



My Car, Myself Index by Michael J. Lincoln, Ph.D.

A

“A-ARM” (Part of the steering mechanism)

“ABRUPT/ROUGH” DRIVING STYLE

ACCELERATION PROBLEMS

ACCELERATOR PROBLEMS

ACCIDENT

AIRBAG(S)

AIR CONDITIONER

AIR DAMP (Airflow on the brakes for cooling purposes)

AIR FILTER (Cleans the air coming into the engine’s firing chambers)

ALARM SYSTEM

ALIGNMENT (Of the front wheels)

ALTERNATOR (Uses the rotation of the engine parts to generate electricity)

AMMETER (Electrical system gauge)

AMPLIFIER (For a car audio system)

ANTENNA (Radio)

ANTI-LOCK BRAKE SYSTEM

ARMREST(S)

ASHTRAY(S)

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION FLUID LEAK

AXLE, FRONT

AXLE, REAR

B

BACKFIRING

BACK HALF OF THE BODY

BACK SUPPORT

BACK-UP LIGHT(S)

BALL JOINT (Up-down control in the steering mechanism)

BATTERY

BEARINGS (Greased steel balls that allow things to rotate or move)

BEING CUT IN FRONT OF (Repeatedly)

BEING "TAILGATED" (Consistently)

BICYCLE RACK

BILLOWING SMOKE

BLINKER(S)

BLOCK HEATER (Keeps the engine from freezing in extremely cold climates)

"BLOW OUT"

BODY PROBLEMS

"BOOM BOX" (Huge bass-emphasizing radio/player that takes up the trunk area)

BRAKE CALIPER(S) [Comparable to a bicycle wheel hand brake pad]

BRAKE CYLINDER(S)

BRAKE DRUM(S)

BRAKE FAILURE

BRAKE LIGHT(S)

BRAKE LINE(S) [Tubes containing brake fluid to apply the pressure to the wheels]

BRAKE LINING(S); BRAKE PAD(S)

BRAKE MASTER CYLINDER (Prime brake fluid pressure source)

BRAKE PEDAL

BRAKE ROTOR (Distributes the brake pressure)

BRAKES

BRAKE SHOE(S) [Friction plates that do the actual slowing of the wheels]

BREAK-IN

"BRIGHTS" (High beams)

"BUG-DEFLECTOR"

BUMPER(S); BUMPER GUARD(S); BUMPER SIDE GUARD(S)

"BUMPER SEAT" (In the trunk area in an old "coupe" car)

BUMPER-TRUNK PANEL (The area between the bumper and the trunk lid)

C

CAMPER CONVERSION (Elevated space atop a van)

CAMS; CAMSHAFT (Lifts the valves in the engine)

CAN'T DRIVE; WON'T LEARN TO DRIVE

CAN'T FIND A PARKING PLACE (Consistently)

CAN'T FIND THEIR CAR (In parking lots, on the street, etc.) [Consistently]

CAN'T GET A CAR

CAR ALARM

CAR BAR (In the back seat -- e.g., in the back of a stretch limo)

CARBURETOR (Gas/air combiner for fuel delivery)
CAR COVER
“CAREENING CANNON” (Driving style)
CAR FIRE; FIRE DAMAGE
CARGO RIGGING
CAR SEAT (For an infant or toddler)
CAR VACUUM CLEANER
CATALYTIC CONVERTER (Cleans the exhaust gases before expulsion)
“C. B.” RADIO (“Citizen’s Band;” “Ham radio”)
CD PLAYER
CEILING (Overhead interior lining)
CELL PHONE
CHAINS (For snow and ice)
CHANGE BIN
CHASSIS (The frame)
“CHECK ENGINE” INDICATOR ON (Tells when there is trouble in the engine)
CHILD SAFETY LOCK(S) [On the rear doors]
CHOKE (Fuel richness control -- it determines how much air will be mixed in)
“CHOKE DOWN” (Interruption or reduction in engine operation and/or effectiveness)
CHROME PROBLEMS
CIGAR/CIGARETTE LIGHTER
CLOCK
CLOGGED RADIATOR (Needs flushing -- pressured liquid run through it)
CLUTCH (Engages and disengages the engine from the transmission and wheels)
COIL
COLLISION DAMAGE
“COLORED SIGNALING LIGHTS”
COMPUTER; CONTROL COMPUTER
COMPUTER VOICE (“Feedback messenger”)
CONNECTING ROD(S) [They connect the pistons to the crank shaft]
CONVERTIBLE TOP
CONVERTIBLE TOP MOTOR
COOLING SYSTEM
CRACKED BLOCK
CRACKED WINDSHIELD
CRANKCASE
CRANKSHAFT
CROSS PIPE (Connecting the dual exhaust pipes)
CRUISE CONTROL
CUP-HOLDER(S)
“CUT-ACROSS ARTIST” (Improper turns)
CUT IN FRONT OF (“Sudden surprises”) [Consistently]
“CUT-IN ARTIST” (Cutting in front of other cars consistently)
“C.V.” (“Constant Velocity”)
CYLINDER(S)

