

# Who is Covered When You Buy Auto Insurance?

By Royce Williams  
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**All the coverage's in your auto policy apply when you are driving, but they also apply when other people are driving your vehicle. The coverage's are actually for the car, not the person.**

**\*Note.** However, if someone is going to be a regular user of your car, that person's name needs to be added to the policy. Your insurance company wants to know who's going to be using the car. That stands to reason. After all, you could be a great driver, with no tickets or accidents. But your spouse, your teenage child, your reckless cousin could be a lousy driver. If you let these people drive your car without telling your insurer and these people keep getting in accidents, your insurance company isn't going to be very happy. In fact, the company will probably cancel your policy.

**\*Tip.** It's not wise to risk losing your policy by failing to disclose who's driving the insured vehicle. Keep in mind, however, that if you add drivers with lousy records or who haven't had much driving experience, your premiums will definitely go up. Any parent of a driving teenager can tell you this. Teenagers are notorious for getting tickets and having accidents. They are also very inexperienced drivers. As such, when your child gets his or her license, your insurance premiums will go up when you add your child to the policy. If you buy all six of the major auto insurance coverage's, your policy will cover you in most every instance in which you cause damage or injury to your car, yourself, your passengers, or drivers and passengers in other vehicles. But not all.

**\*Note.** The standard auto insurance policy has some "exclusions," which is insurance-ese for, "We won't cover that." Here are some examples where your auto policy won't provide coverage:

- If you intentionally try to cause damage to your car or another vehicle. This includes liability coverage.
- If you are using the vehicle to transport other people for a fee. (This does not apply to car pools where the expenses are shared.)
- If you are using the vehicle for certain business activities. This does not include traveling to see clients or taking a standard business trip.
- For damage caused by normal wear and tear, freezing, mechanical or electrical breakdown, or road damage to tires.