

10 AMAZING GAMES THAT MAKE  
**B O R I N G   R O A D T R I P S**

MORE EXCITING



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## Ten Great Games That Make Boring Roadtrips More Exciting

Everyone who has children and has ever been on a longer roadtrip knows this: The children get cranky, they are bored, they ask every 2 minutes, how long it would take, etc. After a while, a fight is guaranteed to start even, or better yet especially, if there are several children in the car.

A quick and easy solution is obvious: Play games! This keeps everyone awake and entertained, ideally those games even include the driver.

In this ebook we have put together 10 interesting and easy-to-understand games to turn the dreaded long-distance car ride into a fun and relaxing experience for the whole family.



Before we get started, though, let's take a look at a few valuable tips and tricks for roadtrips with kids.

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## Tips and Tricks for Traveling With Kids

### ***Careful Preparation Saves a Lot of Stress***

Anyone who frequently travels in the car with children for longer distances knows the problem. At the first hour - but usually much earlier - things get nasty in the back seat. The kids are nagging, unbalanced and can hardly be held on their seats.

With the right considerations and good preparation you can make sure that anger and stress stay at home and that your holiday or short trip becomes a restful and fun experience for the whole family. We have compiled some valuable tips and tricks for you:

### ***Fastening Your Seat Belt is Not an Option, but Mandatory!***

First a few remarks on safety (although this can sometimes cause a little trouble and nagging at the beginning - but on this point one must remain inexorable). Children must be strapped in whether they are happy with it or not.

However, the whole thing can be integrated into a story about a great journey in a racing car or in a space shuttle for smaller children. In this way, the little ones may be able to fasten their seat belts willingly and without tears. Don't underestimate the voice of reason with the bigger ones either - if you explain the reasons for buckling up sensibly and the children realize that they are taken seriously, the nagging usually stops quickly.



## ***Child Seats***

Child seats are also a must have and should correspond to the size of the occupant. The proud owners of a great mirror for the parents have a clear advantage here: That way your kids can always keep eye contact with you! (Which also enables YOU to catch them cheating in the games we're going to introduce! :-))



## ***How to Get Out***

A particularly important and valuable tip: Teach your kids to always and only get out of the car on the passenger side. Children do not yet have an overview of dangerous road situations. After a long car ride everyone wants to get out of the car as quickly as possible, or start raving - if everyone jumps out of the car to all sides, very dangerous situations can occur very quickly. Therefore, if your car features it, the child-proof door locks should be activated for smaller children. That way you can be sure that getting out of the car happens under your watch and will be safe.

## ***Nausea***

Children often get sick during long car rides, especially on winding roads. In general, therefore, you should always carry appropriate medication with you in your first-aid kit. It is important that this first-aid kit is always at hand.

Many people put on the best and most complete first-aid kit you can only imagine, and then stow it somewhere in the trunk, all the way under the luggage, or have absolutely no idea where exactly it was accommodated. Preparation and planning is everything - the first-aid kit must be at hand immediately!

If your child has problems with nausea while driving, then you should let him or her take the medication well in advance for longer trips, as it usually takes a while before the effect starts. Ask your pediatrician!



### ***Never Leave a Child in a Parked Car***

No matter how short the stop is, everyone has to get out - that's good for walking and stretching anyway.

A car heats up incredibly quickly. In addition, even the smallest children are capable of releasing hand brakes, turning the key in the ignition and causing similar dangerous situations.

### ***Get Going as Soon as Possible!***

An excellent departure time is between three or four o'clock in the morning. At this time of day there is hardly any traffic and as a bonus the children are so tired that they will sleep on in the car without any problems and you will probably have no problem at all for the first 2-3 hours.

However, this does not apply to the peak holiday period. When the holidays have just begun, most travellers have that same thought and the streets are very crowded. A good tip is to find call the AAA or visit their website to find out about a good day and time to start your trip.

## ***Order over Chaos***

Many stress situations can be eliminated or avoided in advance. Therefore, you should not pack your bags on the day of travel, but one or two days in advance. Packed suitcases, if possible, should be stored immediately in the car so that they don't get in the way and you also get an idea of the suitcase volume, and see what realistically still fits in.



For the journey itself you should have three different baskets / bags with snacks and refreshments ready and deposit them in different, easily accessible locations in the car (as with the travel pharmacy, the best refreshment basket won't help you if it's stored somewhere where you can't reach it.

The three bags/baskets suggested should contain:

- ✓ Snacks for in between,
- ✓ a well sorted and equipped picnic basket for longer breaks and an
- ✓ "emergency bag" with surprises for the children.

