



## Car Quiz

1. T or F—If your temperature gauge hasn't moved off of "cold" within a mile of a cold start, the car needs a new thermostat.
2. T or F—In very cold weather, it's best to warm up the engine for a few minutes before driving the car.
3. T or F—It's best to start out new drivers with an all wheel drive vehicle for icy conditions.
4. T or F—Shifting to neutral on ice and snow helps a car turn and brake much better.

## Answers to Quiz

1. True—In Honda and Toyota products, the most common thermostat failure is not closing tight. This means coolant can get past it when it shouldn't and circulate into the radiator. This prevents the engine from warming up properly.

This causes frozen toes, excessive fuel consumption and possible engine damage. I know, we could have just stopped with the toes... ☺

The heater should literally drive you out within about 10 minutes of driving. If it doesn't, call us. Life is too short to be cold in your own car.

2. False—30 seconds is plenty of time to get the oil moving. Throw it in gear and drive gently is the best advice.

Driving it will warm it faster and that's the ideal situation for the engine, the motor oil and you.

3. False—All-wheel drive (AWD) is very deceptive, as its ability to accelerate so well causes the driver to believe that they can stop, steer and turn just as well. They can't.

When you see a broadcast from an icy roadway, there's almost always an AWD vehicle upside down in the ditch behind them.

Common engineering in AWD is for the front wheels to be rotating ever so slightly faster than the rears. This keeps the vehicle traveling straight in mud and snow. On glare ice, this presents a problem. As a result, none of the wheels will get good traction. Sure, computers may help some, but if the tires aren't gripping the icy surface, the vehicle is just going to slide all over.

It's far better to put a new driver into a front wheel drive with tires that have a great grip on ice.

4. True—The engine is always either driving or braking the front wheels. Applying the brakes on ice can cause the rear wheels to lose grip prematurely, causing a slide.

Shifting to neutral takes the engine out of the

equation, resulting in far better control for turning and braking. Shifting to neutral when moving doesn't harm the car and it's easy to do. Practice this and it will become a valuable ice-driving skill.

## Don't Run Out of Sipes

Yipes! Sipes are not to be confused with snipes or stripes. Sipes are little slices in the tread of the tire. Their purpose is to raise up a slight edge of rubber for better wet traction and a little bite on ice and snow.

Serious winter grade tires have a lot of sipes. Most sipes go about halfway into the tread. When the tread is half way worn down, the sipes are either gone or so shallow as to be ineffective.

This is one reason why the stopping distance on half-worn tires is nearly twice as far on wet pavement as with new tires.

In winter conditions, it's just not worth trying to get the last bit of value out of worn tires.

## Get the Jump on Emergencies

We've seen a lot of damage done to cars from using jumper cables hooked to another vehicle. The extreme voltage surge is potentially troublesome. As a result, we've strongly suggested not using jumper cables at all.

However, using a portable battery to jump start a vehicle doesn't seem to have all the risks as connecting 2 vehicles. "Jumper boxes" seem to be a relatively safe way to get a car with a dead battery started. Remember, red cable to positive.

## Snow Strategies

**City snow**—When stuck in traffic during heavy snow, turn off your lights and rear defroster. The lights, rear defroster, headlights, blower and wipers are more power drain than the car's charging system can handle at idle. You risk draining the battery when sitting still and running everything in the car.

**Rock me gently**—There may be times when you get the car really stuck and the owner's manual says "don't rock the car in snow".

What they really mean is don't rev the engine to excess, then slam the shifter back and forth from reverse to drive. I've watched people do this. Give it a little throttle, then brake lightly to hold the car. Switch gears after the wheels have stopped and



back up an inch or two and brake lightly. The idea is to gain a small distance each time you change direction. Be easy on the gas and easy on the brakes. You can often drive a car out of a predicament by being patient and careful. I've done it many times, for others, of course.

**Drive slow up the hill**—Vehicles seem to work best on a snowy hill at about 5 to 10 miles an hour. Be very easy on the throttle and hold the speed. With decent tires, you can drive past those who are burning rubber and damaging their cars.

Spinning the tires makes it worse, although it does sound cool.

**Highway snow**—Highway driving in a snowstorm is really bad because the falling snow melts and sticks to the windshield. Then, the wipers smear it into ice and you wish you had a self-driving car.

Here's a great trick. Keep the glass cold. Block off the defroster vents using gloves, socks, wigs or whatever you have, to keep warm air off the windshield. Scrape the ice off and get the car going. Once you're moving and the glass is cold, the snow just rolls right off the windshield. Magic.

**Drive a Nice Car**

D. H. and his wife have been our customers for nearly 20 years. He recently sold his 1999 Accord EX, with nearly 190,000 miles on it.

