

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Doug says, “A mechanic stated that my car was riding “rough” due to old struts and shocks. He said, however, that my 1998 Camry with 65,000 miles needed new shocks on the back and both shocks and struts on the front wheels. Please explain the difference between shock absorbers and struts and why the cost of struts is so much higher than shocks. I assume both wear out due to the manner in which the car was driven and the number of miles.”

**Halderman:** Thanks for writing. Struts are part of the suspension in the front and include the shock as a structural part of the vehicle. A shock is not structural and simply controls the action of the springs. It is very unusual for your car to need shocks and struts at this age or mileage unless the vehicle has been abused or involved in an accident. Rough riding is usually a tire pressure issue. Check that the tires are inflated to the pressure indicated on the driver’s door jam. It is normal for all vehicles to ride harsher in cold weather.

