

Auto Safety Quiz

Answer the following ten questions to see if you are doing all that you can to protect you and your family while behind the wheel:

1. **Do I own a safe car?** See if your car is on the list of the [top ten rated cars in 2013](#), as reported by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Or plug in the info about your current or planned vehicle by going to the [IIHS website](#).
2. **Do I use seat belts all the time?** It should go without saying, but ... While seat belt use is up, thanks to the nationwide “[Click it or Ticket](#)” campaign, 51% of people who die in car accidents each year (more than 11,000 men, women, and children) are not wearing seat belts. Buckle up ... even on those short drives to the store down the block.
3. **Do I never drink and drive?** According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), more than 10,000 people die each year in alcohol-impaired auto crashes. So, stay sober. Also, drive defensively and steer clear of cars where the driver appears to be impaired or is behaving erratically.
4. **Do I keep my car well maintained?** An auto with a loose front end, balding tires, worn out brakes, burned out tail lights or an unreliable battery can cause accidents or breakdowns.
5. **Do I avoid road rage ... in myself and others?** According to the [American Automobile Association](#), it is estimated that up to 56% of fatal crashes involve “aggressive driving behaviors.” This phenomenon, which has irate motorists attacking or threatening other drivers, can lead to accidents, injuries, even deaths. So, when a driver cuts you off and slams on the breaks, looking for a confrontation, drive on. If you feel threatened, call 911 ... for your sake and other drivers.

6. **Do I use my phone or send e-messages when driving?** [Insurance industry surveys](#) show that, except in states where it is illegal (and sometimes anyway), most of us – 81 % of drivers, it is estimated – talk on the phone while driving. And texting? For those who engage in it while driving are 23 times more likely to get into an accident! Pull over when using the phone, texting, or checking messages.

7. **Do I avoid eating and drinking in the car?** Whether it is spilled coffee in your lap or a smudge of ketchup about to drop on your shirt, eating while you are driving can be a distraction that leads to an accident. Don't do it.

8. **Do I follow all the child safety rules?** According to [statistics](#) reported by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, nearly 250,000 children are injured each year in car accidents. Very often, these injuries are the result of improper use (or non-use) of seat belts and safety seats. Follow your state's laws on child restraints.

9. **Do I drive defensively, as if my life depended on it ...** because it does?
Maneuvering a vehicle at speeds up to 65 miles per hour, often within just a few feet of other vehicles, is serious business. Be prepared and alert for hazards and potential accident situations at all times.

10. **Am I prepared for emergencies?** Make sure your spare tire is in good shape. Additionally, carry an emergency kit that contains first aid supplies, tool kit, flash light, jumper cables and fire extinguisher, as well as flares and/or plastic road reflectors. If your car breaks down, pull as far off the road as possible to avoid being hit by passing traffic. Then unless you are prepared to make your own repairs, stay in the car and call for assistance.