

TAKE THE STREET SMARTS ROAD TEST



A public education campaign to improve driver, pedestrian and bicyclist behavior.

What's your SSQ? The Street Smarts Road Test will reveal your "Street Smarts Quotient." And, it may also reveal something about your driving personality.

Circle the answer that most closely describes YOUR behavior on the road:

1. When traffic is trying to merge into your lane, you should:

- A. Get right on the bumper of the car in front of you and don't let them in.
- B. Look straight ahead and pretend you don't see them.
- C. Slow down and make space so they can merge.
- D. None of the above.
- E. All of the above.

Answer: C. When cars bunch up and drivers have to brake, traffic grinds to a halt. When you slow down and allow others to merge, traffic continues to flow.

2. If you come to a stop sign and you don't see any other cars, you should:

- A. Come to a complete stop.
- B. Slow down and look both ways before proceeding.
- C. Honk your horn and roll through the sign.

Answer: A. STOP means STOP. Stop signs are placed for your safety and the safety of others who may be crossing at that intersection, including children.

3. Bicyclists are only allowed to ride where there are bike lanes.

- A. True.
- B. False.

Answer: False. Bicyclists, with the exception of most freeways and some bridges, can use the street in the same manner as cars, as long as they follow the same traffic laws as cars.

4. If you want to cross the street and there is no crosswalk you should:

- A. Make a run for it.
- B. Walk out and hold up your hand to stop traffic.
- C. Go to the nearest intersection and cross when it is safe, preferably in a crosswalk.

Answer: C. Never try to cross a street if you are not at an intersection. And use the crosswalk whenever possible.

5. Which of the following is considered unsafe when driving?

- A. Talking on the phone.
- B. Eating a sandwich.
- C. Closing your eyes.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Answer: D. Talking on the phone and eating are two of the most common causes of accidents. And if you're tired, don't close your eyes – just pull over and rest. You'll be glad you did.

6. When approaching an intersection and the light turns yellow, you should:

- A. Hit the gas and beat the light.
- B. Continue at the same speed to see if the light changes and slam on the brakes.
- C. Slow down and come to an easy stop.

Answer: C. Don't run the risk of running a light. Drive under control and slow down on yellow. It's safer... and less stressful. Keep in mind: the goal is to get from Point A to Point B as SAFE as you can, NOT as fast as you can.

7. Speeding is:

- A. A good way to lose a Saturday (by having to attend Traffic School!).
- B. Never OK.
- C. OK, as long as others are doing it.
- D. A & B.
- E. None of the above.

Answer: D. It's against the law to speed, even if everyone else is doing it. And, if you get a ticket, you could spend an entire Saturday in Traffic School. More importantly, speeding is dangerous. If you care about your community, obey traffic laws. Remember: how you drive is a reflection of your respect for this community.

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8. When driving in neighborhoods you should:

- A. Reduce your speed.
- B. Drive with respect for the people who live there.
- C. Watch out for kids and pets.
- D. All of the above.

Answer: D. A neighborhood is no place to speed. There's far too much at stake. Please drive carefully in any neighborhood – not just your own - and watch for children and pets.

9. Traffic flows more smoothly when:

- A. Drivers change lanes often.
- B. Drivers maintain a consistent speed.
- C. Drivers tailgate.
- D. Drivers spread out and allow a buffer zone between cars.
- E. A & C.
- F. B & D.

Answer: F. Anything that makes you or others hit the brakes, makes everyone brake and stops traffic. When you allow space and drive consistently, drivers can make small adjustments to their speed and road position safely, allowing traffic to continue to flow smoothly.

10. When crossing the street in a crosswalk:

- A. Stop when the red hand flashes.
- B. Never assume a driver sees you; make eye contact.
- C. It's OK to cross on red, as long as you don't see cars coming.
- D. Don't bother looking both ways, you have the right-of-way.

Answer: B. Even if you are in the crosswalk, a driver may not see you. When you make eye contact, you can be sure you are seen. And a flashing red hand is your warning that the light will be changing. If you've already started crossing, proceed across the street.

11. If someone cuts you off in traffic, you should:

- A. Catch up to them and cut them off.
- B. Catch up to them and glare.
- C. Catch up to them and tailgate.
- D. Ignore it and drive responsibly.

Answer: D (for Duh). Retaliating for a bonehead maneuver with another bonehead maneuver begets even more bonehead maneuvers. Shake it off, let it go and go about your business as if it never happened.

12. In a school zone the rule is:

- A. 25 MPH all the time.
- B. 25 MPH when you see kids coming and going to school.
- C. Whatever the posted speed limit is.
- D. 25 MPH when you see kids on the playground.

Answer: B. "When children are present" means when they are coming and going to school or crossing the street. Keep in mind they may not be paying attention when crossing the street, so it is important that you pay attention to them. Please drive safely around our schools!

13. A good driver is someone who:

- A. Can weave through traffic like a Formula One driver.
- B. Never gets a ticket.
- C. Drives with respect for the law and for others.
- D. Has never been in an accident.

Answer: C. Skill without respect does not a good driver make. And if you've never received a ticket or been in an accident, you're probably just really lucky.

10-13 Correct Answers

Congratulations - You should be a driving instructor!

7-9 Correct Answers

Keep up the good work – You have good driving habits.

4-6 Correct Answers

Go straight to the DMV for a driving test!

0-3 Correct Answers

May we suggest that you take public transportation?