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## CAR DRIVING CULTURE

**Introduction:** The fact that the culture of driving a car is one hundred percent dependent on the culture of a person as such is an indisputable fact. After all, it is difficult to imagine that a car owner, who behaves like a disrespectful boor at work and at home, suddenly turns into the sweetest and most attentive citizen behind the wheel. And in order to raise the driving culture, traffic rules are being tightened, administrative fines are being increased, and social advertising is being removed. However, a lot depends on ourselves: when we start thinking about other road users, we automatically change our style of behavior and become better. And, by the way, we begin to feel just fine behind the wheel!

Of course, it is simply unrealistic to forget about yourself, your beloved, as well as to constantly think about the people around us. As in life, everything we do on the roadway is only for ourselves. However, a smart driver always remembers the boomerang principle: if you treat someone impolitely, you can get the same moral "gift" in return. But a pleasant feeling that some road user is sincerely grateful to you at least for giving way to him, warms the soul and makes any stormy day brighter.

Driving culture: definition and rules.

The term "driver culture" refers to relations on public roads, generally characterizing the level of relationships and mutual assistance of all road users. It is implied that the driver behind the wheel complies with traffic rules, does not create accidents and, in general, tries not to cause inconvenience to both other drivers of vehicles and pedestrians.

There is a fairly large set of rules that are called driving culture. Even a beginner is able to fulfill these unspoken instructions. Let us name only the main ones.

Compliance with traffic rules is the first sign of a respectful attitude towards your car colleagues. And even if one of them performed a strange maneuver himself, you should not be nervous and swear. It is better to try to understand what this driver will do next in order to prevent an accident in advance.

If you see a faulty car on the side of the road, stop and offer help. Maybe you don't need it or you can't help. But in any case, showing sympathy, paying attention to the problems of others is a sign of good manners.

When parking, position your car so that it does not take up one and a half to two spaces. And even more so, do not "prop up" an already parked car. However, it happens that there are no other options: then be sure to leave your phone number on a piece of paper under glass.

If a car standing at a traffic light does not start too quickly, do not honk persistently to this driver. After all, you can just "blink" the headlights - and he will understand everything without negative emotions.

When approaching a traffic light with a red light or a traffic jam, let cars turn left pass. Personally, this will practically not delay you, you will still have to stand! But by blocking the way, you deprive your neighbors of at least a few minutes. The same applies to pedestrians at an intersection with a traffic jam: let people pass, and do not stand right at the crossing.

Of course, the driving culture in Russia is not yet at the level at which it should be. However, it is partially helped by unspoken ethical norms developed over many years of driving practice since the days of the Soviet Union.

Driving ethics is not etiquette, but it helps on the road.

What is Driving Ethics? First of all, it is a set of moral rules of a person behind the wheel, that is, how he should behave. Violation of these rules is not fined or punished at all. However, excessive

irritability, bad mood or aggressive driving style are provocateurs of many unpleasant situations on the roadway.

Any of the unacceptable human qualities can lead to trouble. So, for some personal reasons, an aggressive driver commits a lot of dangerous actions. For example, he is clearly annoyed by the increased speed of the car that overtakes him, and the aggressor himself begins to violently press the gas pedal, trying to "punish" the pseudo-offender at any cost. And on the contrary, when, according to all the rules, it is necessary to yield to a vehicle that has an unconditional advantage, it tries to "slip through" first.

Another sign of a person who violates ethics is overtaking a car that is not moving fast enough in one lane contrary to traffic rules. There are a lot of other situations when violation of moral norms aggravates the situation on the road.

Ideally, moral relations between road users should consist of:

- refusal to drive under the influence of alcohol;
- polite driving style, without "jerkiness", sharp acceleration and emergency braking; optimal style - smooth start, gradual braking and lane change, early warning signals;
- the inadmissibility of revenge for the mistakes of others; the use of the safest driving techniques;
- maximum assistance to other road users;
- attentive and polite attitude towards pedestrians – after all, it can be a pregnant woman, an elderly person or a child;
- responsibility for its passengers;
- good technical condition of the vehicle and its appearance.

There are other, quite trivial, but effective rules of ethics that are prescribed to any person behind the wheel, regardless of the cost of the car, driving experience and even the country of residence.

Try to be understandable to others. To do this, you need to warn others about your maneuvers in advance, and not a couple of meters before turning at an intersection or stopping place. And do not delay the lane change, as well as do not carry it out abruptly: this is to mislead other drivers, they do not understand what to expect from you in the future. And this is annoying.

