

What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Answer sheet 2: **Driving**

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD. Realia: Australian driver licence.

Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: court, delivery, fine, Global Positioning System (GPS), lawyer, legal advice, licence, registered, valid.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *Do you have a driver licence? If so, what sort of licence do you have: an Australian driver licence / a car licence from other country / a learner licence / a truck licence / a probationary licence (P plates)?*

Key Messages

1. It is your responsibility to know the laws about driving in the place you are living.
2. There are different rules in every state about whether you can drive on a foreign driver licence and for how long. You should contact the transport department to find out if you are legally allowed to drive.
3. If you have your learner licence (your 'Ls'), you can only drive if you are displaying your Ls and you have a fully licensed driver in the car with you.
4. You must renew your Australian licence before it runs out and tell the transport department if you change your address.
5. It is an offence to drive a vehicle without a valid driver licence. In some states, the penalty is an on-the-spot infringement notice. In other states you will have to go to court and may be ordered to pay a fine. In some states, you can be imprisoned for repeated offences.
6. If you are driving without a valid licence and you have an accident, your insurance may not cover you.
7. Car owners must pay car registration every year.
8. If you are caught driving a car that is not registered then you will get a fine. It does not matter who owns the car and it does not matter if you did not know the car was not registered.
9. The penalty for travelling in a car without a seat belt is usually a fine.
10. New Australian laws say that children up to the age of seven should be in appropriate child restraints. It is an offence to allow children to travel in a car without a child restraint appropriate for their age and the penalty is a fine.
11. If you have fines and have trouble paying them you can get free legal advice.

Answers

Activity A

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. car | 2. a job doing deliveries | 3. driver licence |
| 4. no | 5. no | 6. no |
| 7. not wearing a seat belt | | |

Activity B

d g h a e c b f

Activity C

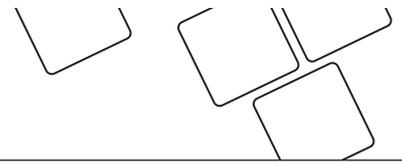
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| 1. valid driver licence | 2. registered | 3. child seats | 4. fine |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|

Activity D

Discussion

Activity E

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



Script for Driving story

Ram Hey Raja! Look at my new car.

Raja Wow! It's good man! When did you get your licence?

Ram I still got my licence from my home country.

Raja Well you want a job?

Ram Sure.

Raja Now that you have a car, you can do some deliveries for me. Come on Monday morning.

Ram OK. I'll get a GPS!

Ram You like our new car?

children together Yeah!

Ram No more carrying heavy bags Lakshmi! And I'll be working Monday!

Lakshmi Hey, what's that police car doing?

Ram Oh, I don't know, but I better stop.

Police officer *(car stopping sound)*. Can I see your licence?

Ram Here you are.

Police officer This licence isn't valid here. It's an offence to drive without a valid licence. You'll get a letter and you'll have to go to court about this.

Ram Court?

Police officer And your car isn't registered.

Ram But I just bought it!

Police officer Well, you have to register the car before you can take it on the road.
And the kids aren't in child seats. I will have to give you a fine.
Make sure you pay by the due date.

Ram How can I pay these fines? I don't understand!

Police officer If you don't understand you can go and get free legal advice from Legal Aid. And...you can't drive until you get the proper licence and register the car.

Raja Where's your car?

Ram I can't drive until I get an Australian licence... and I have to go to court!

Raja Court. Oh no!

Ram And I have to pay so much money in fines!

Raja Well, bad luck! No car no job... Come and see me when your problems are fixed.