

# Ring in New Year with *RoadWise* resolve to signal more, speed less

*Cheat sheet offers suggestions for easily do-able resolutions with practical applications, immediate rewards*

I hate New Year's resolutions because I'm awful at following through. There's too much pressure. I firmly believe the word "resolution" is of Latin descent: "reso" meaning "setting lofty and noble goals to attain self-actualization and deeper meaning in one's life," and "lution," meaning "when you are incapable of setting your VCR." Or something like that.

The experts tell us the trick to actually realizing a New Year's resolution is to set realistic, attainable goals for ourselves. Don't set yourself up for defeat by attempting to do the impossible, and make sure you surround yourself with people who will support you every step of the way.

As I said earlier, I'm terrible at setting goals for myself. But, I'm awfully good at setting them for other people. Just ask my wife. No, seriously, I think I can help all those other Manitobans out there who are



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struggling to come up with a New Year's resolution they can commit to and succeed at. Call it a Resolution Cheat Sheet. You don't have to do all of them, but picking one or two shouldn't be that hard, and I know each and every one of them is achievable with just a little practice.

It's simple. As my mother-in-law would say, how about resolving to drive more like a considerate, careful human being and less like a sausage. I have no idea where she got that, but I'll leave it in.

If you are one of those evolved motorists who actually take the time to drive with care and patience, I'm

sure you know a person or twelve that could use a little divine intervention, so cut this out and stuff it in their stockings or something.

Anyway, here's just a sample. Feel free to select and commit to as many as you like:

1. I resolve to become familiar with the location and function of my signal light indicator.
2. I resolve to actually fix my taillight not just think about doing it.
3. I resolve not to follow the vehicle in front of me so closely that my breath fogs its windows.
4. I resolve to become comfortable enough in my masculinity (or femininity) so I don't consider it a threat to my being when someone passes me.
5. I resolve to remember that a Winnipeg Roll is something you spread with cream cheese, not how to "finesse" a stop sign.
6. I resolve to keep my inner child bolted in his car seat when someone cuts me off and I want to throw a tantrum.
7. I resolve to allow people to merge into my lane with grace and style. I will also carry food and water for those poor sods signaling in vain for hours before I happened along.
8. I resolve that it is not necessary for me to drive at such excessive speeds it appears I want to get somewhere fifteen minutes before I actually left.
9. I resolve to finally divest myself of the ridiculous argument that I won't wear a seatbelt because I might drive into a lake and it will get stuck and I'll drown.
10. I resolve to familiarize myself with the various signs on the roadway, the actual traffic ones, not just the ones advertising coffee and donuts for under a toonie.

There, that should cover it, right?

Just cut this out, highlight the ones that resonate with you, and stick to it. Highlight 'em and stick them on the mirror. Recite them as you brush your teeth. Call me if you need me. I'm here to help. If stopping at a stop sign is new to you, high-five the guy beside you for encouragement, if you need to. I guarantee you'll be a brand new driver in no time.

You may not be any thinner or richer, and you still won't have rippling abdominal muscles. But, your commitment might just mean that you and everyone in and around your car live long enough to do this whole resolution thing again next year.

Happy New Year. Until next year, be **RoadWise**.

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