

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET... ETIQUETTE!

Introducing the dater's guide to in-car etiquette, courtesy of Auto Trader.

New research from Britain's Biggest Matchmaker, Auto Trader, has revealed that single Brits' poor in-car etiquette is putting potential love matches off sharing a car. To help take single Brits' love lives up a gear, Auto Trader has joined forces with celebrity love guru **Paul Carrick Brunson** to create "The Dater's Guide to In-Car Etiquette".

This guide will help improve the first in-car impressions daters give and ensure the road to romance runs smoothly.



Drive ahead with...

- ✓ Breakdowns are never fun on a date – whether that's you, your date or your car! If you spot dashboard warning lights or your car is making noises that it shouldn't – get it checked out before you set off
- ✓ Clean your car both inside and out – your date is unlikely to be impressed by old boxes of chicken nuggets
- ✓ Leave plenty of time for traffic when picking your date up, especially if it's the first time travelling to their house
- ✓ Fuelling fabulous! Stop to fill up with petrol if you're running low, prior to picking your date up
- ✓ Hiya-way code: Greet your date at the door to show you have good manners from the get-go
- ✓ Be open to some in-car musical collaboration and ask your date what music they would like to listen to
- ✓ Check with your date that they're comfortable with the car temperature – it's not good to play it too cool!
- ✓ If you're the passenger, keep your phone tucked away and pay attention to your date

Steer clear of...

- ✗ Avoid using any strong-smelling car fresheners to cover any bad smells – it's better to air your car and use a more subtle scent
- ✗ Beep your horn when you arrive to pick your date up – this just sets an impatient tone to your trip
- ✗ Crank your music up too loud – you don't want to deafen your date when you start the car!
- ✗ If you're the driver, do not drive aggressively – this is a date trip, not Mario Kart!
- ✗ Nervously playing with the air con or music volume – ask questions or play a fun in-car game to get to know each other
- ✗ Vape or smoke in the car (especially if you're the passenger!) Try to fill your date's heart with love, rather than their lungs with smoke!
- ✗ Put your feet up on the dashboard – this is a big no, we really must put our foot down on this one!
- ✗ Break any laws (or hearts!) Avoid texting whilst driving or driving without due care and attention
- ✗ Order alcoholic drinks if you're driving – this should go without saying!

♥ Car-Versations Tips ♥

The research also shone a light on daters' priorities when it comes to a potential partner, admitting they are less forgiving of their date having a messy car, than them being a bad driver, while more than half of daters (51 per cent) confessed to being put off sharing a car with a potential partner for fear of awkward silences.

Luckily, **Paul Carrick Brunson** is on hand with tips to fuel the car-versation on your road trip date.

- 💬 **Make sure to ask open-ended versus closed questions, these will spark a more meaningful discussion. Easy light topics could include their interests such as travel, food and music or, it could be as simple as asking them for their top Netflix recommendations**
- 💬 **Use follow-up questions to demonstrate you're interested in the topic and encourage deeper conversation; this will also show you're listening – this is key to securing the green light for another date**
- 💬 **Adjust your tone and pace to align with the person answering your question. This is called parrotting and will help to build rapport between you and your date**
- 💬 **Whilst you can't give eye contact while driving, at traffic lights be sure to glance over and look your date in the eye. This shows you're attuned to what they're saying and will communicate genuine care and interest, in a non-verbal manner**