Overtaking assistance is a sign of a friendly driver. Truck drivers demonstrate how this rule is observed: if a queue of cars is formed behind them, and the road is free, they turn on the right signal; A left turn signal means that cars are driving in the oncoming lane, and overtaking should be postponed.

If the roadway narrows, observe the order of passage - it is more expensive to "butt" in such areas. That is why in some countries in such cases an algorithm of safe maneuvers is legally prescribed. Help drivers trying to get out of side driveways. After all, with a dense flow of traffic, they will have to stand for quite a long time waiting for a break. And when the car driving in the front row slows down for at least a couple of seconds, this will help the waiting car to integrate into the flow.

It is better to turn on the low beam headlights at dusk, and not in complete darkness. Even if it doesn't improve visibility, it definitely helps others to see your car in advance. And especially pedestrians.

In general, the correct use of lighting devices is considered a sign of a real professional. For example, a long-range driver will never dazzle with high beam if you switch to low beam in time. And if the heavy truck is approaching the top of the ascent, then its driver turns on the near one a little earlier than the headlights of the oncoming car become visible. Here are a few more rules that distinguish a polite driver:

if you "attached" to the leading car, immediately turn on the low beam so as not to dazzle the driver through the side mirrors;

when overtaking you, turn off the high beam headlights as soon as the overtaking person turns them on; accordingly, when you overtake yourself, turn on the high beam at the moment when you catch up with the overtaken;

If you stop, be sure to switch to parking lighting, which will improve the illumination of the roadway, and at the same time help drivers see your car. If the headlights are left on, they will blind other vehicle drivers.

You can talk about the culture of drivers for a very long time, but the best teacher is practice. Therefore, always consider how your actions affect other drivers. Paraphrasing the "winged" expression: do to all road users as you would like to be treated to you!

In recent years, the number of motorists has increased. The driving school accepts more and more people who strive to undergo training, get a license and join the ranks of motorists. A car is a convenient and comfortable thing, and has become available to almost every family. Driving school is also popular now. Either the prosperity of Russians has grown, or the equipment has become more affordable. Back in the 90s, not everyone was able to buy a car. The car was a status thing. At the same time, the level of driving culture of their owners often left much to be desired. Which is nice. Many motorists understand what driver ethics and driving culture on the road are.

The very concept of driver ethics consists of several aspects: the attitude of drivers and pedestrians, drivers and other drivers (including beginners), the attitude of the state to what is happening on the roads and the driving itself.

If we consider the interaction of motorists and pedestrians, then the first should not forget that some time ago they themselves were pedestrians. You should follow the rules of the road, give way to pedestrians at the crossing, carefully drive through puddles during the rain so as not to splash people on the sidewalk, just be polite on the road towards people who move on foot. Do not park in unauthorized places, blocking the passage. After all, for example, mothers with strollers cannot always squeeze between parked cars. You need to move slowly around the yards, because at any moment children can jump out of the playground for the ball. There is no need to bypass traffic jams in "through" yards, because they are not designed for this. The driver, moving around the yard, must always turn on the turn signals, because pedestrians do not know how to read the thoughts of the person behind the wheel, and even at low speed in the yard, collisions with people are possible precisely because of the "turn signals" that are not turned on in time. They end very sadly. Now there is an active promotion of politeness and a culture of relationships on the road in social networks. The "Stop-Ham" movement has been created, which stigmatizes those who do not comply with parking rules with shameful and poorly washed stickers, thereby interfering with other road users and pedestrians. Videos are posted that show elementary human kindness, politeness (as, for example, the driver gets out and helps granny cross the road). All this has a positive effect on the level of general culture and kindness. The videos collect "likes" and spread along the chain. Such propaganda of kindness and humanity is necessary, because we are people, and under no circumstances should we forget about it.

There are also many nuances in the relationship between a driver and another driver. In addition to compliance with the legally formalized rules, there are a number of unwritten laws. Drivers even have their own special "language" of signals, it originates from truckers. It is aimed at mutual assistance on the road. For example, the well-known "thank you" to the emergency service, the same signal can mean an apology if one driver accidentally "cuts off" another. On the highway, the truck driver can give you such a signal if you are going to overtake, and there is a danger ahead that you do not see. Or press the brake several times, thereby warning the car behind that you should "hold the horses".

If you are blinded by an oncoming car, then you can gently hint to its driver by turning on your distant car for a second ("friend, switch, please, you are not alone"). When the driver began to overtake and realized that he did not have time to complete it, he gave one or more long horns so that he was allowed to return to the lane. Not only politeness, but also the safety of people is at stake, often very closely related. If the driver notices an obstacle on the road, he can signal oncoming cars by switching the low beam headlights to the high beam. And the flow of the oncoming lane slows down. In Uzbekistan, this is how drivers warn oncoming traffic about traffic police inspectors hiding in the bushes ahead.

