



Carpooling

Tips & etiquette

Booking your trip

- Meet on time, every time. Punctuality is the golden rule of happy car pooling.
- If you're unsure about meeting at home, arrange to pick up or drop off somewhere nearby. Perhaps the local shops or the kids' school? If you carpool with the same person frequently, this will become less of an issue after a while.
- Agree a clear, safe and accessible meeting place.
- Let each other know how to spot one another. You don't need a red rose in your lapel, but something like "I'm wearing a green top", or "My car has pink fluffy dice" is helpful.
- Greet each other by name - it's nice and a good way to make sure you've picked up the right person.
- Set any ground rules from the outset to avoid awkward situations (e.g "No Lady Gaga on my radio")

Getting in the car

- Can you now use the T2 or T3 lanes? Whizz past the traffic with more people in the car.
- You're sharing a ride, not paying for a driver - it's ok to sit in the front seat, Miss Daisy.
- Say g'day and have a chat, but remember you don't need to share your life story - keep the mood light
- Feeling a bit shy? Chances are you live in the same area - an easy conversation starter.
- Confirm the drop off point early in the trip and offer directions if the driver is unsure

- It's the drivers' car - and their choice of music or radio to listen to. It's OK to suggest you use your earphones to listen to your own music for a while.
- What's okay in your car might not be the go in someone else's - don't assume it's alright to eat, drink (or sing!) without checking first.
- You might drive like Mark Webber, but be safe when you're giving someone else a lift. They won't want to share your speeding ticket.
- Save your personal errands for another time; don't make diversions to the dry cleaners / pet shop / weekly shopping along the way.

At the end of the trip

- Thank one another - you just helped beat traffic stress together
- If the trip worked for you, suggest doing it again - twice a week, Thursday afternoons, or just ad hoc.

Money talks

- Being a nice passenger and thanking your driver goes a long way - what goes around comes around.
- Consider sharing the driving, agreeing to split costs for parking and tolls, or chip in for petrol and buy the coffee.
- If car pooling together becomes a regular gig set ground rules for sharing the costs on a more formal basis.