

C A R E 2 D R I V E

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Show me, tell me

All 21 vehicle safety questions, and how to answer them in your own words.



14 tell me

7 show me

Answers in plain English



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SHOW ME, TELL ME

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All 21 vehicle safety questions, and how to answer them

You get two of these on test day. One "tell me" before you drive away, and one "show me" while you are driving. Learn all 21 and neither one can surprise you.

How they are marked.

Answer either one incorrectly and it counts as a driving fault, the same as any other minor. One wrong answer does not stop you passing, and you do not need mechanic's language. Say what you would actually do, in your own words.

The 14 "tell me" questions · asked before you drive

1. Tell me how you'd check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

As you set off, press the brake pedal. It should not feel spongy or slack, and the car should not pull to one side.

2. Tell me where you'd find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car, and how tyre pressures should be checked.

In the manufacturer's guide, or on a plate inside the driver's door or the fuel flap. Check with a reliable gauge when the tyres are cold, including the spare, and refit the valve caps.

3. Tell me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash.

The rigid part should be at least as high as the top of your ears, and as close to the back of your head as is comfortable.

4. Tell me how you'd check the tyres to ensure they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.

At least 1.6 mm of tread across the central three quarters, all the way round. No cuts or bulges in the sidewall. The 20p test works: the outer band should be hidden.

5. Tell me how you'd check that the headlights and tail lights are working.

Switch them on, get out and walk round the car, or use a reflection in a window or wall.

6. Tell me how you'd know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system.

A warning light on the dashboard stays lit after you start the engine.

7. Tell me how you'd check the direction indicators are working.

Switch on the hazard warning lights and walk round the car, checking all four indicators flash.



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"Tell me", continued

8. Tell me how you'd check the brake lights are working on this car.

Press the brake pedal and use a reflection in a window, a garage door or a wall, or ask someone to look for you.

9. Tell me how you'd check the power-assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

With the engine off, press lightly against the wheel. Start the engine and the wheel should give slightly, which shows the system has taken over.

10. Tell me how you'd switch on the rear fog light(s), and explain when you'd use them.

Point to the switch and the warning light on the dash. Use them when visibility drops below 100 metres, and switch them off when it lifts, because they dazzle and hide your brake lights.

11. Tell me how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam, and explain how you'd know the main beam is on.

Point to the stalk, and to the blue warning light on the dashboard.

12. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient oil.

Find the dipstick, wipe it, put it back fully, pull it out and read the level. It should sit between the minimum and maximum marks.

13. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient engine coolant.

Find the header tank and check the level sits between the minimum and maximum marks. Never open it while the engine is hot.

14. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Find the reservoir and check the level sits between the minimum and maximum marks.

Practise them the lazy way.

Do one a day for three weeks, out loud, sitting in the car on the drive. Point at the thing while you say it. On test day your hand goes there before your brain does, which is exactly what you want.



Ellie says: the three that start "open the bonnet" have the same answer shape. Find the container, check the level sits between min and max. Learn one, you have learned three.

15. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the rear windscreen?

16. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the front windscreen?

17. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd switch on your dipped headlights?

18. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister?

19. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd operate the horn?

20. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd demist the front windscreen?

21. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd open and close the side window?

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