
ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *15 CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE FOUND IN BAD DRIVERS AND THEIR HABITS (11-15)*

As you look universally at driving habits and resulting accidents, there are a number of characteristics that show up often. Listed below are some of these characteristics for you to examine your own style and behavior of driving.

11. Bad drivers hold the steering wheel improperly. Safety is not their motivation.

Even if you've driven for a long time and you're a guru at cars and you know the roads better than the engineers who built them, if you aren't good with handling the steering wheel, you're a bad driver. There's this thing about trying to look cool while driving, especially for guys who want to impress the ladies, but it's actually very irresponsible. There are rules that extend to how you should hold the steering wheel, and your grip should be firm enough so you can ensure you manage your car on the road properly and with stability. Using the hands of the clock, you can either hold the steering at a quarter to three or the ten-to-two position. This way, no matter what speed you're driving, you can control your car better.

12. A bad driver's car/truck can be covered with dings, dents, scrapes, and scratches.

This does not mean a good driver's car won't have a dent or scrape here or there – this can happen to any driver. But for a bad driver, it's habitual. You will find that a bad driver's car is either dented on the bumper, has scratches on the body, or just has stuff that's off all over the car. The car looks beat despite being new. What happens is the car has been driven badly, either because he didn't follow the rules of the road and got hit, or because he met his match on the road who didn't care that he forgot to signal a turn, or he didn't use his rear-view or side mirrors – and now, he lives with the scars.

13. A bad driver cannot let others overtake him. They feel it is a sign of weakness. If there is a race, they must win.

A bad driver just won't accept being passed by anyone. It's even worse when the person passing him is a woman – it's like some switch goes on in his brain that tells him not to let her pass. This is the kind of driver who'll drive at his own pace on the road, but when any driver behind him tries to get ahead of him, that's when he suddenly remembers he needs to move faster.

14. A bad driver lacks self-control. They are by nature aggressive but allow that aggressive personality to have too much control.

No one knows whether the driver is late for something or has an urgent thing that needs to be done, but even a five-second wait to change lanes is just too much for the bad driver. This kind of driver will veer across all four lanes on a busy highway just to make the exit. What are two minutes of staying in the right lane compared to causing mayhem for everyone else just so you can make it to the exit? It's like this driver wasn't taught the art of delaying gratification. In short, he lacks self-control and discipline. Imagine the number of road accidents that have been caused just because of such actions. Whether he is late or not, if he at the last minute realizes that's his exit, he will cross four lanes of traffic to make it rather than take the next one and come back. He reacts rather than thinks.

15. Bad drivers sometimes feel it is a sign of weakness to admit they need to change or improve. Really, it is a sign of stupidity! We all need to improve and turn our weaknesses into strengths.

You see, life is a process of learning. We quit learning when we are in the grave. The problem is, sometimes our pride stops us from learning and growing. We are not in the grave, but we soon become a liability to others.

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