

Test Your Driving Skills



By: Tracey Porpora



We all want to start off the New Year as it rolls around by putting our best foot forward. One of the most important places to be conscious of your performance is behind the wheel of your car. At a time of the year when people are rushing to and fro to all the places they have to go, it is important to employ good driving practices.

Take our quiz to see if you have good driving sense.

1. **If it's raining and the roads are slick, but you are late for an appointment, you:**
 - A. Drive cautiously, and a little under the speed limit. You pull over to call the person you're meeting and let him/her know that you might be a few minutes late due to the inclement weather.
 - B. Drive the speed limit, and pass cars when necessary to get there on time.
 - C. Drive as fast as you can--even on the shoulder of the highway if necessary - to get there on time.
2. **You're having a texting argument with your significant other. You now need to leave work for the day:**
 - A. Tell him/her you'll talk after you get home.
 - B. Switch to talking on the cell phone, using a headset while you drive.
 - C. Text while you're driving.
3. **You're driving on the expressway behind someone with a handicapped license plate driving 30 miles under the speed limit, and there is little opportunity to switch lanes and pass the driver, so you:**
 - A. Be patient until you can switch lanes and pass the driver.
 - B. Drive very close to the car and get agitated.
 - C. Beep and give the car the brights until he/she pulls off to the side of the highway.
4. **You're driving in an unfamiliar territory and feel you've gotten off track, so you:**
 - A. Stop at the nearest gas station and ask for directions.
 - B. Drive around until you find your destination.
 - C. Drive around and make a lot of illegal turns because you're frustrated.
5. **Someone cuts you off on a main road, so you:**
 - A. Ignore it and go about your business.
 - B. Beep and pass them.
 - C. Speed up and cut the driver off for doing it to you.
6. **You're driving and it starts to snow/rain very heavily causing dangerous driving conditions, so you:**
 - A. Drive slow and put the car in 3rd gear.
 - B. Drive as you were before, but put your windshield wipers on.
 - C. Find the weather annoying, which only causes you to drive faster to your destination.
7. **You have an eight hour drive to your vacation destination, so you:**
 - A. Drive for four hours then rent a hotel room to break up the trip, and make sure you're alert while driving.
 - B. Drive for as long as you can before taking a bathroom and snack break.
 - C. Drive straight through the night, despite not sleeping well the night before.

Give yourself five points for every "A," three points for each "B," and one point for every "C."

Results:

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Book Review



SJ: I hope to record some of the ghazals in traditional and contemporary styles, and have already begun to collaborate with musicians from various cultural backgrounds.

5) What is lost when one writes ghazals in English vs. Urdu? - Abbas, Toronto

SJ: As someone who does not speak/write Urdu fluently, I can only imagine what may be lost. However, I do know that Urdu is inherently a poetic language, and a word can change meaning just based on how it is recited or written. English is not as flexible in that sense. Also, the meter and rhyme of the ghazal is not the same in English as it is in Urdu. However, I don't believe that I could write as effectively in Urdu because my command of English allows me to make philosophical leaps. To be able to do so in Urdu, I would have to study it for many, many years.

4) Will you record all/some of your ghazals recited in the traditional ghazal style, supported by musicians playing a different raga for each or some of them? - Ishwar, Toronto

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Quiz results

If your score is 30 or above you have good driving sense. Michele Shapiro, editor-in-chief of Drivelikeawoman.com, says good drivers are “alert, cautious, and focused.” You know you have good driving sense because “you take driving seriously and recognize a vehicle has the potential to be dangerous,” she says. You know the pitfalls that can arise if driving is not taken seriously, so you strive to always be attentive while driving.

If you've scored 20 to 29 you have moderate driving sense. You likely are a good driver, but don't always follow the “rules of the road.” “This is someone who is a good driver, but does not take driving seriously,” says Shapiro. “Some drivers think if they keep to the speed limit, and the basic laws then they will be safe. However, drivers must be aware of other drivers, and people and things around them.”

If your score is 19 or below you have bad driving sense. These people are often “distracted, oblivious to their surroundings, and reckless,” says Shapiro. “You think of a car as a fun toy and that you're invincible.” Sometimes those with bad driving sense suffer from road rage. “This is uncontrollable anger while in a car that leads you to use your car as a weapon or use a weapon to harm someone,” she says.

Random Ramblings ...

That is exactly what my friend did. When the little boy was tired, he did not say, “I told you so”. He did not offer the easy bail out situation of having grandma pick them up. Instead, he guided him to make the best of the situation. There is always more than one option in any situation. One just has to look for them. What they did not anticipate was the appearance of an alligator. What a bonus for the child, and what a memory for the both of them! I suppose this was nature's way of saying, that when things get rough, look for the silver lining. Most often, there will be one.

My take away from the story was fourfold. Many times, as adults, we think we know it all. What we forget is that in our youth we may have wanted to do something different and were denied the chance by well meaning elders. In retrospect, it may have turned out to be for the better, but denial is a hard pill to swallow. Give the youth an opportunity to find things out for themselves. Remain supportive, but do not be overly anxious to bail them out. Offer guidance, but leave it up to them to decide. Lastly, have faith in nature, destiny or fate. Whatever name one chooses to call it by, it has a habit of throwing in unexpected bonuses in every situation. One just has to recognize it. Put the four together and we have the best gift we can give to any child. I thanked my friend for sharing this story with me. It has a lot more intrinsic value than just a bicycle, a boy and his grandpa.