

Audio:

<http://lingoacademy.net/Lingolinks/Problems.mp3>

A: Listen to the engineer talking about problems and answer the questions:

1. Which area of the car industry does the engineer work in?
2. What specific problems does he mention?

B: What is the significance of the following points in the recording?

A loose nut On one of the corners It wouldn't turn A chain of events

C: Listen again and complete the gaps in the extract. Use 1, 2 or 3 words in each gap.

Just to give you some examples of the types of technical problems that 1) _____ so far at this test. On one of the cars, a nut worked loose on a radiator pipe, which resulted in coolant liquid leaking out. That caused the engine 2) _____. Fortunately, the driver saw the warning light come on, and he switched off before the system had run out of coolant. Then on the other car we had a fuel feed problem; the engine cut out on one of the corners. That caused the driver to spin off. We were fortunate he didn't hit anything. But when the car goes off the circuit, the 3) _____ in the side pods always clog up with dirt. So those had to be cleaned out. Obviously, you don't want anything blocking the airflow to the radiators. And then because of the spin, the rubber was flat spotted. The tires weren't close to wearing out but they still had 4) _____, because of the flat spots. And then while they were putting the wheels back on after that, they had a wheel nut jam, it wouldn't turn. And that's actually how problems tend to happen, very often. You get a kind of chain of events, when you feel that everything's going against you. Having said that, you could also say that we were lucky. Fortunately, the radiator problem didn't cause the engine to blow up. And after the spin, luckily he didn't 5) _____ and bend the suspension or snap it completely. And even more fortunately, it didn't crack the tub-the chassis.

D: Analyse the script:

1. Find 4 words or expressions that are used to express cause and effect.
2. Find 3 words at the start of sentences which express the speaker's attitude.
3. Find 10 words or expressions that are related to, or are examples of, problems.
4. Find 2 -ing forms that add more information about the noun or pronoun that they follow.