



on the road

Quiz: What kind of a driver are you?

By Deidre Bello

The choices you make behind the wheel can indicate what type of driver you are. Answer the following questions from the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses program to find out.

Questions	ALWAYS TRUE	SOMETIMES TRUE	NEVER TRUE
1. While I am driving, I try to make eye contact with passengers so they know I am listening to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I can adjust the radio and climate controls, as needed, while my car is moving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. While driving, I am able to look away from the road to tend to my children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I get irritated when other drivers are driving too slowly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I can read directions and look at a map while driving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I comb my hair, shave, apply makeup, or brush or floss my teeth while driving, if the need arises.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Traffic, weather and road conditions don't impact my driving plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I can still drive safely after having only a few drinks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I can make turns and change lanes without signaling, if necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I put off regularly scheduled vehicle maintenance until a time when it is convenient for me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I use a hands-free device because it makes talking on the phone while driving safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I eat and drink while I drive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I know that over-the-counter drugs are safe to use while driving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. I cautiously ignore traffic signals and signs if I am in a hurry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. If another driver does something that makes me angry, I try to get back at that driver.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. I get as close as I can to the vehicle in front of me to make the driver move out of my way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Being tired or drowsy does not keep me from driving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I am a good driver, so I can leave my safety belt off.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. I let my passengers decide whether or not to wear a safety belt in my car.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. I am very good at multitasking, so I can safely text message or send e-mails while I drive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. I enjoy looking at the sights and scenery around me while driving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. I only exceed the speed limit to keep pace with traffic around me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. My aggressive driving is caused by other people's aggressive behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS	___	___	___



Your driving profile

Find out what your driving profile is by adding up the number of times you marked “never true.”

20-23 “never true” answers: **DEFENSIVE DRIVER**

You have all of the characteristics of both the “average driver” and the “safe driver,” in addition to being in control, communicative, cooperative, cautious, conscientious, considerate, committed and a role model.

16-19 “never true” answers: **SAFE DRIVER**

You have all of the characteristics of an “average driver,” in addition to being informed, skilled and trained in defensive driving. Your driving choices are made to save lives, time and money.

13-15 “never true” answers: **AVERAGE DRIVER**

You are a licensed, insured, registered driver whose driving choices are controlled by consequences. You respect the law, follow rules and avoid confrontation.

Fewer than 13 “never true” answers: **AGGRESSIVE DRIVER**

You have a high potential for citations and crashes. Your driving is placing yourself, your passengers and other motorists at risk. You should consider enrolling in a defensive driving course.

© 2010 National Safety Council



According to the National Safety Council DDC program, before choosing to take a risk, drivers should ask themselves two questions:

- Is getting what I want or where I'm going so important that I am willing to risk my life or the lives of other people?
- Am I willing to be involved in a collision or get a ticket while trying to arrive at work on time, pass another vehicle, or have some fun?

Everyone can improve driving habits by becoming a defensive driver. Doing so can reduce the chances you or a loved one will be killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash. **FS&H**

