

Back-Seat Driver

In the Teacher Guide Programme on the DVD, Dr Bill Carcary makes reference to the fact that his research shows that young people are most influenced by their parents and significant others when in a car. They are more likely to adopt behaviours that they have seen as a passenger when they themselves become drivers.

1. Ask the class how they would describe a good driver?

Copy the **Back-Seat Driver** card for each student.

2. Working alone, ask the students to use the field of phrases and underline all the behaviours that they observe regularly as they travel.
3. Ask them to write a profile of the kind of driver that they are going to become using the field of phrases; they can, of course, have additional driving skills and habits that they have thought of themselves.

Questions to ask when they feed back their driver profile:

- a. Are they planning to be much the same kind of driver as the people they watch driving regularly, or are they going to be different?
- b. Why is it important to be a good driver?
- c. Why is it necessary to have rules of the road?
- d. Where else do you notice rules?



Copy the **Safe Driver** card for each student.

Working alone they can chose their answers. The scoring system has no pattern and the purpose of the exercise is to raise issues and provoke discussion rather than to award points.

Professor Stradling marks these as:

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|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a) 2 b) 1 c) 0 | 2. a) 2 b) 0 c) 0 | 3. a) 2 b) 0 c) 0 |
| 4. a) 0 b) 2 c) 2 | 5. a) 0 b) 2 c) 2 | 6. a) 0 b) 1 c) 0 |
| 7. a) 1 b) 2 c) 0 | 8. a) 2 b) 0 c) 0 | 9. a) 2 b) 1 c) 0 |
| 10. a) 2 b) 0 c) 1 | | |

It is important to tell the class that this is only a very rough guide in assessing how safe they will be as drivers. It should be stressed that learning about driving in the classroom is like learning to swim on the kitchen table.

The scores are to make the class think rather than to give them points.

- 0-3** You are shaping up to be a most considerate driver, because you care for the comfort, convenience, safety and well-being of those with whom you share the road.
- 4-10** You are shaping up to be a driver who should think about adopting the style of a chauffeur, nice and smooth, managing the space around you, even if the only precious cargo is yourself.
- 11-19** You are shaping up to be a driver who should think about driving like a doctor. Take the Hippocratic Oath and swear that, first, you will do no harm. This applies to you, your passengers and all other road users.

Points that can be made are:

1. Because a mobile rings it does not have to be answered immediately. Turning the mobile off in the car is the best idea.
2. Deciding not to speed up can be done quietly or assertively depending on your own style.
3. If you have the confidence to speak to the young kids yourself, that is good. But, telling their family is also acting properly.
4. Staying in a lane because you are doing the maximum speed can anger some drivers which may lead to a road-rage incident.
5. Cameras catch Crash Magnets. You are twice as likely to be in a crash if you have been flashed in the last three years.
6. All answers are good but taking the bus to go drinking can present problems about getting home. You need to think ahead.
7. Being assertive is good, but better to slow down and perhaps even say sorry, especially if you want to keep your friends. Girls prefer boys who will slow down.
8. It is absolutely crucial that all the passengers belt up. Choose a way that you would tell them and don't set off until they do.
9. It can be quite hard to tell someone to slow down, especially if you have accepted a lift. Choose a way that you are comfortable with, that will not offend the driver. At no time feel stupid about it.
10. This is a judgement call that could have catastrophic consequences.