

## Bicycle Safety Quiz

Parts of this Quiz have not been evaluated yet. The score below is not final.

**You got 21 of 23 possible points.**

**Your score: 91%**

Thanks for taking this quiz. If you would like more information, we hope you'll attend one of our [Traffic Skills](#) classes, or join us for a [Saturday Social](#) ride.

### Question Results

#### Question Results

Q: n/a



Answers	Correct Answer	User Answer
n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a
n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a
n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	
n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a

Q: OPTIONAL: If you have some safe cycling training or experience that was not listed in the last question, please tell us about it below.



Score: 0 of 0 possible points

Q: Please enter the location where you are taking this quiz (OCBC, rec center, school, LMM shelter). If you're taking this on-line from another location, please include your home ZIP code.



Score: 0 of 0 possible points

## Question Results

**Q:** OPTIONAL: Please provide your name and email (separated by a comma) in the space below. The results of this quiz will help us gauge how we are doing. If you provide your name and email, we can track how useful this quiz is, but we WILL NOT share any of your info with anyone, or even send you any email ourselves, EXCEPT about this quiz. If you DO want to get ocbc's Members' Updates, News, or Volunteering Info, (or change your existing subscription) please also fill in our request Email form elsewhere on our website.



Score: 0 of 0 possible points

**Q:** Wearing a helmet is the most important thing a cyclist can do to avoid injuries.



### Correct Answer User Answer

False False A helmet will only protect your head in case you crash, so to avoid injuries, the MOST important thing you can do is to reduce your chances of crashing in the first place -- by making sure your bike is safe, that you know how to ride safely and legally, and you know all the hazards. If you do crash, wearing a properly-fitting helmet reduces your chance of brain injury greatly, some say by 80%. Brain injuries are serious, so it is certainly a good idea to wear a helmet.

**Q:** When riding in the street, it is safest to stay on the left side of the roadway, facing traffic.



### Correct Answer User Answer

False False Never. Where there is no sidewalk, WALKING on the left is safer so you can see approaching traffic, but, since on a bike you can't move out of the road safely anyway, the combined approach speed with oncoming traffic reduces reaction time so much that there is NO safety benefit of doing this. Not being able to see traffic signals and not being noticed by others at intersections are bonus dangers.

**Q:** Avoiding uneven and slippery road surfaces will prevent most crashes.



### Correct Answer User Answer

True True "Diversion hazards" and loss of traction when turning may be the cause of most bike crashes.

## Question Results

**Q:** A new bike is always safer to ride than an old one.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

False   False   Unless you have done a mechanical safety check, no bike can be deemed "safe."

**Q:** Keeping the seat low makes it easier to pedal.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

False   False   Riding for long with the seat too low is tiring, and can cause knee problems. For anything more than the most casual riding, the knee should be just slightly bent when the pedal is all the way down. Since this makes it hard to reach the ground, when stopping it helps to get off the seat and stand over the bike's top tube.

**Q:** Reliable steering is the most important mechanical function on a bike.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

True   True   Good steering is the most important function of your bike because you can't balance a bike that doesn't steer properly. Check that the front tire is inflated enough every time you ride. If you are not sure of the bike's condition, also check the front wheel's axle nuts or quick release security, tire condition, and spoke tension; and that the handlebar binder and stem bolt are tight.

**Q:** Low air pressure in a bike's tires might cause a flat, but is not a safety issue.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

False   False   Low tire pressure can cause a blowout from a cut valve stem, or a pinch flat if a hole is pinched in the tube by hitting a pothole or road crack sharply. This sudden loss of air in the front tire will probably cause a crash, and low front tire pressure can cause unpredictable steering.

## Question Results

**Q:** Squeezing the brake levers hard before every ride is an easy way to detect dangerous cable problems.



### **Correct Answer** **User Answer**

True True You should squeeze both brakes as hard as you can before every ride and check that the levers do not touch the handlebars. This will ensure that the cables are connected and the housing is seated, and can also reveal if cable strands are breaking. This will also tell you if you need to adjust your barrel adjusters to reduce cable travel to compensate for brake pad wear.

