

## Distracted Driving Scenarios

You just got your license, and your parents are letting you borrow their car to meet your friends at the movie theater. Afterward, your friends tell you that it would just be easier for you to drive them home “so that they aren’t bothering their parents”.

### ***What Would You Do?***

Follow up:

The number of teen passengers in your car impacts you. That’s the reason many states’ graduated driver licensing laws ban teenagers from having other young passengers with them when driving without adult supervision. Driving with too many teen passengers creates an environment where you are more likely to get distracted by the noise from other passengers inside your car, increasing the chances of getting involved in a crash. According to the AAA Foundation, there is a 44% increase in crash risk by adding one passenger; two passengers doubled the risk of being killed and 3 passengers quadrupled the risk of dying in a crash.

As a passenger, you and your older sibling (who has a driver’s license) go to pick up dinner. While at the restaurant, your sibling sees their friends there. They all decide to pile in the car to go back to your house. You know that having added passengers increases the risk of car crashes.

### ***What Would You Do?***

Follow up:

Even though you are not driving yet, it is important to realize that you have the power to create a safe situation in the vehicle. Speak up for your safety. According to the AAA Foundation, more fatal teen crashes occur when passengers (often other teens) are in the car.

Your friend just got their license, and they are addicted to their cell phone. They are always on social media posting videos. As you are leaving school, you notice that they are scrolling through their phone. You know that distracted driving is a serious cause of car crashes.

### ***What Would You Do?***

Follow up:

Cell phones are a major problem when it comes to distracted driving. Distractions are anything that takes a driver’s mind and attention away from the task at hand. A recent survey from Liberty Mutual and SADD found that most young teens felt pressure to stay connected or “always on” which contributed to their need to always use their phones, even while driving. Teen drivers were also more likely to text when alone in their car, so if you are a passenger, make sure you do your part to help keep everyone safe rather than being a distraction.