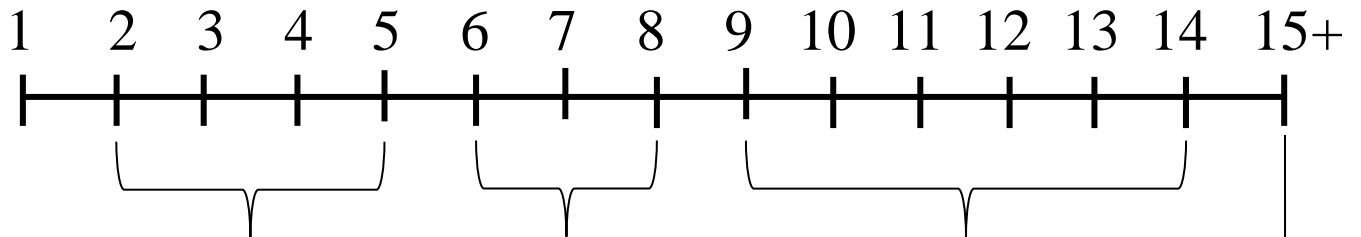


# Costs of Irresponsible Driving

## Demerit Points:

- Everybody starts with 0 demerit points
- You gain points from being convicted of breaking certain driving laws
- They stay on your record for 2 years
- If you collect enough points, you can lose your licence
- You can lose points anywhere in Canada, but also in the States of Michigan and New York



New Drivers:

- will get a letter for between 2-5 demerit points

Experienced drivers:

- will be sent a warning letter after 2-8 demerit points

New Drivers:

- Licence could be suspended
- Attend a “demerit point interview” to discuss your driving record (Costs \$50) – you must provide reasons why your licence should not be suspended

New Drivers:

- Licence suspended for 60 days - you must surrender your licence or you can lose your licence for up to 2 years

Experienced Drivers:

- Same consequences New Driver’s face for 6-8 Demerit Points

Experienced Drivers:

- After 15+ demerit points, your licence will be suspended for 30 days – you must surrender your licence or you can lose your licence for up to 2 years

New Drivers:

- May have their licence cancelled permanently

## Ways to Collect Demerit Points

### 7 Demerit Points

- Failing to remain at the scene of a collision
- Failing to stop when signaled or asked by a police officer

### 6 Demerit Points

- Careless driving
- Racing
- Second or third conviction of distracted driving
- **Exceeding the speed limit by 50 km/h or more**
- Failing to stop for a school bus

### 5 Demerit Points

- Failing to stop at an unprotected railway crossing (for bus drivers only)

### 4 Demerit Points

- **Exceeding the speed limit by 30 - 49 km/h**
- Following too closely

### 3 Demerit Points

- **Driving while holding or using hand-held wireless communications or entertainment device**
- Driving while viewing a display screen unrelated to the driving task
- **Exceeding the speed limit by 16 - 29 km/h**
- Driving through, around or under a railway crossing barrier
- Driving the wrong way on a divided road
- Failing to yield the right-of-way
- Failing to obey a stop sign, traffic control stop, or slow sign, traffic light or railway crossing signal
- Failing to obey the directions of a police officer
- Improper Passing
- Failing to report a collision to a police officer
- Failing to slow and carefully pass a stopped emergency vehicle or tow truck with its amber lights flashing
- Failing to move, where possible, into another lane when passing a stopped emergency vehicle or a tow truck with its amber lights flashing
- Improper driving when road is divided into lanes
- Improper use of a highway occupancy vehicle lane
- Going the wrong way on a one-way road
- Crossing a divided road where no proper crossing is provided
- Crowding the driver's seat

