

DRIVING EMERGENCIES & REAL LIFE SITUATIONS: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

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Test your Car Smarts and Safe Driving Abilities.

NOTE: Some questions may have more than one correct answer.

Answers are on the last page.

1. You are driving your car and you see what looks like smoke coming from under the hood. No warning lights are on. Your car is on fire! What should you do?
 - a. Pull over immediately, turn your engine off and get out of your vehicle. Get other passengers & pets out of your vehicle, too!
 - b. Keep driving until you can find a more convenient place to pull over or park.
 - c. Text your spouse/friend/relative to ask them what you should do.
 - d. Keep driving but call 911.

2. You are approaching a stop light. You step on the brakes but the pedal goes to the floor with little or no resistance. What should you do?
 - a. Pump the brake pedal rapidly to see if the brakes will work.
 - b. Apply the emergency/parking brakes to slow your vehicle.
 - c. Look for an escape path to steer your vehicle to avoid hitting anything.
 - d. All of the above.

3. You are driving at night and suddenly your headlights stop working. What should you do?
 - a. Keep driving and hope you can see well enough to make it where you are going.
 - b. Follow the taillights of the vehicle in front of you.
 - c. Turn on your flashers and pull over to the side of the road, then call for help or roadside assistance.
 - d. Try turning on the high beams and/or fog lamps to see if they work.

4. You are driving and suddenly to hear a loud thumping noise and feel a vibration or shuddering sensation in the steering wheel. What should you do?
 - a. Slow down to see if the noise/shuddering goes away.
 - b. Speed up to see if the noise/shuddering goes away.
 - c. Keep driving until you can find a place to pull over or park.
 - d. Pull over immediately and check for a flat tire.

5. You are driving along and suddenly your engine quits running. What should you do?
 - a. Pull over, turn on your flashers, exit your vehicle, raise the hood and call for help or roadside assistance.
 - b. Try tuning the ignition on and off, or push the START button repeatedly.
 - c. Pound on the steering wheel and swear at your vehicle for stranding you in the middle of nowhere.
 - d. Look at the gas gauge you forgot to check earlier. Too late. You ran out of gas!

6. You are driving along and the Check Engine light comes on and remains on. There are no other warning lights. Engine running normally. What should you do?
 - a. Pull over immediately, turn the engine off, open the hood and call for help or roadside assistance.
 - b. Keep driving until you can pull over or park, open the hood and act like you know what to look for.
 - c. Kick yourself in the rear for not buying that extended warranty plan.
 - d. Keep driving but watch for other warning lights. Then make a service appointment when you get home to have someone check the cause of the light, or use a scan tool yourself to check for diagnostic codes.

7. You are driving and the TEMPERATURE gauge reads High, or the TEMP warning lamp comes on. What should you do?
 - a. Turn the heater on to see if that helps lower the engine temperature.
 - b. Look for steam or white smoke coming from under the hood. Stop immediately if you see steam/smoke, and call for help or roadside assistance
 - c. Do NOT open the radiator cap or reservoir cap until the engine has cooled.
 - d. All of the above.

8. You get in your car and attempt to start the engine but nothing happens. It won't crank. Just dead silence. What should you do?
 - a. Pray for a miracle.
 - b. Open the hood and check for a dead battery or loose or corroded battery cables.
 - c. Check the fuel gauge to see if there is fuel in the tank.
 - d. All of the above.

9. You get in your car and attempt to start the engine. It cranks but refuses to start. There are no warning lights. What should you do?
 - a. Find somebody to give you a jump start.
 - b. Check the fuel gauge to see if there is fuel in the tank.
 - c. Open the hood and check for a dead battery or loose or corroded battery cables.
 - d. Check the battery in your smart key fob to see if it has died.

10. Your engine cranks but won't start. The fuel gauge says there is fuel in the tank, and there are no warning lights. What should you do?
 - a. Find another means of transportation until you can get your vehicle diagnosed/repared. Might be a dead fuel pump or bad gas in the tank.
 - b. Keep cranking the engine over and over until you run the battery down.
 - c. Try jump starting the engine to see if that works
 - d. Get out, slam the door, have a royal hissy fit, then try again later.

11. You are driving and your vehicle suddenly starts to accelerate all by itself (unintended acceleration). You apply the brakes but the car refuses to slow. What should you do?
 - a. Call 911 and frantically explain your predicament.
 - b. Start honking your horn so other vehicles will get out of your way.
 - c. Turn the ignition OFF, or push and hold the START button to kill the engine.
 - d. Shift the transmission into NEUTRAL.

12. You are driving in heavy traffic and your cell phone lets you know you have just received a new text, tweet, email, or social media post. What should you do?
 - a. Glance up occasionally from your phone until you have read everything.
 - b. Reply immediately to the text/post/tweet so people won't think you are rude.
 - c. Ignore the damn cell phone and focus your attention on driving!
 - d. Tell the officer who is investigating your accident that you weren't on your phone.

13. Another driver cuts you off in traffic. You honk at them and they give you the finger. What should you do?
 - a. Give them the finger back, and if they want to play games bring it on!
 - b. Yell back at them (as if they can hear you), speed ahead and cut them off in traffic.
 - c. Be glad you got that conceal carry permit and be ready to use your gun if the situation continues to escalate.
 - d. Ignore the asshole and just let it go.....

14. You are sitting in your vehicle at a stop light, in a parking lot or at an ATM machine when somebody walks up, points a gun at you and wants to car jack your vehicle. What should you do?
 - a. Be glad you bought that Glock for self-defense, whip it out and shoot the S.O.B. before he can shoot you.
 - b. No Glock? Then open the door, jump out and wrestle the gun away from the car jacker, and hold him until the police arrive.
 - c. The dude is really big or acts like he is on drugs? Don't resist. Let him take your vehicle, report the theft and collect on your car insurance later.
 - d. Tell him to wait a minute while you call 911 to report a car jacking in progress.

15. You are driving in a heavy downpour and your windshield wipers suddenly stop working. What should you do?
- Roll down the side window, stick your head out the window and keep on driving.
 - Follow the blurry outline or taillights of the vehicle in front of you.
 - Roll down the side window, stick your arm out and wipe the windshield with your hand.
 - Pull over, turn on your emergency flashers, wait for the downpour to end and hope some idiot doesn't rear end you while you are sitting on the side of the road.
16. Your vehicle has broken down and you are sitting on the side of an interstate highway. You have turned on your emergency flashers, raised the hood and have called for help or roadside assistance. What should you do now?
- Wait in your car until help arrives and hope a sleepy trucker doesn't rear end you.
 - Get out of your vehicle and move back a safe distance from the road while you wait for help to arrive.
 - Catch up on all those old texts, emails, social media posts and cat videos you haven't had time for earlier.
 - Get in a stranger's car who offers to take you to home or to a gas station for help.
17. You posted an ad on Craig's List to sell your car and someone has contacted you and has said they want to buy it. What should you do?
- Meet them in a secluded location so you won't be disturbed while you show them your car.
 - Hand them the keys so they can test drive your car while you wait for them to return.
 - Accept a personal check for payment in full, then sign over the car title, give them the keys and wish them the best of luck.
 - Cancel the Craig's List ad and either trade-in your car at a dealership or donate it to a charity.
18. It's winter, the roads are icy and your vehicle has just slid off the road into a ditch. What should you do?
- Wish you had bought a four-wheel-drive SUV so you could drive anywhere.
 - Call or text for help or roadside assistance, while being glad those yearly premiums you have been paying for AAA will finally pay off.
 - Try to push the vehicle out of the ditch yourself.
 - Spin your wheels in the snow to see whether or not you are really stuck.
19. You come out of a store and try to get into your vehicle but discover you have locked your keys inside your car. What should you do?
- Kick yourself for not extending your GM OnStar subscription so they could remotely unlock your car door for you.
 - Break out a side window so you can reach inside and unlock the door.
 - Find an old rusty coat hanger wire, wiggle it past the edge of the driver's side window and try to pull the door latch or push the lock release button.
 - Call a cop and let them use a Slim Jim to unlock your door (they are good at that!).

20. You discover your car has a flat tire as you are about to get into it. What should you do?
- Open the glove box, try to find the Owner's Manual that you have never read, then search for the spare tire, jack and jack handle you have never used, and attempt to change the flat tire yourself.
 - Drive to the nearest gas station so you can pump air into the flat tire.
 - Call or text for help or roadside assistance and hope your car insurance pays for it.
 - You discover your car has no spare tire or jack, only a can or aerosol tire sealer that doesn't work or is empty. You make another choice.
21. You are driving and the TPMS warning light comes on. You do know what it looks like, right? What should you do?
- You have no idea what the TPMS warning light looks like or what TPMS means, so you do nothing, keep on driving and hope it goes away.
 - Pull into a gas station, find the air hose (if they have one), get quarters to put into the air machine so it will work (or not!), then check the pressure in each tire and add air as needed to bring each tire up to the recommended inflation pressure. This assumes you also have a tire gauge, know how to use it and know where to look for the recommended tire inflation pressure (HINT: It's NOT printed on the side of the tires. You'll find it in the Owners Manual or on a decal on the driver's side door pillar).
 - You drive faster so the tires will get hotter and make the TPMS warning light go out.
 - You panic, don't know what you should do and call your brother-in-law for advice.
22. Your car won't crank or start, the lights won't work and everything seems dead. Somebody tell you that you probably have a dead battery. What should you do?
- Kick yourself for buying that cheap 24-month replacement battery at Walmart when you replaced the battery 5 years ago.
 - Buy a new battery, make sure it is fully charged before it is installed, and that the battery cables are clean and tight.
 - "Borrow" a battery out of your spouse's or mother-in-law's car until you can buy a new battery for your own car.
 - Look up YouTube videos on how to revive old dead car batteries, and hope their tricks can bring your old battery back to life (Good Luck!).
23. Your old car needs a lot of expensive repair work, more than it is worth. What should you do?
- Go into debt to buy another car.
 - Call the junk man to pick it up (you might get \$50 to \$75 for scrap value).
 - Donate your old car to charity (the junk man may still pick it up).
 - Buy some lottery tickets and hope for a winner.

ANSWER KEY:

1A, 2D, 3C or D, 4D, 5A or D, 6D, 7D, 8B, 9B, 10A, 11C or D, 12C, 13D, 14C, 15D, 16B, 17D, 18B, 19C or D, 20C or A (depends on your abilities and whether or not you can get the lug nuts loose!), 21B, 22B or C, 23A, B or C.