

Wheels: An e-mail question sent in says, “My son has a 1991 Chevrolet Cavalier standard shift. He was driving about 60 miles an hour when the car began to slow down but the speedometer kept going up till it hit 100 miles an hour. By then, the car had come to a stop and quit. It would not start after that. Do you have any idea what the problem might be?”

Halderman: I don’t have a clue as what could be wrong. I have had a bad alternator cause the speedometer to read incorrectly, but not to the extent that you mentioned. I think an electrical problem is the cause. The first thing I would do is look carefully at the ground wires near the battery or on the engine. A bad engine mount can cause these wires to fail and without a proper ground, almost anything is possible to occur. A fault in the computer is another likely cause. The computer receives a vehicle speed signal from the vehicle speed sensor. The computer uses this information for fuel control as well as other functions if the vehicle is equipped with an automatic transmission/transaxle. A fault in the computer could keep the engine from starting.