D

“DAMN THE TORPEDOES!” (Running red lights; Running stop signs)
“DANGEROUS PULL-OUTS” PROPENSITY
DASHBOARD
DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS (“D.R.L.’s”)
DEBRIS, ROCK, OR MISSILE HITTING THE WINDSHIELD OR CAR
DEFROSTER (For the windshield and/or for the rear window)
DENTS
DEODORIZER
DIFFERENTIAL (Distributes the engineering stresses in the transmission leakage)
DIFFICULTY STARTING THE VEHICLE
DIPSTICK (Oil level indicator)
“DISAPPEARING” THEIR CAR (Not stolen, but non-findable for a time) [Repeatedly]
DISTRIBUTOR
DISTRIBUTOR POINTS
DISTRIBUTOR ROTOR
DIVIDER WINDOW (Between the chauffeur or the taxi driver and the passengers)
DOME LIGHT
DOOR(S)
DOOR COMPARTMENT(S)
DOOR HANDLE(S)
DOOR LIGHT(S)
DOOR LOCK(S)
DOOR PANEL(S) [Linings]
DOOR POCKET(S)
DOOR POST (Between the doors)
DOOR REFLECTOR(S) [Warns oncoming cars that the door is open]
DOOR “SCRAWKS” AS IT OPENS AND/OR CLOSES
DOOR SILL (Bottom of the door frame- thresholds of the car)
“DRAG-RACING” (“Laying rubber” at signals)
DRIVESHAFT
“DRIVING BLIND” (Driving without their headlights on) [Repeatedly]
“DRIVING BY FEEL”
“DRIVING HABIT PROBLEMS”
DRIVING OFF WITH THE GAS NOZZLE STILL ATTACHED
“DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE” PROPENSITY
DRIVING WITHOUT THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON (Repeatedly)
“DRL’s” (Daytime Running Lights)
DVD PLAYER

E

“EGO EXTENSION” REACTION TO THEIR CAR
“EGR” LIGHT
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
EMERGENCY BRAKE

EMERGENCY FLASHERS
EMISSION SYSTEM
ENGINE FIRE
“ENGINE” LIGHT ON (Tells when there is trouble in the engine)
ENGINE PROBLEMS
ENGINE WON’T STOP (When the ignition is turned off)
ENTRY GRIP
EXHAUST FUMES IN THE CAR
EXHAUST MANIFOLD
EXHAUST PIPE
EXPIRED LICENSE
EXTRA SEAT(S) [In the backseat area in a stretch limo, for instance]