## ***Clothes to Change***

Never underestimate the pollution potential of small children on long car journeys: be it spilled drinks, melted chocolate bars or spillage of yoghurt. Or the mud battle on the adventure playground during the break: There are a thousand things that make a change of clothes on the way necessary - be prepared!

## ***Be Well Prepared for Your Holidays***

Children often get cranky and grumpy because they are simply hungry. Eating can also have a distracting effect. So have a really good breakfast before departure! A child with a full stomach is more patient and calmer than a hungry or thirsty child.

## ***Rests***

Children won't make it as long in the car as adults do. Unfortunately, adults often keep forgetting the needs of the younger ones.

A lot of anger and stress can be avoided if you take regular breaks. Of course, these should be carried out in a safe place where the children can ideally run around. Here you can play games such as catching, hide-and-seek or the like. Even though we have ten great games for driving, these are all games in which the children can hardly move - and children have a great urge to move. So plan your travel time with enough breaks. Your nerves will thank you in the end!

As a rule of thumb, one should take a break every hour for small children and every two hours for older children.



It's great when you find really interesting places, such as a small game park, adventure playgrounds or a cosy little forest lake.

Encourage your children to really let off steam during these rests. A good idea is to have e.g. a badminton, a football or a frisbee disc ready. The more worn out your children are, the calmer the subsequent ride will be.

## Tips for Good Entertainment

We introduce you to simple games that require nothing more than the other players - so they are completely flexible to use. However, we would also like to point out at this point that there is also a large number of games available for purchase that will bring additional entertainment to the ride (e.g. magnetic or as plug-in games). You can find them in any well-stocked toy store. Among other things there is

- ✓ chess
- ✓ backgammon
- ✓ battleships
- ✓ books



In addition, card game classics such as Supertrump and Car Quartet are also suitable to shorten the time.

However, care should be taken with children who quickly get sick, as these games usually require them to look down for a long time and that can cause nausea.

## ***Music, Radio Play and DVD***

Always take your children's favourite music CDs and possibly audiobooks with you on the journey. Meanwhile many cars are also equipped with a DVD player and the little ones can possibly enjoy a nice movie and thus distract themselves.

## ***Snacks Drive Away Hunger Attacks and Boredom***

Eating, snacking, sucking and chewing distract. For drinking we recommend bringing bottles instead of cups, so that nothing (or only as little as possible) is spilled. We know that fruit and homemade sandwiches are the healthier alternative. If your kids are used to it and like to eat it, that's great. If this is not the case, a long car journey is certainly not the right time to change your diet - so take your children's favourite snacks with you!



## ***Silence is Golden***

A valuable tip at the end of the first part of the book: always keep calm. If you feel the stress build up take a deep breath and count to 10 (or 100...) internally. Maybe it's YOU this time around who simply needs a break this time around!



If you lose it, become hectic and impatient and show stress, this has a negative effect on the entire family. Stay calm and make the best out of it!

# Games For The Road

The resort by the sea or in the mountains is still many hours away. These hours are often a real test for children and parents, because unfortunately the joyful and dynamic journey into the long-awaited holiday ends in a traffic jam. And then you have to be creative and, above all, be prepared. With the following simple and fun game ideas the time will pass much faster and the entire family will enjoy the trip.

Guessing-, memory- and word games drive away boredom on long car rides for children and parents equally. The following games have the big advantage that you don't need anything for it.

Here are our ten practice-tested favourites:

## **#1 - The Truck Game**

### **How to play:**

Many truck drivers have one or two first names visibly affixed to a sign in the window. The aim of the game is to name a famous person with this first name and their last name. The first to do so has won the game. It's also possible to play several rounds, in which case one person writes down the points on a piece of paper, e.g. 10 points per first and last name and 5 points, for the second option. The player with the most points at the end of the game wins.

### **Pros:**

- ✓ Entertaining
- ✓ Funny
- ✓ Encourages quick thinking

### **Cons:**

- ✓ Smaller children do not know many famous people and are therefore at a disadvantage. In that case you could encourage them to think of kids from their kindergarten class with a similar name or so!
- ✓ It's possible that strapped in children can only look out the back of the window with difficulty or not at all. In this case the parents can also simply come up with first names and tell the children. Variation: Go through the alphabet and start with a first name with A, then with B and so on.



## ***#2 - I Spy With my Eye Something...***

### **How to play:**

This game is a real classic and well known. Let's review the rules anyway: Someone chooses something that the others can also see (as a variant one should also accept an imaginary object when driving a car) and starts with the sentence: "I spy with my eye something..." (insert property here, like "red", "blue", "huge", "small" etc.). After each guess, a new hint is given until someone has guessed the object the first player was referring to. Then it's the winner's turn to choose an object for the others to guess.

