



## ADDITIONAL DRIVING PRACTICE – What’s the Clue Exercise

### Learning Objective

During this exercise, you will identify clues that a driving situation could be getting more hazardous or challenging.

### What’s the Game Plan?

Build upon what you learned in Module 6, Risk Perception, during the “What’s the Clue” driving simulation. During the drive, look for clues that your driving situation could be getting more hazardous or challenging. Comment on what you are seeing and doing to respond to the clue.

In this exercise the teen will drive and the adult observer will jot down comments on the worksheet and note any suggestions for improvement.

### Give Me an Example

These are some examples of clues that your driving situation could change:

- A flashing red light at an intersection
- A road construction sign
- Trunk or door open
- A person stepping off the curb
- Heavy traffic
- A vehicle merging in front of you
- Cars braking ahead of you
- Dog running in front of you
- A pedestrian not paying attention to traffic

### Guidelines for Being the Driver

- Rule #1 is **drive safely**. Don’t get so wrapped up in describing what you are doing that you forget to follow the rules of the road. If you get overloaded or stressed, discontinue the exercise and then find a safe opportunity to pull over and stop the car.
- As you drive, don’t try to comment on everything you see and hear. Stick to the topics described for the exercise. It’s good to say, “The clue is that car merging into my lane. I am slowing down. You don’t need to say, “I really like that make of car. I really want one.”
- While you drive, talk about what you are seeing, feeling and doing that helps you recognize and respond to the clues that might cause you to take a driver action, like speeding up, slowing down, going left or right.
- When you are listening to feedback from the observer, accept it with good grace, even if you may not agree. It’s best to listen and try not to argue. Focus on what the observer is saying, and take away what you can use to improve your driving.



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### Guidelines for Being the Observer

When you are the observer, you want to give feedback to the driver in a way that is helpful and constructive. To assist you, we have developed a worksheet you can use to document and provide feedback.

- **Wait until you are out of the car before starting to give feedback.** That way you can both concentrate safely on what’s being said.
- **Begin by saying two or three positive things about what the driver did right.** We all like to hear something good up front. Try to make this a meaningful compliment.
- **Ask the driver for his/her own brief take on what went well and not so well.** By giving the driver the chance to express his/her own feelings first you’ll reduce any sense of confrontation, and it will be easier to cover everything without repetition.
- **When you give corrective feedback, concentrate on just two or three things.** The more you criticize, the less the driver will hear or remember. So pick out two or three things that are really important. Stress any missed clues and what the driver could have done to lessen risk.
- **Focus your feedback on driving skills or how you felt during the drive.** It’s better to say, “You should concentrate on maintaining adequate space cushions,” or “I was feeling a little scared when we got close to that red car, because there was a chance we might hit it,” than to say, “Are you trying to rear-end someone?”
- **End on a positive note.** To wrap things up, remind the driver of some of the good things he/she did. You don’t want things to end with too much emphasis on what went wrong. By returning to the positive feedback, you’ll make sure the driver feels encouraged and responsive.

One last word: You may be getting the idea that the observer isn’t supposed to talk while the car is in motion. In general, this is a good idea. You don’t want to distract the driver or interrupt his/her comments. If you do see something dangerous or threatening, you should speak up! You’d hate to have an accident and then say, “Well, I saw the truck coming, but I didn’t think I was supposed to say anything!”

### A Word About Follow-Up

Once you finish this What’s the Clue Driving Exercise, enter the details in the Drive Time Matrix. Continue to work on those areas where you still need practice. This means concentrating on those areas the next few times you get behind the wheel. Tell your adult how you are improving. Use the completed Observer Feedback sheets as memory joggers about skills to keep working on.



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**OBSERVER WORKSHEET: IN-CAR NOTES**

Route you are driving \_\_\_\_\_

In the chart below, write a brief description of the clues encountered as described by the driver. Note what actions the driver took to respond to these clues and if the driver’s response was appropriate. Also note any clues the driver may have missed.

Driver Comments: Clues Spotted	Observer Notes:
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### OBSERVER WORKSHEET: SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Refer to your in-car notes and rate how the driver did on each of the various driving skills. Complete this chart once the drive has ended as a reference for both positive comments and constructive feedback.

Driving Skills	Did Well	Needs Improving	Notes/ Examples
Recognizing the Clues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Responding to the Clues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Setting Priorities:** Based on your notes, select the 2 or 3 things that the driver should concentrate on practicing and improving right now.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Overall Feeling:

On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable/safe did you feel during the drive (circle one)?

1 = Scared to death / 2 = Uncomfortable / 3 = Mostly okay / 4 = Pretty comfortable / 5 = Completely safe and secure

When did you feel most comfortable? Why?

When did you feel least comfortable? Why?