

DRIVE A CAR vs RIDE IN A CAR

DRIVE A CAR



You are the person who controls the car.
You are the **driver**.

EXAMPLES:

- I drive a car to work every day.
- She drives a car in the city.
- He learned to drive a car last year.
- We drove a car across the country.



DRIVE = you control the car

RIDE IN A CAR



You are a **passenger** in the car.
Someone else is driving.

EXAMPLES:

- I ride in a car to school with my friend.
- She rides in a car with her brother.
- He was riding in a car when it started raining.
- We rode in a car to the airport.



RIDE IN = someone else controls the car



"Ride in a car" is more common
in **American English**.



In British English, people usually say:

- Get a lift – "Can I get a lift?" / He gave me a lift."
- Go by car – "We went there by car."
- Drive (for everyone) – "We drove to the coast" (even if someone else was driving).

SUMMARY



DRIVE = you control it
(you are the driver)



RIDE IN = you don't control it
(you are a passenger)



OTHER WAYS TO SAY IT



WAY TO SAY IT	EXAMPLE SENTENCES	MEANING
 Drive	I drive to work. She drove us to the beach.	You are the driver. You control the car.
 Ride in a car	I ride in a car with my coworker. He rode in a car to the station.	You are a passenger. Someone else drives.
 Get a lift	Can I get a lift to the mall? He gave me a lift home.	Someone drives you in their car.
 Go by car	We went there by car. They go by car on weekends.	Travel by car (no focus on who drives).

★ TIP

Use by car for general travel
(no article). Use in a car
when talking about being
inside a specific car.

We traveled by car.
I sat in the car reading a book.

YOUR TURN!

Fill in the blanks with drive, ride in, get a lift, or go by car.

1. I usually _____ to school with my neighbor.
2. She doesn't like to _____ in heavy traffic.
3. Can you _____ to the airport tomorrow?
4. We decided to _____ instead of flying.
5. He was nice and gave me _____ to the station.



Think about
who controls
the car!