### **Pros:**

- ✓ simple-minded
- ✓ suitable for all ages

**Cons:**

- ✓ The visible objects in the car are easy to guess. So switch to fictional objects before it gets boring.



**#3 - The Alphabet Game**

**How to play:**

All players must search the letters of the alphabet in the appropriate order on signs and buildings that you see while driving. The winner is the first player to find all letters in alphabetical order. Letters on license plates are not allowed, because there is a separate game for this.





## **#5 - Mother Went Shopping**

### **How to play:**

This game is also a classic. The first player starts with the sentence: "Mother went shopping and she bought... (e.g. a loaf of bread)". Then the second player must repeat the complete set and add something. So the list goes on and on and on and on. As soon as one of the players forgets something from this list or puts it in a different order, he is eliminated. The last remaining player is the lucky winner.

### **Pros:**

- ✓ good memory training
- ✓ causes a lot of laughter

### **Cons:**

- ✓ rather protracted
- ✓ not suitable for tired kids



## **#6 - Count Cars**

### **How to play:**

Each player chooses a color and must then count the number of cars with exactly this color that he can find. The first one to count 20 cars wins the game. Another nice variant is to choose the make of the car instead of the color.



### **Pros:**

- ✓ The children need to concentrate and look out on the street
- ✓ The unrest and noise in the car will be minimal

### **Cons:**

- ✓ As parents, you should be the judge and make sure that none of the children cheats
- ✓ Little children can't count yet

## **#7 - 20 Questions**

### **How to play:**

The first player thinks of a known person, place or thing. The other players must guess his choice by asking a maximum of 20 questions, which may only be answered with yes or no.

### **Pros:**

- ✓ Entertaining

### **Cons:**

- ✓ Smaller children often do not know enough people. In this case it is possible to limit the choices to people from their environment (like their kindergarten class etc.)



## **#8 - The Duck-Down-Game**

### **How to play:**

Every time you drive under a bridge, someone has to shout out "Duck down!" Whoever forgets to duck is eliminated. To check if someone is cheating on the back seat, it is particularly helpful to have a special car mirror for parents in which they can see the little ones behind without turning around.

### **Pros:**

- ✓ Works best with small children who are still interested in such simple games
- ✓ Great for motorway rides

### **Cons:**

- ✓ The driver can't play
- ✓ Boring for older children



## **#9 - A B C**

### **How to play:**

A player names the letters from the alphabet in his mind. At some point, someone else says: "Stop!". The first player then names the letter where he was interrupted. Now all occupants of the car must say a word in turn, starting with the corresponding letter.

A great variant can be to limit valid responses to one category, for example fruits, vegetables, places, rivers, names, etc.. This makes the game much more interesting and difficult. Every time a player has no answer at hand, he is eliminated. The winner is the last one left.



### **Pros:**

- ✓ Very entertaining
- ✓ Stimulates thinking

### **Cons:**

- ✓ Can be difficult for small children, in this case do not specify categories or select very simple categories or specify letters
- ✓ Not suitable for small children

## **#10 – I Tell You**

### **How to play:**

In this game all family members invent a great story together, i.e. nobody plays against each other. One player starts with one sentence, the next one continues the story with the following sentence. In the end, a beautiful and entertaining story is created in which everyone has actively participated. This strengthens the sense of community in the family!

### **Pros:**

- ✓ Suitable for all ages
- ✓ Funny and creative
- ✓ Promotes a sense of community and not competition

### **Cons:**

- ✓ It can be difficult for younger children to stay concentrated long enough.

## ***BONUS GAME: The Yes-No-Game***

### **How to play:**

First a game master has to be chosen. He or she then may ask the other players questions - at any time during the entire journey. Under no circumstances may these questions be answered yes or no. If you still answer with one of these words, you will be eliminated. At the end of the ride you have a winner...

Variation: You can also exclude other answers, such as white or black, warm or cold.

The whole game is actually much more difficult than expected. Imagine for example the mother (game leader) asking the kids "Do you want some ice cream?!" You bet the answer will be an enthusiastic "Yes"!



**Pros:**

- ✓ highly entertaining
- ✓ parents also enjoy tricking the little ones

**Cons:**

- ✓ You can't play for hours because at some point you run out of questions.

## **Conclusion**

We hope that you enjoyed reading our little guide and that you have found a few useful tips for your next roadtrip.

The games presented here will certainly turn out as a huge success with the little ones - however, you should always pay attention to the right game for the appropriate age of your children when choosing. If there are large differences in age between the children traveling with you, you should pay special attention in this regard.

Please do not forget to take regular breaks so that the children can really let off steam.

We wish you and your family a relaxed, fun and stress-free journey!

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