**Q:** The back brake stops a bike faster than the front brake.



### **Correct Answer** **User Answer**

False False The front brake stops a bike faster than the rear, but requires more careful use to avoid crashing.

**Q:** Most cycling fatalities result from collisions with motor vehicles.



### **Correct Answer** **User Answer**

True True While a collision with a motor vehicle is the cause of most FATAL bike crashes, it is only a small percentage of all crashes, and avoiding cars at all costs is not the best strategy. Many cyclists rightfully feel vulnerable around cars, but this often leads them to do things (like riding on the left, facing traffic) that actually INCREASE their chances of a collision with a car. Following traffic laws -- and watching out for others who don't -- is the best way to avoid collisions, on a bike OR in a car.

## Question Results

Q: What is the MOST COMMON cause of bicycle crashes?



**Answers**    **Correct Answer**    **User Answer**

- |  |                                  |                                  |          |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Collision with a motor vehicle                 | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |          |
| Collision with an animal                       | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |          |
| Collision with another cyclist                 | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |          |
| Collision with a fixed object (such as a tree) | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |          |
| Loss of steering control (road surface)        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Correct! |

Because balancing requires steering control, most cyclists' crashes are due to either diversion hazards -- from the front wheel being diverted by uneven surfaces close to the direction of travel (like railroad tracks, sewer grates, and pavement cracks) -- or loss of traction to the front wheel (even in the slight turns needed to maintain balance), as on wet leaves or paint lines, loose sand or gravel, ice, etc..

- |   |                       |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Loss of steering control (mechanical failure) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |  |
| Loss of braking control (road surface)        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |  |
| Loss of braking control (mechanical failure)  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |  |

Q: In some places it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk.



**Correct Answer**    **User Answer**

True    True    Downtown Cleveland's business district is one such place: the danger to pedestrians may be the reason for this law, but staying off the sidewalk is generally safer for cyclists too.

Q: Before changing lanes or turning left, looking behind you is more important than signaling.



**Correct Answer**    **User Answer**

True    True    You must yield to overtaking vehicles before moving sideways on the roadway. Turning left without checking for passing traffic is a common cause of cyclist-caused collisions. Also, it is not safe, or required by Ohio law, to signal if both hands are needed for control.

## Question Results

**Q:** Cyclists must always ride far enough to the right to share the curb lane with cars.



### Correct Answer User Answer

False False By law cyclists must ride "as far to the right as practicable." Sometimes it is not practicable, or safe, to share a curb lane with a car. Some of the reasons for this are listed in the 2006 revisions to the Ohio Revised Code. "Every person operating a bicycle on a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, but may ride to the left of hazards, e.g., when fixed or moving objects are in the way; when there are surface hazards; when it is unsafe or otherwise impractical to do so - such as when the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side; or when a slow moving vehicle is permitted to leave the curb lane, as described in 4511.25" ORC 4511.55

**Q:** When riding next to parked cars, cyclists must ALWAYS be prepared to swerve or stop if someone opens their door. By riding slowly



### Correct Answer User Answer

False True As a rule, cyclists should not ride in the "door zone" of parallel-parked cars -- there is no safe way to avoid an opened door at normal cycling speeds. Sometimes it is convenient to ride close to parked cars (as when passing a line of stopped cars), but this should be done VERY SLOWLY and carefully.

**Q:** If you ride without lights at night you should stay on the sidewalk.



### Correct Answer User Answer

True True It is illegal, and VERY dangerous to ride on the road without lights at night. It is dangerous to ride on the sidewalk without lights at night too, but probably not illegal, and safer than the road -- if you are prepared to stop quickly. This is one time when you SHOULD "ride as if you are invisible," because you are!

