

SATIRE

Tips for learning to drive

WASIQUE HASAN

For all of you above eighteen, your most recent birthday means more than adulthood and a national ID. It means you're allowed to get a driver's license and finally go for those joyrides you love, legally. However, not everyone is born with the skill of Michael Schumacher, so let me teach you the way of the vehicle before you run all the pedestrians over.

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING: Driving is sort of like a Mexican stand-off. The first person to flinch and show weakness loses. This is why you should aim to look as calm and collected as you can. Always bring sunglasses to your driving lessons, especially if you're taking lessons in the evening. Most instructors will tell you to look at the road, but your coolio shades will ensure the road will be looking at you. Thus the road will adjust itself to your haphazard driving and your lessons will go ever so smoothly. Bonus points if you put on smooth jazz in the car stereo.

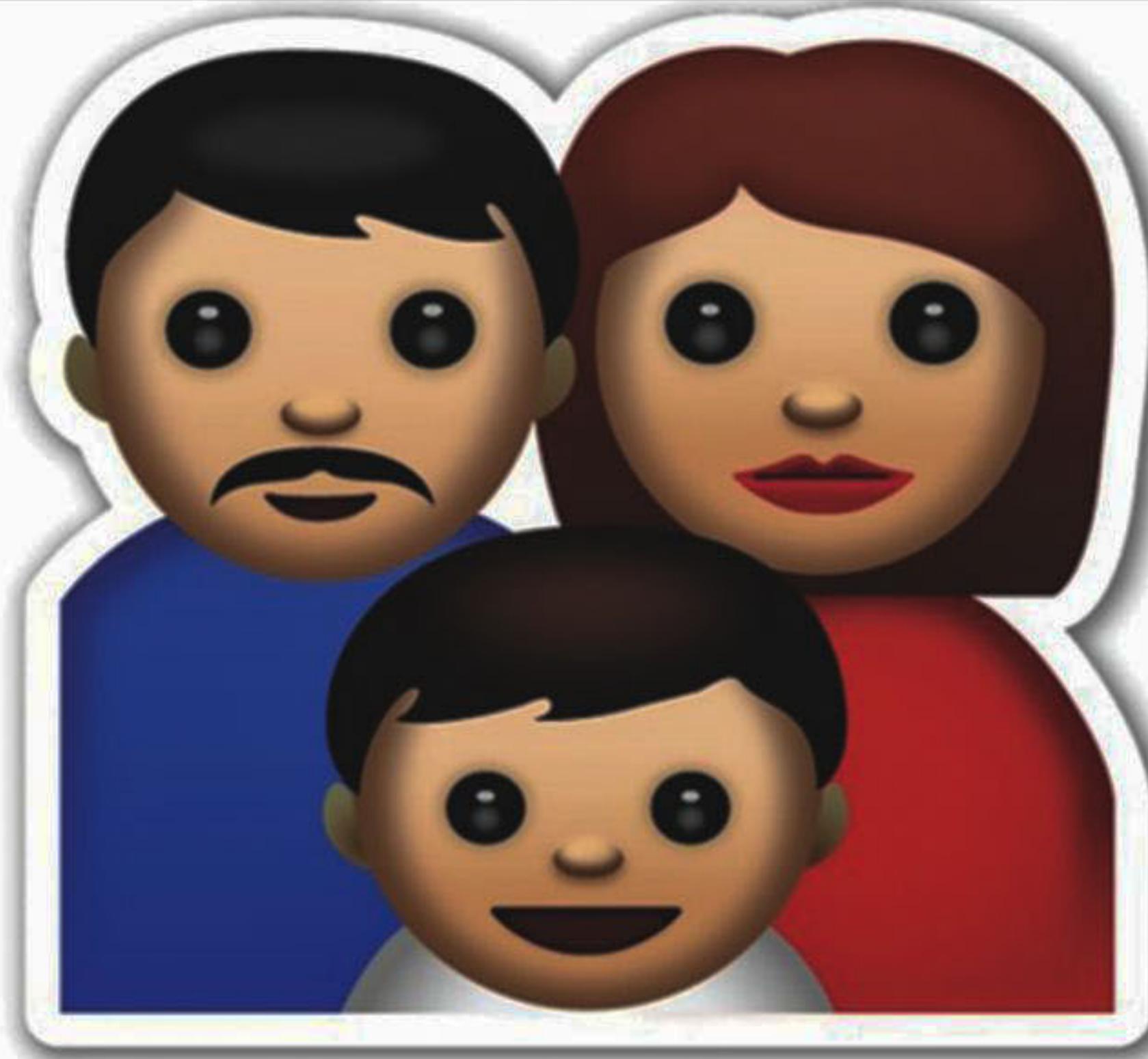
START YOUR ENGINES: Once you're in the car, you can't take off like you just finished eating at a wedding. You need to respect the vehicle first, which means checking if the rear view mirror and side mirrors are all in the right place. Then you need to stroke the steering wheel for five minutes, at which point you turn the key and start the engine. Sometimes the vehicles provided by driving schools lack side and rear view mirrors. In those scenarios you improvise and check other things like how far the seats are reclined, and whether or not the car has a radio. The last one is important

