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.

Safe Driver
student sheet

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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.