## Question Results

**Q:** According to the most reliable statistics for adult cyclists, where do most daytime car-bike collisions happen?



Answers	Correct Answer	User Answer
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Country roads, cyclist going downhill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Country roads, cyclist going uphill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Busy urban arterials, mid-block	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Congested city streets, mid-block	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Intersections	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Correct! Most car-bike collisions happen the same way most car-car collisions do: one party does not yield at an intersection. (Motorists and cyclists are equally at fault: each ~13% of the total causes of car-bike collisions).
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Driveways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Parking lots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Bike paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Bike lanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Where bike paths cross roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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**Q:** Cyclists are subject to the same traffic laws as motorists.



Correct Answer	User Answer
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True	True	Cyclists must follow the same traffic laws as motorists, with a few differences: they must ride as far to the right as practicable, they can ride two abreast in one lane, and they have some specific equipment requirements. It IS possible to get a ticket for running a red light on a bike!
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**Q:** If a cyclist is impeding traffic, they must immediately pull over to let vehicles pass.



Correct Answer	User Answer
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False	False	ANY road user impeding traffic must pull over to let vehicles pass -- but ONLY WHEN IT IS SAFE AND REASONABLE to do so. "No driver may operate a vehicle at such a slow speed so as to impede the normal flow of traffic except when necessary for safe operation or to comply with law. The capabilities of the vehicle and its operator must be considered when deciding if an infraction has been committed." ORC 4511.22
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## Question Results

**Q:** If a motorist with the right of way waves a cyclist on, the cyclist should proceed.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

False   False   A police officer is the only person who can direct traffic. If a motorist waves you on, you can go on, but YOU MUST check for yourself that it is legal -- and safe -- to do so (i.e. that there is not another vehicle at the intersection with right of way over you.)

**Q:** A cyclist not following traffic laws is legally liable in the event of a collision.



### **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

True   True   This is true even for PARTIAL liability: if you are hit by a motorist who runs a red light, but you were riding on the wrong side of the street, or at night without lights, you can be cited, and you might not recover any damages.



## Question Results

Q: Which THREE of the following would NOT help you reduce your chances of a cycling injury?



**Answers**   **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

**Answers**   **Correct Answer**   **User Answer**

Wearing a helmet     

Using both front and rear lights at night     

Wearing gloves     

Using a properly-calibrated speedometer       A speedometer might save you from getting a speeding ticket, but looking down to focus on it can be a dangerous distraction, especially in traffic (with cars or other cyclists). Your actual perceptions are a better gauge of safe speed (but see the answer to "Eating and drinking" about impaired judgment).

Wearing safety glasses     

Riding a bike with multiple gears, and changing them depending on conditions     

Wearing brightly-colored clothes     

Using special biking shoes and pedals       Clip-in pedals or toe straps are not a safety aid, unless you have trouble keeping your feet on the pedals for some reason. They are good for more power and less fatigue, but may slightly increase the chances of injury in a fall as they take a bit of effort to remove your feet. Clip-in pedals are easier to get out of than (tightened) toe straps.

Wearing padded bike shorts     

Eating and drinking     

Knowing the details of the traffic-law code for the state you are in  

Checking the mechanical functioning of your bike before every ride  

Ensuring your tires are properly inflated     

Ensuring your bike's chain is properly lubricated       While chain lube will prevent corrosion and reduce maintenance costs, it has no effect on safety. The only chain-related causes of crashes are shifting the chain off the gears, or if it breaks suddenly. Lubing a chain that has years of rust may actually HASTEN its failure. Lack of lubrication eventually causes dangerous chain skipping; but this is rare, it develops slowly, and it is easily testable.

## Question Results

**Q:** Optional: please let us know what you think of the questions on this quiz: too hard? too easy?  
Thanks for taking this quiz!



This answer has not yet been scored.  
Until the answer is scored, the total score will not be correct.

**Q:**Optional: please let us know what you think of the questions on this quiz: too hard? too easy?  
Thanks for taking this quiz!

*The answer to this question will be scored by hand.*