

# The Fifteen Good Driving Habits

These Can Eliminate Thousands of Crashes & Hundreds of Crash-Related Injuries & Death

*The final exam and road test centers around this list of defensive driving principles. Start learning these concepts now and prepare yourself to begin developing these habits on the range and on the road during practice driving with your parent/guardian, adult passenger, or RHS road instructor.*

1. **Ready to Drive:** Vehicle in safe condition, **Safety belts on**, proper seating position, doors locked, headlights on, if necessary, and make a safety check around vehicle.
2. Focus on using the **IPDE & Smith System** principles.
3. Make **smooth**, gradual **starts & stops**.
4. Use **9 & 3** or **8 & 4** hand position to **reduce chance of air bag injury**. Use **hand-over-hand** and/or **push-pull** steering combined with the **controlled slippage** technique.
5. When your **foot goes on the brake**, make a **quick glance in the rearview mirror**.
6. Use **turn signals** at least 3 seconds before all turns.
7. **Cover the brake** when possible conflict arises to allow for greater reaction time.
8. Adjust speed & position to **keep empty space to the side**.
9. Before moving your vehicle in any direction, **check surrounding zones & blind spots**. When turning, make a **“last glance”** to the direction opposite of where you are turning just **AFTER you begin the turn**.
10. When you see a red light, reduce speed to time for a **safe stop or for smooth arrival into a green light** & before entering any intersection, **make sure the left, front, & right is clear**; and **use the “point of no return” philosophy**.
11. During straight backing, **look to the rear until completely stopped**. During backing & turning, look to the rear, but **make quick glances forward** to check as the vehicle swings out. During final backing, **look to the rear until completely stopped**.
12. Keep **two to five seconds of following distance** when trailing a vehicle.
13. When stopped behind a vehicle, **see its rear tires touching the road**.
14. **Eliminate unnecessary driving distractions** & reduce stress by **being courteous**, rather than competitive, while driving.
15. **Obey all traffic laws, signs, signals, & roadway markings**.

## The Road Test

At some point, virtually every American teenager has to take the dreaded “road test.” The stories about road tests vary and seem to get better as they get older. Just hearing the phrase “road test” makes people ☺ or ☹! At R.H.S. our goal is to help students prepare to succeed on their road test. R.H.S. instructors administer the road test during the fourth and final road drive. While the result of a road test is not a complete measurement of a truly “good” or “bad” driver. But, it is an important standard that determines whether a person may apply for a driver’s license. The following information can help students and parents prepare for the day when skill and attitude is put to the test out on the open road:

**Road Test Scoring:** A passing score on the test is *not* having more than twenty (20) points deducted from your score. Contrary to popular belief, the test is not based on 100 points. There is actually more than 100 points worth of tested skills on the road test. Starting in January of 2006, students have been given a “minus” final score. For example, if you missed 13 points, you would receive a score of “- 13”, not “87%.” There are certain violations that are 21 point deductions such as running a stop sign or red light, speeding in a school zone, nearly causing a crash, etc. These or any other “dangerous driving actions” automatically put drivers beyond the 20 point limit resulting in a failing score.

**Skills and Maneuvers:** Students will be tested on the following skills: attitude, alertness, posture, hand position, head checks, obeying all traffic laws, following instructions, coordination, distraction management, signaling, lane positioning, and steering. There is an emphasis on demonstrating proper driving habits. Furthermore, there is a very specific emphasis on the following three habits: 1) proper “**head checks**”—these include blind spot checks, traffic checks at intersections (right, left, RVM), last glances just after a turn begins, and proper looks before and during backing maneuvers, 2) **complete stops**, and 3) **proper signaling**.  *failing to make a proper head check, signal, or make a complete stop more than twice will automatically result in a failing score.*

Students will be tested on the following driving maneuvers: right and left turns, smooth starting and stopping, stopping position, lane changes, U-turns, 3 point turns or turnabouts, uphill/downhill parking, backing in a straight line, intersection negotiation, 4 way stops, and parallel parking.

### **INSTRUCTIONS for receiving your Driver Education COMPLETION CERTIFICATE:**

Take your **road test sheet** (your road teacher will give this to you) **and** this **student card** to Coach Galley in Room 2626. The best time to find him in his room is between 7:10-7:25 a.m., during SilverScreen, or between morning classes (he is *rarely* in his room after school). If he is not available, you may place your test sheet/card in the basket on the table by his desk. You may also ask a Main Office secretary to place your test sheet/card in Coach Galley’s faculty mailbox—this is the best option during summer time. **PLEASE ALLOW TWO (2) SCHOOL DAYS FOR PROCESSING.** For example, certificates for cards/tests turned in on a Friday will be ready for pickup on the next Tuesday in Room 2626.

**INSTRUCTIONS for receiving your DRIVER’S LICENSE:** Follow the “Checklist” of instructions on your completion certificate before you go to the D.L.D. (Driver License Division) Teens in Utah are issued learner permits and then original driver licenses. These licenses are issued only at certain D.L.D. (Driver License Division) offices. They are **NOT** issued at the D.M.V. (Dept. of Motor Vehicles)! D.L.D. (Driver License Division-- [www.driverlicense.utah.gov](http://www.driverlicense.utah.gov)): South Valley Office 2630 14555 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper just east of I-15/take the Bluffdale & I-15 interchange). Mon –Thur -- 7 am to 6 pm -- Closed Friday, Saturday, & Sunday -- 816-2600

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