

Test your knowledge of driving in Austin.

1. Which of these roads run north and south? Mopac I-35 Lavaca 6th St.
2. Round Rock is which direction from Austin? north south
3. Anything south of the _____ is usually referred to as south Austin.
4. The main downtown street that leads to the state capitol is _____.
5. We are located at the intersection of _____ and _____.
6. The numbered streets begin at the river and get (larger/smaller) as you go north.
7. An _____ road is the road that runs parallel to an expressway. You enter and exit the expressway from this road.

8. Explain these terms:

- entrance ramp _____
- merge _____
- yield _____
- thru lanes _____
- median _____
- divided highway _____
- pavement ends _____
- gravel road _____
- tollway _____
- TX tag _____
- one way street _____
- railroad crossing _____
- no U turn _____
- crosswalk _____
- school zone _____
- HOV lane _____
- no outlet _____
- no parking loading zone _____
- wrong way _____
- detour _____
- road rage _____
- motorist _____
- traffic congestion _____
- cul de sac _____
- cloverleaf _____
- vehicle inspection _____
- vehicle registration _____

9. Can you talk on a cell phone in a school zone?
10. Can you pass a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers?
11. What is a blood alcohol test used for?
12. What is a breathalyzer?
13. The Texas Driver's Manual is available online at this address: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/documents/dl-7.pdf>

Talk about driving:

1. Do you drive here? Did you drive in your own country? How difficult was it to get a driver's license here?
2. Is it harder or easier to drive in the US?
3. Have you ever been stopped by a policeman for violating a traffic law?
4. Have you ever been involved in a traffic accident?

5. In your opinion, what causes most traffic accidents?
6. Are cars cheaper or more expensive than in your country?
7. How hard is it to get to your home during rush hour?
8. Would you buy a hybrid car even though they are more expensive?

Idioms:

If someone is “in the driver’s seat” they are in control of the situation. EX: Due to the excess of apartments, renters are in the driver’s seat when it comes to negotiating monthly rates.

When someone asks, “What are you driving at?” they are asking what are you trying to say. What do you mean?

If you “drive home” your point, you emphasize something. EX: She used charts and statistics to drive home the message that we must stay within our budget. He drove home the importance of wearing a seat belt by showing us photos from fatal traffic accidents.

Someone who is “driven” is highly motivated to succeed or excel. EX: As a young man, Winston was driven by a need for attention.

A “drive by shooting” is a gang related practice of driving by someone’s house and shooting at it. EX: Several innocent people were injured in the drive by shooting. (Do you have gang problems in your country?)

A “drive thru” is a driveway at a restaurant that leads to a window where you can pick up take home food. EX: I’m hungry, but there is not time to stop. Could we just hit the drive thru at McDonalds?

If you “drive someone to drink” you frustrate them so much that they are tempted to consume alcohol in order to forget about the problems. Usually, this is not a literal expression. We don’t really intend to go get drunk. EX: Raising teenagers is enough to drive you to drink. “Drive someone crazy” is similar in meaning and use. (What are the frustrations that “drive you to drink” or “drive you crazy”?)

If you “drive a hard bargain” you work hard to get a good deal for yourself. For example, when you are negotiating the price of a car, you say you will only pay an amount much less than the listed price. (Are you a person who drives a hard bargain on major purchases? Or do you prefer to just pay the price listed?)

Explain this old saying: The road to hell is paved with good intentions.
(Have you ever done something with good intentions that ended up having bad consequences for someone?)