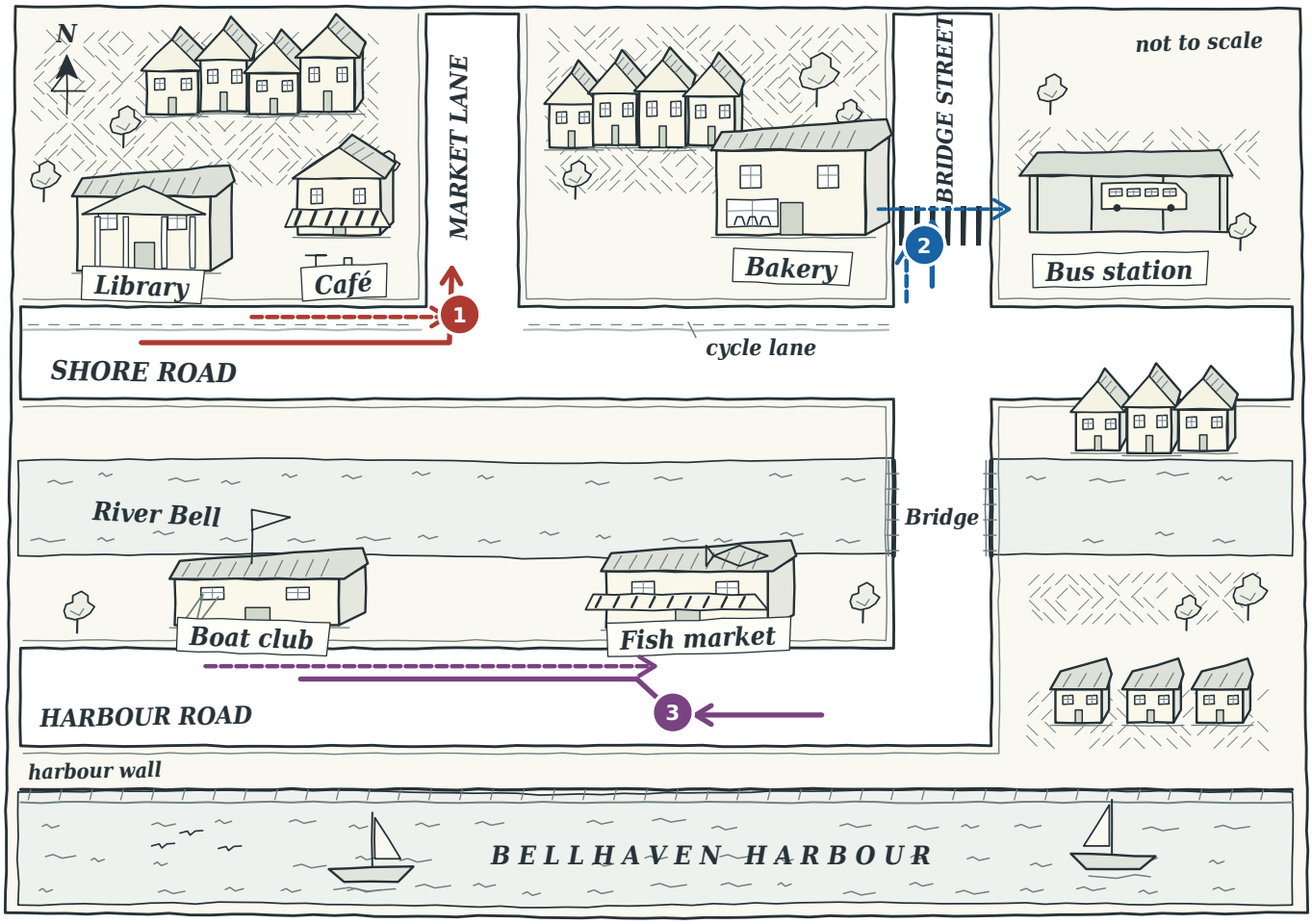
4 Make the case · 15–20 min

Give pairs two minutes to prepare their verdict and one minute each to present. Invite the other pair to challenge one inference. **One-to-one:** let the student give a verdict, then offer a different division of responsibility for them to challenge. Ask who might change their mind after seeing dashcam or CCTV footage.

