



How To Be a Good Carpooler

Save time and money by sharing a ride. Besides splitting gas, tolls, or parking costs, more people carpooling means fewer cars on the road, so we'll all get where we're going faster.

Carpooling does not have to be limited to your work commute. You can do it any day of the week for any type of trip. If you are in a sports league or go to weekly religious services, you can set up regular carpools. And you can also form spontaneous carpools when running errands—ask a friend to come along!

Thanks to social media, it is now easier than ever to find somebody going your way. Online resources:

- MassRIDES—www.commute.com
- eRideShare—www.erideshare.com
- Zimride—www.zimride.com
- Ridester—www.ridester.com

Carpool etiquette

DO:

- Give plenty of notice if you'll be away on vacation; notify others immediately about sick days or emergencies.
- Call or text your fellow carpoolers if you're running late.
- Drive carefully. There's no excuse for speeding, drinking alcohol, or reckless driving.
- Exchange emergency contact information.
- Keep your car well-serviced and clean.
- Use seatbelts—It's the law, and the driver could get a ticket if passengers are not buckled up.
- Let the driver initiate conversation. Some drivers prefer to focus on the road rather than chat.
- Let music be the driver's choice. Drivers should keep the volume in check.

DON'T:

- Make a habit of being late.
- Ask your carpoolers to make extra stops along the way so you can take care of personal errands.
- Talk about controversial topics like religion or politics unless you know your fellow carpoolers well.
- Have lengthy cell phone conversations while you're in the carpool.
- Eat or drink in the car.
- Block driveways and side streets while waiting for passengers. Never stop in a bus zone.

Quiz: What's your carpool style?

Choose one answer for each question.

1. You use a car to...
 - a. go to work / school and back. (1 point)
 - b. lug heavy bags home from the store. (2 points)
 - c. drive into the sunset in search of adventure. (3 points)

2. You prefer to be the...
 - a. driver, always. (2 points)
 - b. passenger, always. (2 points)
 - c. driver or passenger, depending on your mood. (2 points)

3. When driving with others, you like to...
 - a. chat a little bit. (2 points)
 - b. get into deep conversations. (3 points)
 - c. turn up the radio and zone out. (1 point)

4. Gas is...
 - a. still pretty cheap. (3 points)
 - b. way too expensive. (1 point)
 - c. about what it should cost. (2 points)

5. The perfect number of people in a car is...
 - a. two. People in front, packages in back. (2 points)
 - b. three. Just enough to cut the cost of gas and parking. (1 point)
 - c. the more the merrier! (3 points)

Count up your total points.

(6 to 8 points) Creature of habit

You tend to make the same trips every day, so a regular, predictable commuter carpool is perfect for you! Ask your school or workplace if they'll help you find other people who live near you.

(9 to 11 points) Taking care of business

You use a car for your weekly grocery trips or an occasional Ikea run. What better way to cut the cost of the trip, and make it easier to find a parking space?

(12 to 14 points) Fun, fun, fun!

Did somebody say road trip? You're happy to pile into a car to get to some far-away destination on the cheap. Not to mention, quicker—the more people in one car, the less traffic you have to sit in, the quicker you get where you're going.