

BUS TRAVEL QUIZ

1

TRUE OR FALSE: On a long bus trip, you should stand up, stretch, and move up and down the aisles periodically for good circulation.

2

TRUE OR FALSE: The term “motorcoach” came from stage coaches and other horse-drawn carriages used to transport passengers, mail, and luggage.

3

TRUE OR FALSE: Due to a bus’s large size and sturdy seats, there’s no need to use a seat belt.

4

The word “bus” comes from:

A: A French Word

B: A German Word

C: A Latin Word

5

In 2016, buses in the United States and Canada traveled approximately:

A: 500 Million Miles

B: 3 Billion Miles

C: 16 Billion Miles

6

TRUE OR FALSE: If an organization like a school or church uses its bus to transport another group that pays for the service, there are no special legal requirements if this transportation isn’t provided regularly.

7

Miles per gallon (MPG) measure how far a vehicle travels, on average, using one gallon of gas. Another measure of energy efficiency is how many passengers a vehicle can carry multiplied by its miles per gallon. This is known as passenger miles per gallon (PMPG). While a passenger car carrying two passengers gets about 55.9 PMPG of fuel, a motorcoach gets about:

A: 80 Passenger MPG

B: 100 Passenger MPG

C: 200 Passenger MPG

8

TRUE OR FALSE: If you charter a bus to drive a group 5 ½ hours to a 6-hour concert, the same driver can bring your passengers back, because the driver was off-duty during the event and could get plenty of rest.



PLANNING A BUS TRIP? FMCSA offers free information, resources, and a convenient Bus Safety Search to research bus company safety records. Learn more and Look Before You Book by visiting: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook



BUS TRAVEL QUIZ

ANSWERS



1

FALSE. If the bus swerves or stops quickly, a standing passenger could be thrown into bus surfaces or other passengers, with the potential for serious injury. Instead, do a few exercises every hour or so while seated, like foot circles or raising and lowering your heels. Take the opportunity to walk and stretch when the bus stops.

If you need to walk while the bus is moving, such as to use an onboard restroom, always use handrails and supports. Also, remember that passengers should never stand forward of the standee line on a moving bus.

2

TRUE. Fun fact: What we call “motorcoaches” in the U.S. are “motor buses” in Canada, and “road coaches” in England.

3

FALSE. While buses are among the safest ways to travel, there were about 15,000 crashes involving buses in 2016, resulting in 35,000 people injured. Using seat belts is the best way to avoid injury, and most newer buses offer them. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration requires all buses manufactured November 2016 or later to have a 3-point seat belt for every seat. In fact, as of 2018, California requires all commercial bus passengers to wear seat belts.

4

C: Latin (with some influence from A: French). The word “bus” is shortened from the Latin term *omnibus*, meaning “all of us.” The name originated in 1823 when a French corn-mill owner needed a way to transport customers from the city center to his spa (which used the hot water from his mill). While the spa didn’t take off, his horse-drawn transport service was a huge success!

5

C: 16.4 billion miles, with more than 596 million passenger trips.

6

FALSE. An organization that transports passengers for any type of compensation may be subject to Federal commercial and safety requirements, even if it is not regularly in the “transportation business.” Regulations cover driver qualifications and hours of service (driving time), registration, insurance requirements, and more. Get more information here:

www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/carrier-safety/information-organizations-owning-bus-or-other-passenger-vehicle.

7

C: About 199.4 passenger miles per gallon, per the American Bus Association.

8

FALSE. A bus driver cannot legally drive for more than 10 hours at a time. And after driving 10 hours, the driver must then take 8 consecutive hours off duty. In the example, the total driving time to and from the concert is 11 hours, which exceeds the 10-hour limit. Also, a 6-hour “break” during the concert does not meet the requirement for 8 consecutive hours off duty. To learn more, visit:

www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-service/summary-hours-service-regulations

¹ FMCSA 2018 Pocket Guide to Large Truck and Bus Statistics