F

FALLING ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL (Fairly frequently)
FALLING OUT OF A MOVING CAR
“FALSE ALARMS” (Misfirings of indicator lights, warning sounds or computer messages)
FAN (Blows air over the engine or through the radiator for cooling purposes)
“FEEDBACK MESSENGER” (Computer voice)
“FEINT-HEART” (Fearfulness and prolonged hesitance at driving junctions)
FENDER(S)
“FIN(S)”
FILTER(S) (Air for the engine, fuel, oil, etc.)
FIRE; FIRE DAMAGE; CAR FIRE
FIREWALL (Between the engine and the passenger compartment)
FLAT TIRE
FLOORBOARD(S)
FLOOR MAT(S)
FLYWHEEL (Keeps the momentum of the motor going)
FOG LIGHT(S)
FOLDING SEAT(S) [In the back-seat area -- e.g., in a stretch limo]
FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE SHIFT
FRAME
FRONT END COVER (Rubber, plastic, or leather covering strapped on to the hood and grill)
FRONT HALF OF THE BODY
FRONT SEAT CENTER STORAGE
“FROZEN” ENGINE BLOCK; “FUSED” ENGINE BLOCK
FUEL FILTER
FUEL INJECTOR (Fuel/air combiner for fuel delivery and ignition)
FUEL LINE (The tube that brings the fuel from the gas tank to the engine)
FUEL PUMP (Pulls the fuel from the gas tank to the engine)
FUEL SYSTEM
FUEL TANK SENSOR (Floats in the gas tank and tells how full the tank is)
FUSE; FUSE BOX (Prevents electrical overload)
“FUSED” ENGINE BLOCK

G

GARAGE- OR GATE-OPENER
GARBAGE CONTAINER
GAS/FUEL CAP
GAS/FUEL CAP COVER REMOTE RELEASE (Inside the passenger compartment)
GAS/FUEL FILTER
GAS/FUEL FUMES IN THE CAR
GAS/FUEL GAUGE
GAS/FUEL LEAK
GAS/FUEL LEVEL (Floats in the gas tank and tells how full the tank is)
GAS/FUEL TANK
GASKET BLOWN
GAS PEDAL; ACCELERATOR PEDAL
GEAR SHIFT
GENERATOR (Uses the rotation of the engine parts to create or generate electricity)
GETTING AHEAD OF OTHERS IN TRAFFIC (Compulsively)
GETTING LOST (Consistently)
GETTING OUT OF A MOVING CAR PROPENSITY
GLOVE COMPARTMENT
“GOAL-BLINDED” (Passing on the right) [Or on the left in England]
GOING OVER CURBS (Repeatedly)
“GPS” NAVIGATOR (Global Positioning System)
GRILL (The decorative structure on the front of a car that ventilates the engine)
GUN RACK

H

HARD STARTING OF THEIR CAR
HATCHBACK
HEAD (The top of the engine)
HEADLIGHT(S)
HEADLIGHT POSITIONER(S)
HEADLINER (Ceiling material)
HEADREST(S)
HEATER
HIGH BEAMS
“HIGH CENTERED” (Hung up at the under-carriage on an elevation under the car)
HITTING A LARGE ANIMAL
HITTING A PEDESTRIAN
HITTING A SMALL ANIMAL
“HOLD HANDLES;” “STRAPS”
“HOLD-UP ARTIST”
HOMICIDAL ATTACK BY ANOTHER PERSON
HOOD
HOOD RELEASE
HORN

HOSE, RADIATOR

HOSE, VACCUUM (Part of the system that controls the flow of fuel and air to the engine)

HUB CAP(S)

HYDRAULIC VALVE-LIFTER(S) (They allow fuel into and exhaust out of the cylinders)

I

“ICE ALERT” SIGNAL

ICE-MELTING FLUID

ICE SCRAPER

IDLING PROBLEMS

“IDIOT LIGHT” (Warning lights for system malfunctions)

IDLER ARM (Connects the steering mechanism to the wheels)

IGNITION (Sends electricity through the system to get things started)

IMPALED OR WRECKED BY ROAD DEBRIS

“IMPROPER TURNS” PROPENSITY

INSIDE GAS CAP RELEASE

INSIDE TRUNK LID RELEASE

INSIGNIA(S)

INSTRUMENT PANEL (The control devices for the various functions in the car)

INTAKE MANIFOLD (The pipes that funnel the fuel mixture to the engine)

INTERIOR LIGHT

J

JACK

“JUMPER CABLES”

K

“K.C.” LIGHTS (Along the front of the roof of a truck)

KEY(S)

KILLED IN ACCIDENT

“KNOCKING” IN THE ENGINE

L

LADDER (On a van)

“LANE-JOCKEY” (Constantly changing lanes)

LEAKAGE INTO THE CAR (Water)