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Map key and follow-up

Solid and dashed arrows distinguish routes. Numbered circles show the impacts.



1 **Shore Road / Market Lane.** Van east, turning left across the cycle lane. Cyclist also east, coming up on the van's left (dashed).

2 **Bridge Street crossing.** Both cars northbound. Silver car (dashed) hits blue car from behind. Woman crosses from the bakery side to the bus-station side.

3 **Harbour Road / fish market.** Rider (dashed) and taxi eastbound. Taxi swerves right around the bag and clips the westbound red car.

Homework · sample report (Incident 3)
A bag fell off a delivery rider's bike on Harbour Road. The taxi behind him swerved and clipped a red car travelling in the opposite direction. The taxi driver should have left more space, especially on a wet road. The rider might have attached the bag badly, but the strap could also have snapped without warning. I'd give the taxi driver most of the responsibility. Footage showing the actual distance between the taxi and the bike, or a clear view of the broken strap, might change my decision.

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Audio transcript

One narrator reads four witness statements. Share after the listening tasks.

Three crashes in Bellhaven. You're about to hear four statements about three separate incidents. For each one, find the place on your map and follow the people and vehicles. The second incident has two witnesses. Listen carefully. They remember one important detail differently.

Incident one. The van and the cyclist.

This is what Nisha, the van driver, told us. I'd just gone past the library on Shore Road. I was driving east, towards the bridge. The café was on my left, and just after it I wanted to turn left into Market Lane. I put my indicator on, or at least I thought I did. The van had just come back from the garage, so I'd been keeping an eye on the dashboard all morning. Anyway, I slowed down and started to turn. Then I heard a bang against the passenger door. A cyclist had been coming up behind me on my left, in the cycle lane. She hit the side of the van right at the entrance to Market Lane. I'd checked my mirror just after I passed the library, but I didn't look again before turning. The cyclist said she'd seen me slow down. She thought I was stopping for the café. She didn't see an indicator. Mind you, I can't tell you whether the light on the outside of the van was actually working.

Incident two. The two cars at the crossing. First, the driver in front.

I'm Ross. Mine was the blue car. We were on Bridge Street, heading north, away from the bridge and towards the bus station. At the zebra crossing I stopped to let a woman cross. She went from the bakery side to the bus-station side, left to right as I was looking. Once she'd reached the other pavement, I moved forward. That's when I saw a wee boy by the bakery. He ran up to the edge of the road, so I braked again. I was still on the crossing when the silver car hit me from behind. The boy never actually stepped onto the crossing. That doesn't mean I could wait to find out if he was going to.

Now, Mo, the driver behind.

Ross is right about the woman. I waited behind him while she crossed. But when his blue car started moving, there was nobody else on the crossing. I looked down for a second because my satnav was telling me to turn off, and I didn't know which street it meant. When I looked up, Ross had stopped again. I hit the brakes, but there wasn't enough room. I did see the boy after we got out of the cars. He was standing right beside the bakery window, a couple of steps back from the kerb. Ross says the boy ran up to the kerb before the crash. Maybe he did. All I can tell you is where I saw him.

Incident three. The bag in the road.

Here's Ellis, who was waiting outside the boat club. A delivery rider came along Harbour Road from the west, heading east. He went past the boat club, with a taxi a short way behind him. Just before he reached the fish market, a bag slipped off the back of his bike and landed in the taxi's lane. The taxi swerved right, towards the harbour wall, and clipped a red car that was coming the other way. The two cars ended up alongside the fish market. Afterwards, the rider said the strap on his bag had snapped. I saw the strap on the road, but I'd no idea when it broke. It had been raining, so I thought the taxi might have skidded. Then again, I didn't hear the tyres, and I couldn't see the taxi driver's feet. What I could see, even from the boat club, was how close that taxi had been to the bike. It wasn't much more than a car length, I'd say. But it all happened so fast.

You've heard all four statements. Compare your maps. Which details would you feel confident putting in a report? And which ones would you want to check first?

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