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## ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *TEN ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF A GOOD DRIVER (8-10)*

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What is the mental and quality make-up of an effective and quality driver? The driver who never causes problems. Who never has an accident and does his job, day after day? Listed below are characteristics that these types of drivers have.

8. **Anticipates others' actions with skill.** A driver who steers, brakes, changes gears, and accelerates smoothly is a good driver. Smooth driving also places far less stress on the mechanics of a vehicle, thus avoiding unnecessary and inconvenient breakdowns.

It's important that drivers employ defensive driving when on the road. It's all about recognizing and reacting to potential situations before they happen in the interest not only of your safety, but that of other road users. By acting on situations ahead in a timely manner, you will become a smoother driver, in other words, proactive.

To be a good driver you need to be able to anticipate what other road users will do. If you know where to look, you will see clues all around: pedestrians who might be about to run into the road, children playing on the pavement; water or items on the road surface, or stray animals. These are all signs to give you information to act upon. Be vigilant, and be aware, as this will make you a better driver in the long run.

9. **Self discipline.** A good driver is under personal control. They know what has to be done and they get it done regardless of the emotions and circumstances of the time. He controls his emotions. He sees each task intellectually and produces the logical result. He is alert to what is going on around him. He sees changing circumstances as the day in the making. His driving is a reflection of the maturity of experience and the activity which that experience demands.
10. **Sees the end result is a successful, safe completion of his day.** The good driver ends his day safe, on time, without problems. That is his goal. Every activity for the day is designed to get to that point.

Obviously, good drivers don't just happen. They are built by:

1. Practice
2. Dedication
3. Work

The result saves lives. What kind of driver are you?

*Provided by the ASA – Houston Chapter Safety & Health Committee and* **ADAMS**  
INSURANCE-SERVICE

P.O. Box 924943 • Houston, Texas 77292 • 281.679.1877 • [asahouston.org](http://asahouston.org) • [asa@asahouston.org](mailto:asa@asahouston.org)

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