LEAVING THE LIGHTS ON; LEAVING THE RADIO ON

LEFT HALF OF THE BODY

LEMON (ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER)

LICENCE PLATE(S)

LIGHTER (Cigars, cigarettes also an electric outlet)

LOCKING THEMSELVES OUT OF THEIR CAR (As a pattern)

LOSING PARKING PLACES (Taken from “under their nose,” consistently)

LOSING THEIR CAR REGISTRATION (Repeatedly)

LOSING THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE (Repeatedly)
LOSING THEIR PROOF OF INSURANCE PAPERS (Repeatedly)
LOSING THEIR ROAD MAP (Repeatedly)
LOSING THE TITLE TO THEIR VEHICLE (Repeatedly)
LOUD MUFFLER
LOW BEAMS
LOWER HALF OF THE BODY
LOW HYDRAULIC FLUID (Transmits the pressure to the brakes)
LOW TIRE PRESSURE (Consistently)
LUBRICATION SYSTEM
LUG WRENCH

M

"MAD COMPETITOR" PATTERN
"MADD" (Driving under the influence of whatever)
"MAD DRIVERS" (In their path a lot)
MAIN BEARING (Lubrication control for the engine)
MANIFOLD (Air intake and exhaust exit for the engine)
MAP
MASTER CYLINDER (Prime brake fluid pressure distributor)
McPHERSON STRUTS (Integrated springs and shock-absorbers)
"MELTDOWN"
MESSINESS
MILEAGE INDICATOR (Odometer)
"MISSING"
MISSING EXITS
MISSING SIGNALS (Consistently -- notably more than statistically expectable)
MOLD IN THEIR VEHICLE
"MOTOR MELTDOWN"
MOTOR MOUNTS (Bolts that hold the motor to the frame of the car)
MOTOR PROBLEMS
MUD FLAPS (Behind the wheels)
MUFFLER

N

NEAR ACCIDENT
"NEVER SATISFIED" (Constantly changing lanes)
"NICKS" (On the car's finish)
"NIGHT BLINDNESS;" "NIGHT MYOPIA"
"NO ROOM AT THE INN" (Parking ticket garnered)

O

ODOMETER (Mileage indicator)
"OH NO YOU DON'T!" (Won't let others into the traffic flow or the other lane)
OIL CAP (Covers the entrance to the oil supply)

OIL, DIRTY
OIL FILTER
OIL LEAK
OIL OVER-FILL (Repeatedly)
OIL PAN (Storage area for the engine-lubricating oil at the base of the engine)
OIL PRESSURE GAUGE (Tells how well the oil pump is doing at lubricating the engine)
OIL PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE
OIL PUMP (Makes sure the oil lubricates the engine interior)
OIL SEALS (They keep the oil in the engine)
OIL, UNCHANGED
“OIL” WARNING LIGHT ON
“OUTTA MY WAY!” (Violation pedestrians’ right of way while driving)
OVERHAUL-NEEDING
OVERHEATING
“OXYGEN” LIGHT ON (Indicating insufficient air/oxygen in the fuel mixture)

P

PAINT BLEMISHES
“PARALLEL PARKING PARALYSIS” (Consistent difficulty in parallel parking)
PARKING ASKEW (In parking slots or spots)
PARKING BRAKE
PARKING BRAKE FAILURE TO SET, OR PUT IN PARK
PARKING LIGHTS
“PARKING LOT” DELAYS
“PARKING TICKET GARNERER” PROPENSITY
PARTS FALLING OFF
PASSENGER COMPARTMENT PROBLEMS
“PCV” (“Positive Crankcase Ventilation” for clearing fumes from the crankcase)
PETCOCK (Spigot on the bottom of the radiator for draining)
PHONE, CAR
“PINGING”
PISTONS
PITMAN ARM (Steering gearbox connector)
“POINT PERSON” (Compulsively getting ahead of others in traffic)
POWER BRAKES
POWER LOCKS
POWER-LOSS (Interruption or reduction of engine operating and/or effectiveness)
POWER RUNNING BOARD, STEP
POWER SEAT CONTROL
POWER STEERING
POWER WINDOWS
PUSH RODS

