



TEACHER'S GUIDE

**“Share the Road – Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights”
A Driver-Bicyclist Safety Video**



opi.mt.gov

Distributed by:
**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

TEACHER'S GUIDE

“Share the Road – Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights”

A Driver-Bicyclist Safety Video

Objectives:

- To encourage drivers to share the road with bicyclists.
- To improve new drivers' understanding of bicyclists' actions and legal status on the road while promoting lawful, safer bicycling.
- To reduce car/bicyclist fatalities and injuries through bicycle awareness training for new drivers.

Materials:

- A 10-question student test that can be copied and distributed.
- A teacher's guide with test answers and background.
- A 6:49-minute video.

Approach:

- Administer the written test to students before showing the video to measure their understanding.
- Play the video, discuss contents and answer questions.
- Re-administer the test to see if students' understanding has improved and if further instruction on specific issues is necessary in the classroom or on the road.
- For a discussion of a real life driver-bicyclist road rage incident, download www.bikelib.org/video/roadrage.pdf

Background:

Drivers and bicyclists both get where they're going safely when they share the road and follow the same traffic rules. Both have the same rights to be on the road and with those rights come obligations. Drivers and bicyclists should observe speed limits, stop at traffic lights and stop signs, signal when changing lanes, yield the right-of-way and maintain safe distances from all vehicles, including bicycles.

Robbie Ventura, a retired professional bicyclist, former teammate of Lance Armstrong and now a successful cycling and fitness instructor, narrates the video, *“Share the Road - Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights.”* The video shows how drivers can share the road with bicyclists.

Hundreds of bicyclists are killed and thousands are injured annually on our nation's roadways in crashes with motor vehicles. Car-bike crashes involving adult cyclists – who represent 70 percent of the fatalities – are most often caused by driver error. Dangerous, common mistakes by drivers can be reduced significantly through education and training.

Driver-Bicyclist Safety Test

(Circle the correct answer)

- 1. What direction should a bicyclist ride on the roadway?**
 - A. Against the traffic.
 - B. With the traffic.
 - C. Depends on whether it's a one-way or two-way street.
 - D. It doesn't matter which direction a bicyclist rides.
- 2. What is a safe distance for driver to pass a bicyclist going in the same direction?**
 - A. One or two feet.
 - B. More than three feet.
 - C. At least 10 feet.
 - D. 15 feet or more.
- 3. When a driver approaches a bicyclist from the rear, the driver should:**
 - A. Blast the horn.
 - B. Race the engine.
 - C. Shout at the bicyclist.
 - D. None of the above.
- 4. A bicyclist should:**
 - A. Always ride on a sidewalk.
 - B. Always hug the side of the road no matter what.
 - C. Ride as close to the side of the road as practical.
 - D. Block traffic for no good reason.
- 5. True or False:**

Bicyclists have no legal right to ride on the road.
- 6. True or False:**

Bicyclists should use only designated bike lanes and bike paths.
- 7. At a stop sign before proceeding, a driver should:**
 - A. Look for cars coming from the left, right and straight ahead.
 - B. Look for pedestrians on sidewalks.
 - C. Look for bicyclists approaching on the road and the sidewalk.
 - D. All the above.
- 8. A driver should be alert to:**
 - A. A bicyclist riding into the street from a driveway or side street.
 - B. A bicyclist riding alongside parked cars.
 - C. A bicyclist riding against the traffic flow.
 - D. All of the above.
- 9. True or False:**

Drivers and bicyclists follow different traffic rules.
- 10. True or False.**

Drivers always have the right of way when bicyclists are on the road.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Driver-Bicyclist Safety Test

Objective:

Assess the students' understanding of driver-bicyclist safety before and after viewing the video.

Means:

Before showing the video, copy the test, distribute to the class and have students answer 10 questions about drivers and bicyclists. After viewing the video, have students retake the test. Tabulate the results to see if more instruction is needed on an issue.

Questions with Answers and Background:

1. What direction should a bicyclist ride?

- A. Against the traffic.
- B. With the traffic.
- C. Depends on whether it's a one-way or two-way street.
- D. It doesn't matter which direction a bicyclist rides.

Answer: B, Bicyclists riding with the traffic are more visible to drivers, particularly at intersections. When a bicyclist rides against the traffic, both the bicyclist and driver have less time to react than if they are traveling in the same direction. If a bicyclist is riding at 15 m.p.h. against the traffic and the approaching car is traveling at 35 m.p.h., they are traveling toward each other at a combined 50 m.p.h. If both are traveling in the same direction, then the approaching speed is reduced to 20 m.p.h., giving both more time to react. Just like a driver, a bicyclist riding against the traffic is illegal and can be cited. Some cyclists, however, do ride against traffic, and drivers should be alert to that.

