

Texas Laws You Need to Know: Take turns reading and discussing

All occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, must be secured by a safety belt no matter where they are seated in the vehicle.

A motorcycle operator may not carry a passenger under the age of 5 unless the child is seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

It is illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

New Texas residents may operate a motor vehicle for 90 days without a Texas driver's license. This assumes you have a license from another state.

An infant up to 1 year old and at least 20 lbs. must ride in a rear facing infant seat. Children over 1 year who weight between 20 and 40 pounds must be in a forward facing child seat with harness.

Children younger than 8 must be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat (also known as a booster seat) unless the child is taller than 4 ft. 9 in.

If a police officer or sheriff has pulled someone over on the side of the road, you must change to the inside lane or slow down to 20 miles an hour below the posted speed limit.

You can have a concealed handgun in Texas, but you can't bring it into a bar or any other business that prohibits guns on the premises.

Are any of these laws unfamiliar to you? Do any of them seem strange and different from laws in your country?

Students: Choose a topic and talk for 2 or 3 minutes about it. Then ask other students if they have similar experiences.

1. Talk about a time you locked yourself out of someplace.
2. Explain a gesture that you use in your country, but that people don't use here.
3. Have you ever ridden on a cruise ship? Tell about it.
4. Talk about driving in this country versus driving in your country.
5. Have you ever had to spend the night in an airport? Tell about it.
6. Talk about something that most people are afraid of, but that you are not afraid of.

Vocabulary: Hold is a word with lots of meanings. Read these sentences. Explain what is happening in each item and tell what the underlined expression means.

1. Get hold of yourself. Laura's injuries were not bad. You are not helping anyone by crying hysterically.
2. I can't get hold of my wife. I've been calling her for hours. I'm starting to get worried.
3. The cargo ship was carrying explosives in the hold.
4. After watching my family be killed, death holds no fear for me.
5. I have never held office before. I'm not sure I'll know what to do.
6. He doesn't hold a valid driver's license. If he's arrested, he'll go to jail.

7. Season ticket holders get the best seats. It's not fair because I can't afford season tickets.
8. The government will hold an investigation into the cause of the flooding.
9. She's a great librarian. Her stories really hold the kid's interest.
10. I'm glad Joan is rid of Ernest. Yes, but because she once loved him, he still has a hold over her.
11. He's not answering his phone. Can you hold, please. I'll see if I can get him to pick up.
12. Everyone expected the bad news to send the economy into a dive, but stock prices held steady.
13. Hold it! Don't move. There is a snake near your foot.
14. He had a bag of marijuana in the car. It is not hard to get hold of drugs if you are a teenager.
15. I'm not sure this dress is the right one. Can you please put it on hold?
16. Jane is a pretty tough girl. She can hold her own against the boys.
17. Fear took hold of the passengers as they saw the man pull a gun.
18. It was a fair match. I don't hold it against him that he defeated me. He won fair and square.
19. I'd like to be more adventurous, but my fear of failure always holds me back.
20. The police are investigating. They are holding back the details of the crime.