because Tyler Joseph already warned the world of the perils of not having a car radio.

NOT FAST BUT VERY FURIOUS, BD DRIFT: Most training cars are dreadfully slow, but that doesn't mean you have to keep your alternate ricer ego in check. Driving lessons are the perfect place to showcase your drifting skills, especially when travelling at 20 kph. Your tires may not skid, and you may not get the smell of burning rubber, but the annoyed looks you'll receive from everyone else on the road will justify the effort. You're not the one doing anything wrong, don't worry. They just can't understand how you're made for speed and that your talents would be wasted driving like a rational human being.

AVOIDING PEDESTRIANS: The second most common thing you'll see on the road after potholes, are pedestrians. There is no escaping them, as they will take up your space and your line of sight no matter where you go. As mentioned in the introduction, we do not want to run them over. Thus, the best way to deal with their presence is to get creative. Get out your old nerf arsenal and water guns. With these, you're going to make those jaywalkers regret the day they decided to cross your road. Batter them with foam bullets and douse them in water until they back off out of your lane. Either that or they surround you and beat you up. It's got to be one or the other.

With a heart of ash and a PC of potato, Wasique Hasan could use some help. Send memes to cheer him up at facebook.com/hasique.wasan



WHAT GOES ON IN A FAMILY WHATSAPP GROUP

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

It started one Saturday morning when my weekend slumber was rudely interrupted by a buzzing of my WhatsApp. I opened the phone to find myself added to a new group entitled 'We R Family' and six messages asking me to wake up, followed by 16 threads about the chores that were to be done by me before my mother got home. In that moment I knew, there was no going back.

My mother's level of enthusiasm about discovering this new form of communication was only matched by the level of despair my brother and I felt. Over the months each of us had new ideas about the names, which ranged from 'Mad House' to 'The Fantastic 4' to 'Samin is adopted'; however the content kept recurring back to links about how AIDS is making a comeback in teens and the rare fatal skin diseases you can get from eating cheese.

I must warn you that in said WhatsApp group, you need to refrain from using shorthand; it'll only make the conversation longer. Commenting a simple 'idk' will result in five more messages explaining to your mother what it stands for and answering why it's difficult for you to just type out three little words. This in turn will turn into a lecture on how the young generation is so adamant on taking the easy way out these days. It really isn't worth it.

The thing about the family WhatsApp group is, when you think about it, nothing significant ever really happens. It's just you and your siblings not being able to use the 'I forgot' excuse about attending a *dawaat* because your mom already reminded you in the WhatsApp group and she knows

you've seen it, she saw the two little green ticks. It's your dad butt-texting random alphabets, and finally it's a full blown Sherlock investigation hub about who the mystery girl is on your brother's profile picture.

And as if the immediate family WhatsApp group wasn't overbearing enough, then you may find yourself added to the extended family WhatsApp group. You'll have to look at pictures of your cousin's family who went to Maldives while you're sitting at home with your math book. One aunt will flaunt her perfect daughter's perfect grades while your mother is too embarrassed to share yours. Then there's that one uncle who needs to greet good mornings and goodnights every day, without fail, to pile up your notifications.

When things in the family WhatsApp group get a little too much, you move to the fringe family WhatsApp group, where it's just you and a bunch of trusted cousins mocking the things that happen in the actual WhatsApp group and devise plans on how to avoid going to a *dawaat*.

At the end of the day though, family WhatsApp group keep us anchored to our families amidst our fast paced lives. It allows us to stay informed about everything that's going on with our family afar and abroad. And let's face it, it's not like you can leave the group. The best you can do is just keep it muted and avoid WhatsApp profile pictures in general.

Samin Sabah Islam believes there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com.