This, of course, is done out of a sense of solidarity by motorists, but it is worth remembering that it is necessary to comply with the speed limit and rules not only before the traffic police post. If you are driving and notice that someone has a flat tire or the door is not closed, then you can catch up, give a short signal and point with your hand to the malfunction. If you are driving in the far left lane, you may be asked to move to a slower lane by blinking your headlights or turning on your left turn signal (the latter signal is more often used in Europe). The safest speed is the speed of the flow, so you should not stand in the left lane and delay other motorists, stay on the highway of a more comfortable lane for you in terms of speed.

Speaking about the culture on the roads, it is worth mentioning the sound signals. Remember that the horn cannot be used unless absolutely necessary (for example, honking in traffic jams, annoying other drivers and pedestrians). It is used only to warn of possible danger. Do not honk in front of the gate, under the windows of houses, it is also better not to scare a pedestrian who is gaping in the yard with a loud long signal.

Among the drivers, there are people with different levels of training, seniority, experience. All drivers were once beginners on the road, so you should be lenient with beginners behind the wheel if they suddenly stalled at a traffic light or could not change lanes in time. Honed skills come only with experience, it is often not enough to graduate from driving school. The driver needs to fight his emotions, irritation and aggression.

The concept of culture on the road also includes the attitude of the state to what is happening on the roads of the country. Firstly, a set of rules and penalties for their violation regulates the behavior of road users. But not always. Unfortunately, there are still reckless drivers who are not afraid to run into a fine and behave aggressively on the road. Over time, we propose to toughen penalties for "aggressive driving" (maneuvering in dangerous proximity, repeated lane changes, playing "checkers" among the common people, harsh braking, etc.)

But the problem remains unresolved. As before, many people die in road accidents because of reckless drivers, irresponsible and uncultured. This year, the same issue was raised again, the bill is under consideration. Secondly, it is worth noting the improvement of the road and pedestrian areas. A "barrier-free environment" project has been launched, which allows people with disabilities to move around the city more safely (ramps, convenient pedestrian crossings for people with visual impairments are made - yellow, marked with ribbed tiles). There are also special paths for the movement of cyclists (there used to be very few bicycle paths in the city).

As an experiment, several luminous pedestrian crossings were made, decorated with special LEDs (they are better seen by drivers in the dark). Boulevards are fenced off so that pedestrians do not jump out unexpectedly in the wrong places and do not provoke an accident. All measures are aimed at making people comfortable, regardless of how they move around the city.

Special classes are held in schools, children are explained the rules of the road. The concept of culture on the roads goes hand in hand with the concept of safety. If all drivers and pedestrians behaved correctly, civilly, thought about other road users, then there would be fewer accidents.

To be a driver means to bear great responsibility not only for yourself, but also for other people's destinies. Anything can happen on the road, and the culture of behavior often affects the outcome of an ambiguous situation.

Call an ambulance to the victim in time, stay at the scene of the accident, take responsibility and save the lives of other people. Or even start small: just follow the rules of the road and be attentive and polite on the road. But, as everywhere, people are different, and as participants in street traffic, they also behave differently.

A huge role in this issue is played by the attitude of society to road accidents. Conflicts on the roads are evaluated ambiguously by ordinary people, and there may be such opinions that "recklessness" is great, pleasant and wonderful. Some especially outstanding people celebrate some significant events



of their lives with races, both good and sad. But still, you should not express your emotions by driving fast on the road - everything can end very sadly both for you and for the people around you.

Of course, the driving culture in different countries is different. Basically, it depends on compliance with the laws and the attitude of society towards breaking the rules. In more comfortable and wealthy countries, the driving culture is usually higher than in less prosperous countries. However, this factor depends not only on the material security of citizens, but also on their level of culture, not only road, but also in general ordinary culture and their manners.

In Russia, the road culture has recently become higher, and this fact is very pleasing. Of course, there are those who believe that the law is not written for them, but their number is decreasing from year to year (either they themselves die out from improper driving or enlightenment finds enlightenment on them, which again cannot but rejoice). The biblical commandments work everywhere, in all spheres of life, including on the road. It should be remembered that you yourself can find yourself in a difficult situation and therefore, if possible, it is desirable to provide all possible assistance to citizens in a difficult situation.

Compliance with traffic rules and polite behavior reduces nervousness on the roads and contributes to your peace of mind and the well-being of your loved ones. Value yourself and respect others, and may good luck accompany you on the road, you will come across polite drivers.

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