

## A Driving tips

## TIPS FOR SAFER DRIVING

- Always be prepared for bad road conditions, and concentrate 100% of the time.
- Remember that alcohol has a serious effect on your ability to drive safely.
- Never drive when you're very tired, or you risk falling asleep and causing an accident.
- Be aware of other drivers around you as well as the road ahead.
- Keep to the speed limit and don't drive too close to the vehicle in front.

## GLOSSARY

<b>tip</b>	a piece of practical advice
<b>be prepared for sth</b>	be ready and able to deal with any problems
<b>concentrate (on sth)</b>	give all your attention to sth
<b>alcohol</b>	drinks such as beer and wine that can make people drunk <b>alcoholic adj</b>
<b>effect</b>	a change that happens because of sth <b>have an effect (on sb/sth)</b> <b>SYN affect sth/sb</b>
<b>risk (doing) sth</b>	put yourself or sth in danger <b>risk n</b>
<b>fall asleep</b>	start sleeping
<b>ahead</b>	in front
<b>keep</b>	continue or stay in a particular place or condition; <b>keep to the speed limit</b> stay at or below the speed limit; <b>keep left</b> stay on the left
<b>speed limit</b>	the highest legal speed you can drive on a road
<b>close (to sth/sb)</b>	near sth/sb

1 Good or bad? Write **G** or **B**.

► I've been given some tips on motorway driving.

- 1 You're risking your life in that car.
- 2 She's concentrating on driving.
- 3 She had an alcoholic drink before driving.
- 4 She fell asleep while driving.

**G**

- 5 I wasn't aware of the speed limit.

- 6 The road ahead is empty.

- 7 The poor light affected his driving.

- 8 He always keeps to the speed limit.

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## 2 Complete the dialogues.

► Would you like some wine?

- 1 Did the accident affect you?
- 2 Megan talks a lot in the car.
- 3 What caused the accident?
- 4 Did Mo give you any advice on the driving test?
- 5 Were you looking behind you?
- 6 Did you see what was going to happen?
- 7 What's the matter?
- 8 Were you driving too fast?

~ No, thanks. It's bad to drink alcohol before driving.

~ Yes, it had a very big effect on me.

~ I know. She doesn't concentrate when she's driving.

~ The driver fell asleep for a few seconds.

~ Yes, she gave me some useful advice.

~ No, I was looking ahead.

~ No, I wasn't concentrating for it.

~ You're driving too close to the car in front of us.

~ No, I keep to the speed limit.

## 3 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or ask another student.

- 1 Are the tips in this unit useful, or did you know them already? .....
- 2 What is the speed limit in towns in your country? .....
- 3 Do people usually keep to it? .....
- 4 Do you have to be prepared for bad weather on the roads in your country? How? .....
- 5 Apart from alcohol, what other things can have a negative effect on drivers? .....



## TEST YOURSELF

## B Driving problems

I'm a terrible driver. The first time I took my driving test, I forgot to fasten my seat belt, so I failed. The second time, I didn't signal when I was turning left, and I failed again. When I finally passed and got my driving licence, a police officer stopped me for speeding. A few weeks later, I went through a red light and hit another car. Luckily, the other car wasn't damaged, but I had to pay £350 on my insurance to get my car fixed. And then I ended up getting a fine for driving through the red light.



fasten your seat belt / do your seat belt up

### SPOTLIGHT compounds with driving

When people learn to drive, they often have driving lessons before they take their driving test. If they pass, they get a driving licence (=a document which shows that you are allowed to drive).

#### GLOSSARY

<b>fail</b>	do badly in a test or an exam <b>OPP pass</b>
<b>signal</b>	When you are driving and you <b>signal</b> , you show that you want to turn left/ right, etc. <b>signal n</b>
<b>speeding</b>	driving faster than the legal speed limit <b>speed v</b>
<b>red light</b>	a signal telling a driver to stop <i>go through a red light</i> = not stop
<b>luckily</b>	= it is lucky that ... <b>SYN fortunately; luck n</b>

<b>damage</b>	break or harm sth <b>damage n</b>
<b>insurance</b>	an agreement where you pay money to a company, so that it will give you money if sth bad happens
<b>fix</b>	repair sth
<b>end up</b>	get into in a place or situation when you did not plan it
<b>fine</b>	money that you must pay because you have done sth wrong

#### 4 Circle the correct words or phrases. Be careful: in two questions, both answers are correct.

► The driver **got** / **went** through a red light, but a police officer stopped him.

- 1 My cousin was stopped by the police for **speeding** / **signalling**.
- 2 Fortunately I passed, so I've got my **driving test** / **driving licence** now.
- 3 She never remembers to **do up** / **fasten** her seat belt.
- 4 You have to have **insurance** / **a fine** to drive a car in this country.
- 5 The driver **signed** / **signalled** to turn left, but in fact he turned right.
- 6 We were planning to go home, but we **ended** / **ended up** at Milly's house.
- 7 It was a long journey, but **luckily** / **fortunately** we got home before the snow.
- 8 I wasn't injured, but my bicycle was badly **damaged** / **hurt** in the accident.
- 9 Did you have to pay **insurance** / **a fine** when the police officer stopped you?
- 10 I fell asleep for a few seconds and it was just **luck** / **luckily** that I didn't hit anything.

#### 5 One word is missing in each line. What is it, and where does it go?

I was a very slow learner, and I had driving / for two years before I the driving test. I was very nervous, and I went through a light, which was extremely dangerous, and, of course, I the test. The second time, I was less nervous and did better: I and got my driving. I bought an old car from a friend and paid a lot of money for to protect the car. However, it had a lot of problems: I couldn't the seat belt, and I couldn't to turn left or right. It also had some to the passenger door from an earlier accident my friend had, so I up having to pay a garage to some of the faults.

► **lessons**

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#### TEST YOURSELF