2. What is a safe distance for a driver to pass a bicyclist going in the same direction?

- A. One or two feet.
- B. More than three feet.
- C. At least 10 feet.
- D. Fifteen feet or more.

Answer: B, More than three feet is a safe passing distance. Less than three feet, the driver and bicyclist have less space for safe maneuvering. A bicyclist needs the extra space to avoid a pothole, broken glass or a storm grate and not be endangered by cars. In less than three feet, a motorist can clip a bicyclist with a mirror. If the driver travels at a fast speed, the distance should be much more than three feet because a vehicle can create wind currents that affect a bicyclist's stability. When approaching younger bicyclists, drivers should allow even more space because children's movements can be unpredictable.

3. When a driver approaches a bicyclist from the rear, the driver should:

- A. Blast the horn.
- B. Race the engine.
- C. Shout at the cyclist.
- D. None of the above.

Answer: D, None of the above. Blasting the horn, racing an engine or hollering at the bicyclist can distract a bicyclist and may cause him to veer into the path of a vehicle, causing a collision. Also, all three actions are contrary to sharing the road and do not show courtesy to the bicyclist.

4. A bicyclist should:

- A. Ride on a sidewalk.
- B. Hug the side of the road no matter what.
- C. Ride as close to the right side of the road as practical.
- D. Block traffic for no good reason.

Answer: C, State law says that bicyclists should ride as close to the right side of the road as practical. Exceptions include passing, turning left, biking at the speed of other traffic and avoiding hazards. Hugging the side of the road is not practical because of curbs, pavement cracks, debris, storm grates and drop offs from the pavement. A bicyclist may ride away from the roadway edge if there is not enough room within the lane for a car to pass safely. Riding that blocks traffic for no good reason is not sharing the road. Riding on the sidewalk can be less safe if there are many intersections and driveways where drivers may not see them. In some communities, adult bicyclists are not permitted to ride on sidewalks. Small children learning to ride should be on sidewalks with supervision until they are capable of riding in the street and can follow the rules of the road.

5. True or False.

Bicyclists have no legal right to ride on the road.

Answer: False, State law permits bicyclists to use the road and requires bicyclists to follow all the rules applicable to drivers.

6. True or False.

Bicyclists should use only bike lanes and bike paths.

Answer: False, Bicyclists who ride to school, commute to work or do errands cannot always reach their destinations if restricted to bike lanes and bike paths. They must use streets to get where they are going.

7. At a stop sign before proceeding, a driver should:

- A. Look for cars coming from the left, right and straight ahead.
- B. Look for pedestrians on the sidewalk approaching the intersection.
- C. Look for bicyclists approaching on the roadway from the left, right and straight ahead and on the sidewalk.
- D. All the above.

Answer: D, All of the above. Before safely proceeding into an intersection from a stop sign, a driver must be alert to all traffic – cars, bicyclists and pedestrians. Some drivers check only the streets for oncoming cars and fail to check sidewalks for bicyclists and pedestrians. Drivers should stop at stop lines, not in crosswalks.

8. A driver should be alert to:

- A. A bicyclist riding into the street from a driveway.
- B. A bicyclist riding alongside parked cars.
- C. A bicyclist riding against the traffic.
- D All of the above.

Answer: D, All of the above. Driving requires being alert at all times, not just at intersections. A major cause of car-bicycle collisions is a bicyclist riding into the street from a residential or commercial driveway or a side street without looking for traffic. A bicyclist riding along a line of parked cars may move away from the cars and farther into the lane to avoid being hit by an opening car door. Although safety experts say bicyclists should not ride against the traffic, some still do. A driver should be aware of all these situations.

9. True or False:

Drivers and bicyclists follow different traffic rules.

Answer: False, By state law, drivers and bicyclists must follow the same traffic rules -- stopping at stop signs, obeying traffic signals, not exceeding the speed limit, signaling a lane change and maintaining a safe, assured distance between vehicles.

10. True or False:

Drivers always have the right of way when bicyclists are on the road.

Answer: False, Drivers and bicyclists share the road equally. Both should take turns according to standard right-of-way rules. These rules apply to all vehicles, bicycles included.

**NOTE: If you need the video in VHS format, contact: bikevideo@bikelib.org
Send comments/questions about the video/materials to the same address.**

(Project funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety and produced by the League of Illinois Bicyclists with the aid of the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association. September 2006.)

Distributed by



**Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501
www.opi.mt.gov**