His total cost for all maintenance and repairs is only 6 cents a mile. The industry average cost to operate a car is estimated around 54 cents a mile. **They've literally saved tens of thousands of dollars**, by simply keeping the car they have instead of trading more often.

Our use of factory fluids and maintenance operations has substantially reduced repairs and failed parts. The car has never failed to start.

It hasn't got a mark on it and still looks and drives like new. It's got a lot of good miles left in it. We'll prove it to you—ask to use WITT 7 on your next service visit. ☺

**Staying Off the Mat**

It's very popular in the car business to place paper mats on the floor of customer's cars, to demonstrate the shop's intent to avoid grease marks on the rug.

We simply keep the shop floor clean. We use large tubs to catch dust and liquids before they get on the floor. We also use our automated floor cleaner to clean the floors between jobs.

It also saves paper, reducing waste.

**Engine Thermostat Inspection \$1**

We have a very simple method to check and see if the thermostat is staying closed until the engine gets warm. This requires a cool down period or some very cold weather. Offer ends 3/31/16.

**Comprehensive Inspection \$45  
Keep it, trade it or fix it & love it?**

Decisions are made based on available information. The more accurate the information, the better the decision. Many cars can be made like new for less than the cost of taxes and plates on a new one.

Our inspection process is designed to give you what you need to decide what's best for you.. Get the whole picture and use financing if you wish. Offer ends 3/31/16.

**Timing Belt Wittbucks**

**50 bucks** off timing belt replacement packages. Most packages include new timing belt, water pump and exterior drive belts. Offer ends 3/31/16 **Free 6-month financing.**

**Fifty Wittbucks!**

That's right, 50 smackers off any set of 4 tires. **Free financing available.** We'll help you select the best tire for your needs. We sell everything from the top of the line all the way down to the stuff made in a 3rd world country that's not even legal to use in China. ☺ We're tire experts and we'll give you the best value for the money. Expires Feb 28, 2016. They must be new car tires, not bicycle tires. Tubeless tires only.

**3% Cash Discount Coupon**

Simply present this coupon for a 3% discount when you pay by cash (U.S. currency) or paper check. Offer ends 3/31/16. We are no longer accepting checks drawn on the "South Bank of the Platte". We figured that one out.

**"The Best"**

**Premium Synthetic Oil  
12-month, 8,000-mile oil**

**change.** Includes oil filter and motor oil specially rated for long-life service. Includes a multi-point inspection by a Technician who knows your car. This oil protects your engine better than any other oil, regardless of drain interval. Up to 5 quarts, additional oil extra charge. Some trucks more. Regular price \$78.00. Ends 4/30/16. **Good only with Coupon**

If you don't bring this coupon, we have them next to the service counter. You no longer need to "cut and paste". For efficiency, it's now "grab and show". That doesn't sound right, but we are talking coupons, here.

**George Witt Service 402-434-6961**

**\$75.50+ Tax**  
Parts & labor incl.

### Free Loaner Cars?

We used to provide free rides to work. This meant having an extra person on the payroll to do that, which was an enormous expense. There was also the issue of customers far apart needing rides at the same time.

We now have some very nice cars to loan when you drop your car off for scheduled service. Let us know when you make your appointment and you can drive a Witt car for the day. We only ask that you put gas in them. Small price, great convenience.



7am-5pm Mon-Thurs & Fri 7am- noon

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### Coat Drive

We're collecting coats again for those who need them. This is an annual event for us and we're happy to have helped give hundreds of coats.

Bring any clean coats you no longer wear.

Please take the kids out of them before you drop them off.

**402-434-6961**

## Newsletter for Owners of Select Asian Cars

George Witt Service (Since 1995)  
"Your Hometown Honda and Toyota Specialists"  
3341 N. 35th St. (2 blocks north of Cornhusker)  
Lincoln NE 68504-1559

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Lincoln NE



### We'll be closing at noon on Fridays for our Winter hours.

Our business model is to provide the finest service possible, using the most efficient processes to keep our prices low.

Loaning cars to our valued customers has eliminated technician interruptions. Increased concentration and focus has resulted in increased production, improvements in quality *and reduced prices*.

Our customers have shown appreciation by keeping our cars full of gas and even washing them when appropriate. Thanks for being great friends!

E-Mail: [service@georgewitt.com](mailto:service@georgewitt.com)



Inside:

- Our *Famous* Car Quiz,
- Lots of snow and winter driving tips
- How to reduce car expenses
- Money saving coupons

**Quick convenience tip:** When you call to schedule an oil change or service work, have the miles on your car (odometer reading) handy. It helps us advise you on what the car needs, or if it even needs anything at all.