

How to be the perfect car passenger

With the holidays just about to start and millions of cars hitting the roads at once, now's the time to consider how car passengers can help drivers. Think about how you would like your passengers to behave if you were the driver – this will make you more conscious of your actions while being a passenger yourself.



A

Don't wait for the driver to tell you to put it on, or refuse to put it on when asked to.

B

Advise the driver on the best route to take. However, don't shout or advise them too close to a turning, as this can make the driver panic or turn suddenly, leading to a possible accident.

C

You can always comment on someone's driving, as long as it's a friendly suggestion. But don't attack the driver about their driving, especially if they're inexperienced. Let them take their time and drive the way that is most comfortable for them, not you.

D

Talking to the driver helps to pass the time and stops them from falling asleep. However, talking too loudly or singing along to the radio can distract the driver and possibly cause an accident.

E

Listening to the radio while driving makes the journey more enjoyable. However, don't assume that the driver wants to listen to everything that you want to listen to. It's better to allow the driver to choose the style of music. If the driver needs to concentrate, help them by turning the volume down, and don't have the radio on too loud in general.

F

You deserve to feel safe and be treated with consideration. If you notice that the driver is going above the speed limit, don't immediately shout at them, as they might not be aware of it themselves. However, if you can see that the driver is speeding and not driving safely, you should tell them to slow down and drive more carefully.

Adapted from a driving blog

CAN YOU understand this text?

- a Read the article once. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph A–F.
- 1 Don't be a selfish DJ
 - 2 Don't tolerate dangerous driving
 - 3 Be a good co-pilot
 - 4 Don't distract the driver
 - 5 Wear your seatbelt
 - 6 Don't be rude
- b Read the article again with the headings. Are you a good passenger? How many of the things do you sometimes do or not do?

CAN YOU say this in English?

Tick (✓) the box if you can do these things.

Can you...?

- 1 compare different types of public transport in your town / country
- 2 talk about typical stereotypes of men and women and say if you think they are true
- 3 talk about things which are / aren't good manners in your country
- 4 describe something you would like to be able to do, but have never been able to