

**If your bike suddenly start to wobble or shake, get on the brakes.**

**False.** Sudden braking could exacerbate the wobble. It's best to hold the handlebars firmly, throttle down, then safely pull to the side of the road to determine what caused the problem.

**Motorcycle tires have less grip when the weather gets colder.**

**True.** Less friction (heat) is generated between cold road surfaces and a cold tire, actually reducing traction.

**Bad weather puts drivers and motorcyclists at equal risk.**

**False.** Motorcyclists are *more* exposed to wind, rain and the elements, lowering body temperatures and visibility. Slippery conditions also make two tires more likely to slide than four tires.

**Goggles offer you the same protection as a face shield.**

**False.** A shield protects your entire face, not just your eyes.

**Even one drink can affect your riding ability, decision-making and reaction time.**

**True.** A single beer, shot, glass of wine or mixed drink contains sufficient alcohol to put your ride at risk.

**A steady high beam draws motorists' attention to you just as well as a flashing or pulsing headlamp.**

**False.** A pulsing headlamp draws more attention. It is unusual-looking to motorists.



**TEST YOUR**

# BIKER BRAIN

Whether you're an experienced rider or a novice, you could learn something here that could save your ride—maybe even your life.

**RESPECT**  
~your~  
**RIDE**

**A passenger should just hold on while you do all the leaning and body positioning.**

**False.** Your passenger should lean and move with you to ensure smooth turns and transitions.

**Painted road surfaces offer the same traction as asphalt, whether wet or dry.**

**False.** In wet weather, painted surfaces are more slippery, especially at lean angles.

**A motorcycle is no more likely to be in a driver's blind spot than a car is.**

**False.** You're smaller than a car and harder to see, especially among other vehicles traveling in the same direction.

**In a panic stop, your front wheel is more likely to lock up than your back wheel.**

**False.** The front brake provides up to 70% of a motorcycle's stopping power and carries more of the bike's mass. The back wheel is more likely to lock up. It's best to use both brakes together.

**Braking during a turn is just as effective as braking before the turn.**

**False.** Brake before entering the turn, then carry safe constant speed or slightly accelerate through the turn.

## More motorcycle accidents occur in turns than at intersections.

**False.** Though overshooting a turn can be fatal, more than half of all motorcycle accidents involve other vehicles, and most occur at intersections where an oncoming car turns into the path of a motorcycle.

- » Slow down before entering an intersection; don't ride aggressively.
- » Don't use the shoulder to pass or overtake another vehicle.
- » Scan for hidden vehicles and danger in all directions; have an escape path.
- » Position your hand and foot over the brake lever and pedal, ready to stop suddenly.
- » Expect that drivers will not see you or will likely misjudge your speed.

## Leathers or protective gear need only be worn on long-distance or higher-speed rides.

**False.** Protective gear should be worn every time out. An alarming number of accidents occur close to home and at deceptively low speeds.

## If a dog or deer comes at you, swerving around it is better than slowing down then accelerating.

**False.** Slow down first to determine the animal's intended path, then accelerate safely away from it.

## Half-coverage helmets provide the same protection as open-face or full-face helmets.

**False.** A rider wearing a half-coverage helmet is twice as likely to suffer traumatic brain injuries than riders wearing open-face or full-face helmets.

## Once you make eye contact with the driver of a car, you are safer.

**False.** Just because they see you doesn't mean you're in the clear. Motorcycles are smaller than cars and tend to blend in with their surroundings.

## When riding in the rain, you should ride in the tracks of other cars instead of near the shoulder.

**True.** Cars ahead of you temporarily displace surface water with their tires, leaving a less-wet contact area for your tires.

## A flat rear tire is just as dangerous as a front flat.

**False.** Steering is more adversely affected by a front flat tire. In the event of sudden deflation, hold the handlebars firmly, throttle down (avoiding braking if possible) and pull to the side of the road.

## When swerving, it's OK to brake hard at the same time.

**False.** Braking an unbalanced motorcycle mid-swerve could cause a crash. Either brake then swerve, or swerve then brake.

## In a group ride, newbies are best protected by riding in the middle of the group.

**False.** They are safest when positioned behind the leader, who sets their pace—and sets a good example to follow.



ARRIVE ALIVE **DE**

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~ your ~  
RIDE