

## Back-Seat Driver

You are a regular passenger in a car.

You might notice some things drivers do. Are any listed below?

**Underline all the things below that you recognise from travelling with your parents or people that you regularly get a lift with.**

- seatbelt always fastened
- speeding in town
- always careful
- slowing down in town
- swearing at other drivers
- going through lights on red
- driving too close to the car in front
- tooting the horn at cyclists
- flashing slow drivers to move over
- pulling over to phone
- pulling over to let a car past
- racing at the lights
- taking risks overtaking
- talking non-stop
- saying “would you look at that idiot”
- driving within the speed limit
- texting someone
- allowing another car to go in front
- queue jumping
- making rude signs to other drivers
- asking the passengers if they are comfortable
- driving more slowly in wet weather
- allowing traffic to filter in front
- parking in a disabled driver’s space
- seatbelt unfastened
- patient at lights
- getting in a rage with other road users
- using a hands-free mobile
- driving off before the seatbelts are fastened
- parking at a bus stop
- cursing the traffic lights
- slowing right down in fog
- ensuring everyone is safely belted before moving off
- being patient when the lights turn to red
- getting irritated with learner drivers
- eating at the wheel
- holding the wheel with both hands
- being courteous to other drivers
- driving with one hand on the wheel
- making sure you leave in plenty of time
- speeding on the motorway
- getting flashed by a camera
- turning the music right up
- throwing litter out of the window
- saying “is everyone alright in the back”
- driving slowly past a school
- watching for pedestrians
- giving cyclists lots of room
- emptying the litter from the car into a bin
- saying “typical female driver”

**If you were a driver, are these the things that you would do?**

**Write a description of the kind of driver that you hope to become.  
Use bullet points if you want to make a list.**



**10 questions to help you think about how safe a driver you will become?**

**1. You're on your own and your hand-held mobile rings when you're sitting at traffic lights.**

- a) You answer and carry on chatting for a couple of minutes until you get to the shops.
- b) You answer and chat until the lights change, and then ring off and drive on.
- c) You ignore the call, drive to the shops and park, before phoning back.

**2. You're driving your pals to a beach party. "Go on" says one, "put your foot down."**

- a) You think, why not go a bit faster, it's a nice empty road.
- b) You think, I don't want to speed and continue driving within the speed limit.
- c) You say: "I'm the driver I'll decide what speed we go at."

**3. You're giving a lift to some young kids who start having a muck about in the back seat.**

- a) You turn around and shout at the top of your voice to get them to stop.
- b) You pull in at a parking place, turn round and tell them to cut it out.
- c) You tolerate the noise and report it to their family when you drop them off.

**4. You're on the motorway and someone flashes you to move over.**

- a) You choose a good time and move over to make way.
- b) You move over and make a rude gesture to the driver as he overtakes.
- c) You stay where you are, you are doing 70mph which is the speed limit.

**5. You've just been flashed by a safety speed camera on an empty road early one morning.**

- a) You think, I should know better; a £60 fine, that will teach me not to speed.
- b) You think, what an idiot, I didn't notice the camera; £60 down the drain.
- c) You think, it's not fair, £60, the Government is fleecing good drivers like me.

**6. You're 18 and you've just passed your driving test. You're in the mood to celebrate.**

- a) You're the driver now and you're happy to stick to drinking Coke. It's cool.
- b) You decide to take the bus and meet your friends in a bar up-town. Hot stuff.
- c) You buy a bottle of something nice to have with your folks at home. Cheers.

**7. You're showing off a bit with a friend, he says: "Slow down, you'll get us killed at this rate."**

- a) You say: "I'm the driver I'll decide what speed we do" and slow down.
- b) "Don't you trust me?" you say "My granny is more fun to have in the car, than you."
- c) You slow down; friends must have confidence in you, or they'll never get in the car.

**8. Before you set off you notice that two of your friends have not fastened their seatbelts.**

- a) You decide that it's such a short journey it's not worth the fuss.
- b) You say: "OK you crowd, seatbelts on now or get out and catch the bus."
- c) You say: "Look folks if I get stopped it's a £60 fine, so belts on if you don't mind."

**9. You're beside the driver and notice that he/she is doing 60mph in a 40mph zone, in town.**

- a) You say nothing; it's not your business to interfere.
- b) You say: "There's a safety speed camera ahead, I know a guy who was done recently."
- c) You say: "This car can shift, do you know what speed you're doing?"

**10. You're feeling tired. Your flight was delayed and you're now driving home late in the dark.**

- a) You wind down your window and turn the music up loud.
- b) You remember a sign that says "tiredness kills" and pull in at a service station for a kip.
- c) You pull in at a shop for a "red bull"; you knock it back and feel wide awake again.