Driving while talking on the phone is equally as dangerous as driving drunk, but driving while talking to a passenger doesn't increase your risk of a crash at all, and may actually help improve driving ability. What is different between these two types of conversations, and are there ways that we can make talking to an absent partner more like talking to present partner? Using a virtual reality driving simulator with 180° screens and real car controls, we are studying properties of the speech signal (for example, speech rate, frequency of pauses, and use of filler words like "um"), to see whether the driver or the passenger adapts their speech based on driving conditions. Preliminary findings suggest that while drivers speak more slowly when the driving task is difficult, passengers do not adapt their speech, regardless of driving difficulty and thus amount of attention the driver needs to devote to the road. This adaptation on the part of the driver, however, only helps somewhat, as drivers still show reduced driving performance when talking as compared with listening. Therefore, the distraction on the part of the driver seems to come from the driver's own speaking, although he/she adapts somewhat based on demands of the road.