

# "I started nicking cars when I was about 13"

## Sorted spoke to Paul, a joyrider who's seen the damage first-hand

"I STARTED NICKING CARS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, when I was 13. I didn't plan it, it just sort of happened. It's pretty shit around here – there's nothing to do, and you get bored. You just hang around with your mates, looking for something to do: boozing, hanging out. I knew some older lads who used to nick cars. Everyone knew, and I just got in with them.

The first time, I was with three others. They lifted the lock, then jacked it through the steering column. It seemed pretty easy. We just burned around in it, y'know, tearing up the estate, down to the waste-ground at the bottom of the hill. I'm not proud of it, but it was a blast. We dumped it at the edge of the woods, and the others torched it.

I was bricking it for ages – thought I'd get caught with my fingerprints or something – but nothing happened. None of us got nicked. It made the local paper, and there were loads of people angry on the estate, but the local paper, and you don't give a shit really. If you get away with it, who cares? I laid you off it for a bit then, but you get bored. The first car I did was a BMW – there's one model that's easy to nick.

I was buzzing when we did it – but scared I was gonna get caught. We took it up to the roundabouts near the shopping centre – it's dead empty at night, and this was about two in the morning. We were doing donuts, and racing it really trashing it. No police, nothing. Just ran some of them a bit flash, some of them old bangers. It's the buzz of racing at 100mph in the middle of the night with your mates. It gets you loads of points as well. You become kind of a hero... I guess that's a bit sad.

Then, before Christmas last year, one of my mates lost it on a bend. The car he'd nicked hit a kerb and flipped over. It rolled down a bank and killed him instantly. Two other mates in the car were really badly hurt, and the police and everyone got involved. It was horrible.

Loads of people kinda knew that me and a few others were into it as well, and we all felt really bad.

It's weird – I haven't done a car since. It was such a shock, I mean. I wouldn't say I was proud of what I've done – it's just, y'know, what you do around here, you just nick stuff.

Sometimes you go a bit further, and sometimes you take the risks.

I'll probably do it again."

Paul, 15

THE FACTS: IN BRITAIN OVER 3,400 PEOPLE ARE KILLED ON THE ROADS EACH YEAR

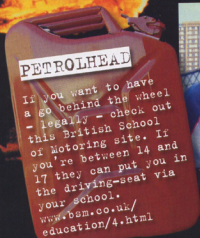
Paul is not his real name. We've changed it to protect his identity.



## READERS' STORIES

### the joyrider

"The car hit a kerb and flipped over. It rolled down a bank and killed him instantly"



WHILE 35,976 ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED