

Talk Time Topic: Rules of the Road

Let's get started...

Before you get started, talk about the following questions with your group. There are rules of the road for every type of driving. However, many drivers do not follow these rules.

- What are some rules that you think are broken often?
- Do you have any questions about a certain rule? Which one?

Background:

The “rules of the road” for Washington State can be found at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/ sometimes people forget some of these rules over time, but they are *very important* for the safety of all drivers. Do you always buckle-up? You should! Statistics prove that it saves lives. Do you drive at a safe following distance? If you drive too close, you could hit someone or make them angry. Do you turn on your headlights on rainy or foggy days? Headlights make your car easier for other people to see. All of these “rules” are for your safety and are made for the roads and weather in Washington.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Have you ever been upset by another driver? What happened? Did you think you would have an accident?

Have you ever seen a case of “road rage”? When? Where? What did you do?

Have you ever driven in bad weather and lost control of the car? Tell how it happened.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

What are some of the “rules of the road” in your country? Are these rules similar to or different from the rules in Washington State?

Do you drive in the U.S.? Was it difficult to get used to driving here?

In your opinion, what is the most difficult rule to follow? Give an example.

Many people drive too fast or too slow. Do you think that you drive too fast, too slow, or do you go the speed limit?

Have you ever been in a car when someone tailgated you? How did you feel? What did you do? Is tailgating a problem in your country?

Did you “buckle up in your country”? Which countries buckle up and which do not?

Even though it’s not a law yet, talking on cell phones can make driving less safe. Do you think we should make cell phones illegal in the car? Why or why not?

What is “defensive driving”? How do you practice it? Have you ever had a “close call”? What happened

There are many car accidents in the U.S. every day. Were there a lot of car accidents in your country?

Have you ever been involved in an accident? How did you feel? What happened?

What should you do if you get in an accident in the U.S.?

What do you think “poor visibility” means”? What can you do if you suddenly have poor visibility?

What do you think is the most important thing to do when driving on snow or ice? In the rain?

What do you like best about driving in Washington State? What do you like least?

Is there more traffic or less in your city and/or country?

What is “good driving etiquette” in the U.S.? How is it similar to or different from good driving etiquette in your native country?

New words and Idioms:

Speed limit, freeway driving, safe following distance, to buckle up, to go too slow, to go too fast, pedestrian, to cut out in front of someone, to tailgate someone, road rage, to be a safe driver, good driving etiquette, to be a crazy driver, “click it or ticket”, road conditions, wet-weather driving, defensive driving, to have a close call, drinking and driving, icy roads, bridges, headlights, visibility, chains are required, studded tires, maintenance crews, carpool lane, “better to be safe than sorry”, etc.