

## When It Comes to Driver Safety, Are You Smarter Than Your Teenager?

A teen with a new driving permit receives a lot of information in driver training sessions, however, much of the information gets lost in translation – leaving parents questioning their role in the driver training process. Are you ready to take on the role as driver trainer? Is your knowledge up-to-date? Try answering these questions:

1. On average, how many decisions per mile do drivers make?
2. Where do most fatal traffic crashes occur?
3. How often should a parent let their teen with a permit drive?
4. What is stronger – a mixed drink, a beer or a glass of wine?
5. What are four safety checklist items that should be done every time you get in the car?
6. Why is it important to have special vocabulary in the car?
7. Are you more likely to survive a head-on collision or a rollover accident?
8. Texting while driving is equivalent to what?
9. Under ideal conditions a 30-mile trip takes 32.7 minutes at 55 mph. How long would it take at 75 mph?
10. When can my new teen driver have passengers in the car?

### ANSWERS:

1. On average, how many decisions per mile do drivers make?

**Answer: 200**

2. Where do most fatal traffic crashes occur?

**Answer: Wide-open rural roads; more than ½ of our nation’s deaths occur on rural roads even though only 1/4th of us live in rural areas.**

3. How often should a parent let their teen with a permit drive?

**Answer: Once they’ve mastered the basics, they should drive EVERY time they get in the car with their parents.**

4. What is stronger – a mixed drink, a beer or a glass of wine?

**Answer: They are all about the same.**

5. What are four safety checklist items that should be done every time you get in the car?

**Answer:**

**1. Adjust the seatbelt with an extra tug! Pulling the shoulder strap up to tighten the belt around your hips prevents spleen and liver damage in an accident – I just clicking the belt is not enough!**

**2. Adjust both rearview and side mirrors BEFORE driving.**

**3. Put on the emergency break and release it. This helps keep the cable from rusting AND helps you reach it quickly in the case of an emergency.**

**4. Turn your hazard lights on and off, but never by reaching through the steering wheel – airbags make reaching through the wheel dangerous. Reaction time is critical, so Mike says: “don’t wait till you need it, to meet it.”**

6. Why is it important to have special vocabulary in the car?

**Answer: Agree on phrases BEFORE your teen gets behind the wheel, in order to avoid confusion, stress and accidents. Mike’s main phrases are “Squeeze the brake,” “Squeeze, squeeze, squeeze!” and “Go, go, go!”**

7. Are you more likely to survive a head-on collision or a rollover accident?

**Answer: If you are wearing your seatbelt properly, your chances of surviving a rollover are much greater than a head-on collision. Mike believes all teen drivers should be taught defensive driving strategies like taking the ditch.**

8. Texting while driving is equivalent to what?

**Answer: If you text while driving, on average you take your eyes off the wheel for up to 4.6 out of every six seconds. That’s like traveling the length of a football field at 55 miles an hour without looking up!**

9. A thirty-mile trip under ideal conditions takes 32.7 minutes when driving at 55 mph. How long would it take you if you drove 75 mph?

**Answer: Driving 30 miles at 75 mph. would take you 24 minutes, saving you a mere 8.7 minutes. Ask yourself if the speed risk is worth it.**

10. When can my new teen driver have passengers in the car?

**Answer: In Minnesota, for the first six months after obtaining their license, teens are only allowed one passenger under the age of 20 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian over 25 years of age.**

Learn more and preview the DVD, **Roadworthy- A Parent's Guide to Teaching Teens to Drive: 12 Lessons to Keep Your Teen Alive Behind the Wheel**, at [www.DriveSafeRideSafe.com](http://www.DriveSafeRideSafe.com)