Q

R

RACING THE ENGINE AT STOP SIGNS
RACING THE ENGINE AT SIGNALS (Competition-inviting)
RACK (On the roof or on the trunk)
RACK AND PINION (Steering gears)
RADAR DETECTOR
RADIATOR
RADIO; RADIO/TAPE DECK; CD PLAYER
“RAGE-AHOLIC” (“Road rage”)
RATTLES
READING LIGHT
“READY OR NOT” (Dangerous pull-outs)
REAR HALF OF THE BODY
REARVIEW MIRROR
REAR WINDOW LOUVERS
REAR WINDOW SHELF
“RECKLESS DRIVING” PROPENSITY
RECTIFIER (Adjusts the flow of electric current to the spark plugs)
REMOTE TRUNK-RELEASE
RESONATOR
“REVENGE-FREAK”
REVOKED LICENSE
RIGHT HALF OF THE BODY
“RIGHT-HUGGING” (As they drive) [“Left-hugging” in England]
RINGS (Sealers around the pistons against the cylinder walls)
“ROAD HOG” (Constantly taking up road space and not allowing passing)
“ROAD RAGE” (Directed at them by other drivers consistently)
“ROAD RAGE” (Their own)
ROCKER ARM (Part of the valve controls -- they pull them up and let them down in sequence)
ROD(S) (They connect the pistons to the crankshaft)
ROLLBAR
ROOF
“ROUGH & TOUGH” (Abrupt/rough driving style)
RUNNING BOARD; STEP (Van, truck)
RUNNING BOARD LIGHTS (Van, truck)
RUNNING OUT OF GAS PROPENSITY
RUNNING OVER SOMEONE
RUNNING OVER SOMETHING
RUNNING RED LIGHTS; RUNNING STOP SIGNS PROPENSITY
RUST

S

SCRAPED

“SCRAPING” BRAKES

SCRATCHES

SEAT(S)

SEAT BELT(S)

SEAT COVER(S); SHEEPSKIN SEAT COVER(S)

SEAT HEATER

SEAT LOCATION CONTROL

SEAT PAD(S)

“SEQUENTIAL BREAKDOWNS” (One damned thing after another also, the “lemon”)

“SEQUENTIAL COLLISIONS” (One after another in a short span of time)

“SHAKING” (The whole car usually due to tire trouble)

“SHIMMYING” (Front wheels wobbling or wavering)

SHOCK ABSORBERS

“SHORT” (Electrical disconnections, “crossed connections,” or “blow-outs”)

SIDE COMPARTMENT(S); SIDE POCKET(S)

SIDE MIRROR(S)

SIDE STRIP(S) (Car decoration and protection)

SIGNALER

SIREN OR WARNING SOUND SYSTEM (Police, fire or emergency vehicles)

SKI RACK

SLOW LEAK (Tires)

“SLOW-POKE” DRIVING PROPENSITY

SNOW-REMOVER (Long-handled scraper and brush)

SNOW TIRE(S)

SOLENOID (Step-up transformer for the starter)

“SPACE CASE” DRIVING PATTERN

SPARE TIRE

SPARK PLUG(S) (Electric spark-emitters that ignite and explode the air/fuel mixture)

SPEAKER(S)

“SPEEDING BULLET” (Driving too fast)

SPEEDOMETER

SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL (Ice, recklessness, etc.) [Repeatedly]

“SPINNING WHEELS” (Stuck in mud, ice, snow, slush, sand or whatever -- repeatedly)

SPRINGS

“SQUEAKING” BRAKES

“SQUEAKS”

STABILIZER BAR

STALLING (Engine stops and is hard to re-start)

STARTER

STEAMING WINDOWS

STEERING PROBLEMS

STEERING WHEEL

STEERING WHEEL ANTI-THEFT DEVICE

STEERING WHEEL LOCK

STEP (Van, truck, SUV)
STEP-EXTENDER (Automatic, on a van. It extends out and then pulls back in)
STEREO
STOLEN CAR
STOLEN TRUCK CANOPY
“STRAP(S)” [“Holding handles”]
STRUCK BY LIGHTNING OR BY A POWER LINE (Their car/van/truck/SUV)
“SUDDEN SURPRISE-ARTIST”
SUMP PUMP (Oil pump in the crankcase oil storage area under the engine)
SUNROOF
SUN VISOR
SURFBOARD RACK