## 2 Demerit Points

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improper right or left turn</li><li>• Improper opening of a vehicle door</li><li>• Prohibited turns</li><li>• Towing people – on toboggans, bicycles, skis</li><li>• Unnecessary slow driving</li><li>• Backing on highway</li><li>• Failing to lower headlamp beams</li><li>• Failing to obey signs</li><li>• Failing to stop at a pedestrian crossing</li><li>• Failing to share the road</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Failing to signal</li><li>• Driver failing to wear a seat belt</li><li>• Driver failing to ensure infant/child passenger is secured in an appropriate child restraint system or seat</li><li>• Driver failing to ensure that a passenger less than 23 Kg is properly secured</li><li>• Driver failing to ensure that a passenger under 16 years is wearing a seat belt</li></ul> |
|---|--|

## Questions

1. Review the following list of possible demerit points. Are there any that surprise you?
2. How long do demerit points stay on your licence?
3. Why is the Demerit Points system different for Experiences and New drivers? Do you think this is a good idea? Explain.

7. The following penalties for speeding were effective as of November 29, 2019

**Speeding**

<b>Kilometres</b>	<b>Set Fine</b>
a) 1-19 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$2.50 per kilometre
b) 20-29 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$3.75 per kilometre
c) 30-49 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$6.00 per kilometre
d) 50 kilometres per hour or more over the maximum speed limit	No out of court settlement

a) If charged with going 85 km/h in a 60 km/hr zone, how many kilometres over the speed limit were you driving?

b) Using the chart above, calculate the fine you must pay.

c) How many demerit points would you receive? (Look it up on the chart!)

8. If you are caught speeding in a community safety zone, such as a school zone, or in a construction zone where workers are present, the fines for speeding are doubled.

**Speeding – Community Safety Zone**

<b>Kilometres</b>	<b>Set Fine</b>
a) 1-19 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$5.00 per kilometre
b) 20-29 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$7.50 per kilometre
c) 30-49 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$12.00 per kilometre
d) 50 kilometres per hour or more over the maximum speed limit	No out of court settlement

a) What is the total of the fine for exceeding the speed limit by 20 km/h?

b) What is the total of the fine for going 120 km/h in a 80 km/h construction zone?

8. If charged with going over the speed limit by 50 km/h or more, you must appear in court. What costs, other than paying the fine and the surcharge might you have?

9. If a photo radar system catches you speeding, you will receive a ticket in the mail. Fines for speeding tickets with photo radar evidence are slightly different than if a cop pulls you over. Also, there is no court appearance required for speeds more than 50 km/h.

**Speeding – Photo Radar**

<b>Kilometres</b>	<b>Set Fine</b>
a) 1-19 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$2.50 per kilometre
b) 20-34 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$3.75 per kilometre
c) 35-49 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$6.00 per kilometre
d) 50-60 kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	\$8.00 per kilometre
e) 61+ kilometres per hour over the maximum speed limit	no set fine

a) Why do you think these fines are different?

10. In addition to paying fines and surcharges, what is another cost of irresponsible driving?  
Hint: Think of car insurance.

11. The full list of fines for driving infractions is available here:

<http://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/how-do-i/set-fines/set-fines-i/schedule-43/>

The document linked above is called “The Highway Driving Act” and was last updated in November of 2019. Some fines that may be of interest are in the chart below.

Blood Alcohol Content above Zero	\$250 -	Hand-held communication device	\$615 - \$3000
Presence of Drug	\$1000	Display screen visible to driver	
Refuse/fail to provide breath sample	\$85	Hand-held entertainment device	
No clear view to front/sides/rear windows	\$85 each	Drive with seatbelt removed or failure to properly wear seatbelt * fine is the same for driver & passengers	\$200
Excessive fumes	\$85	Careless driving	\$400 - \$2000
Unnecessary slow driving	\$300	Fail to yield to pedestrian	\$300
Fail to stop for a school bus	\$400 - 2000	Fail to yield to pedestrian by a school	\$600

- a) You have seen that for many offences, there are multiple punishments: multiple fines, demerit points, and possibly jail time. Do you think these punishments are fair? Do they deter people from breaking rules? Explain your opinion in a few sentences.