



The Common Sense Guide to Safe Driving

- Be alert. Concentrate at all times and avoid distractions
- Before driving, always ensure you are mentally and physically prepared
- Perform regular checks on your vehicle – it could save your life
- Look after your tyres – they're the only contact you have with the road
- Take note of weather conditions and prepare yourself
- Take personal responsibility for your safety (and the safety of other road users)
Better to arrive late than not arrive at all
- Drive calmly and efficiently – to reduce stress and tiredness
- Take regular breaks on long journeys
- Always drive on the left, except when overtaking
- Be thoughtful, courteous and predictable, giving timely information
- Make sure you can see and be seen – keep all glass clean and use dipped headlights in dull conditions
- Keep a constant look out all around and use the information as part of your action plans
- Be positive in your actions and drive with purpose, not hesitancy
- Be aware of signs and regulations and why they are there – if unsure review the Highway Code
- Be prepared and anticipate possible danger – be vigilant and recognise potential hazards early and create space and time to deal with them
- Don't tailgate – allow at least two seconds' worth of space – a lot more if driving at speed or in poor conditions
- Think, "What if?" and use your imagination and experience to prepare for potentially threatening situations
- Always ensure that you can stop safely, well within the distance you know is clear
- Constantly develop your skills and keep up to date with technical changes and improvements
- Show courtesy, co-operation and space to others. Don't obstruct them
- Never take risks, drive unfit or compete with others – don't rely merely on fast reactions or handling skills – the good driver is the one who stays out of trouble
- Use speed intelligently and adjust according to the conditions – in certain circumstances, a safe speed may be well below the legal limit
- Don't take anything for granted – manage the space around you
- Never stop practising – if you make a mistake, acknowledge it and use that experience for your future benefit

Enjoy your driving – it's a lifetime skill

