

## Car Talk

Let's say you're driving around with your friends, and everyone's talking. Cell phones ring, music blares. One friend asks you to read a text message. Another friend wants you to speed up. And someone offers you a bite of a burger. Sound familiar?

This sort of situation is pretty common. But it's also dangerous.

To stay safe, keep these things in mind when you're behind the wheel:

-  As the driver, you're responsible for yourself and your passengers.
-  Distractions (like food, conversation, cell phones, and music) cause crashes.
-  It's okay to tell your friends that you need to focus on the road.

Not sure how to handle different driving situations? Start by asking your parents. Let them share their driving experience and what they've learned. Then, put your own spin on what they say to create a safe driving environment.



Maybe you'll find out you're more comfortable driving with a parent or alone, instead of with friends. Remember: driving is fun, but it's also a serious responsibility—so do what it takes to keep everyone safe.

## Get Behind the Wheel with Pros!

Put your road skills to the test! **Toyota Driving Expectations** will be coming soon to the Toyota Headquarters in Torrance, CA. For details and registration information about this **FREE** defensive driving course for parents and teens, check out [www.toyotadrivingexpectations.com](http://www.toyotadrivingexpectations.com)!



Teen Guide

# TOYOTA

*Making a Difference*



# Road Rules

## The Keys to Driving

**Driving: It's your key to freedom.** You've been watching your parents drive for years. You know exactly what you're doing. You don't need any more advice. Right? Wrong!

-  Have you ever asked your parents about the driving decisions they've made? Talk to them. You might be surprised at what you learn.
-  Ask your parents what basic driving rules they expect you to follow. Then follow them!
-  Be sure you're familiar with your car's safety features, like anti-lock brakes and airbags. Check with your parents or take a look at the car manual.
-  Tell your parents where you're going, what route you'll take, when you'll check in, and when you'll return. If your plans change, let your parents know.



*Toyota Driving Expectations Live Event Participant*

## Behind the Wheel

**Ready to roll?** Not so fast. Follow these steps *before* you start the car to keep yourself and others safe:

-  Be sure you're wide awake. Lots of accidents happen because drivers are tired. If you're ready to doze, let someone else drive!
-  Adjust your mirrors and seat, and buckle up.
-  Turn off your cell phone. The ringing can really distract you. Don't let it! If you need to make a call, always pull over to a safe, well-lit place before dialing.

Hot coffee's not cool in the car.  
Neither is water or soda.  
Both hands on the wheel!



## Street Smarts

**Looking for a smooth ride?** Follow these tips:

-  First, check for obstacles outside the car. Then, get in the car and adjust your mirrors so you can see behind your vehicle. After you start the car, check your gas and fluid gauges.
-  Keep your eyes up and moving as soon as you start driving. Don't let sights and sounds distract you! Focus on the road and possible hazards. Think the drivers around you are focused? Don't be so sure.
-  If it's hard to see, or if the road is bumpy or curvy, slow down and head to the right lane. Otherwise, stick to the speed limit, and only use the left lane for passing.

Do you know the laws in your state? You have to know the laws to follow them! Is there a teen-driver curfew in your town?

How many passengers can you have? Find local laws at [www.aapublicaffairs.com](http://www.aapublicaffairs.com). Click on "Teen Drivers," then "State GDL Laws."