T

TACHOMETER (Tells how fast the engine is going)
TAILGATE
“TAIL-GATED” (Frequently)
“TAIL-GATING” (Consistently)
TAILLIGHT(S)
“TAIL NET”
TAILPIPE
TAPE-DECK OR CD PLAYER
TAPPETS (Provide coordinated intermittent motion in the operation of the valves)
“TAXI,” “PIZZA” OR OTHER SIGNS (On the roof)
TEMPERATURE GAUGE OR INDICATOR LIGHT (For the engine)
THERMOSTAT (Controls the temperature of the coolant for the engine)
“THRILLS & CHILLS” DRIVING (“Pushing the limits” constantly)
THROTTLE
TICKETS
TIE ROD (Connects the steering gear with the wheels)
TIMING BELT; TIMING CHAIN; TIMING GEARS
TIRE(S)
TIRE CHAINS
TIRE IRON (A short crowbar for prying off the hub caps)
TIRE WRENCH; LUG WRENCH
TORQUE-CONVERTER
TOW BAR; TOW BALL; TRAILER HITCH
TOWED AWAY
TRANSAXLE
TRANSFER CASE
TRANSMISSION
TRIM
TRIP CHARGE INDICATOR (Taxi)
TRIP ODOMETER
TRUCK BED
TRUCK BED SUPER-STRUCTURE (FOR FUNCTIONAL PURPOSES)

TRUCK CANOPY
TRUCK REAR WINDOW GUARD
TRUNK
TUNE-UP NEED
TURN SIGNALER
TV
TWO-WAY RADIO

U

UNDER-CARRIAGE PROBLEMS
UNCONTROLLABLE ACCELERATION
UNDERGUARD (“Shield” extending below the front and/or rear bumper)
UNIVERSAL JOINT; “U-JOINT”
UPHOLSTERY
UPPER HALF OF THE BODY

V

VACUUM-BREAKER (Part of the system that controls the flow of fuel and air into the engine)
VACUUM CLEANER (For the car -- usually battery-operated)
VACUUM HOSE (Part of the system that controls the flow of fuel and air into the engine)
VALVES
VANDALISM
VANITY MIRROR
VAN LADDER
VAPOR LOCK (Stoppage of fuel flow in the fuel lines)
VENT(S)
VINYL TOP
VISOR
VOLTAGE REGULATOR

W

“WARP & WOOF”
WATER HOSE (For the coolant to flow through)
WATER LEAK (From the cooling system, including the radiator)
WATER LEAKAGE (Into the car)
WATER PUMP (To keep the coolant flowing around the engine)
WEATHER STRIPPING (Inside -- around the windows and doors)
“WEAVING” (Wavering all over the road)
WHEEL(S)
WHEEL ALIGNMENT (Front wheels)
WHEEL BALANCE (All Wheels)
WHEEL BEARINGS (Ball bearings)
WHEEL CYLINDER(S) (Brake fluid container)
WHEEL DECORATION(S); DECORATIVE WHEELS

WHEEL LUGS; WHEEL NUTS
WHEEL WRENCH; LUG WRENCH; TIRE WRENCH
“WHIPLASH”
WINCH
WINDOW(S)
WING WINDOWS
WINDOW CONTROL(S)
WINDOW DE-FOGGER/DEFROSTER
WINDOW MOLDING (Exterior)
WINDOW-SCRAPER (For ice)
WINDOW SHADE(S)
WINDOW-STEAMING
WINDSHIELD
WINDSHIELD-PIERCED
WINDSHIELD WASHER(S)
WINDSHIELD WIPER(S)
WIRING
“WOBBLE” (The whole car usually due to tire trouble)
WRIST PIN (Connecting the piston to the connecting rod in the crankshaft)
WRITING TABLE (In the back seat -- e.g., in a stretch limo)
“WRONG WAY CORRIGAN”

X

Y

Z