

We All Need to Take the Test

What about your own driving? Take a minute to evaluate yourself to see if you may have developed some habits that could be adding to the aggressive driving atmosphere.

Are you an Aggressive Driver or a Smooth Operator? Do you...

Yes No

- Overtake other vehicles only on the left
- Avoid blocking passing lanes
- Yield to faster traffic by moving to the right
- Keep to the right as much as possible on narrow streets and at intersections
- Maintain appropriate distance when following other vehicles, bicyclists, motorcyclists, etc.
- Provide appropriate distance when cutting in after passing vehicles
- Use headlights in cloudy, raining, low light conditions
- Yield to pedestrians
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs, before right turn on red, etc.
- Stop for red traffic lights
- Approach intersections and pedestrians at slow speeds to show your intention and ability to stop
- Follow right-of-way rules at four-way stops
- Drive below posted speed limits when conditions warrant
- Drive at slower speeds in construction zones
- Maintain speeds appropriate for conditions
- Use vehicle turn signals for turns and lane changes
- Make eye contact and signal intentions where needed
- Acknowledge intentions of others
- Use your horn sparingly around pedestrians, at night, around hospitals, etc.
- Avoid unnecessary use of high beam headlights

Yes No

- Yield and move to the right for emergency vehicles
- Refrain from flashing headlights to signal a desire to pass
- Drive trucks at posted speeds, in the proper lanes, using non-aggressive lane changing
- Make slow, deliberate U-turns
- Maintain proper speeds around roadway crashes
- Avoid returning inappropriate gestures
- Avoid challenging other drivers
- Try to get out of the way of aggressive drivers
- Refrain from momentarily using High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to pass vehicles
- Focus on driving and avoid distracting activities (e.g., smoking, use of a car telephone, reading, shaving)
- Avoid driving when drowsy
- Avoid blocking the right-hand turn lane
- Avoid taking more than one parking space
- Avoid parking in a disabled space (if you are not disabled)
- Avoid letting your door hit the car parked next to you
- Avoid using the car telephone while driving
- Avoid stopping in the road to talk with a pedestrian or other driver
- Avoid inflicting loud music on neighboring cars

Score yourself:

Number of "No" Answers

- 1-3 Excellent
- 4-7 Good
- 8-11 Fair
- 12 (or more) Poor



U.S. Department of Transportation

Additional copies of this piece can be found on NHTSA's web site: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.