



Made by Nikki Pugh in 2020 when we had to get creative about sharing rides and learning.  
v1.0

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## BIKE CHECKS

D IS FOR...

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# direction

Steering and stuff.

Stand at the front of the cycle facing back towards the saddle with the front wheel between your legs. Use your legs to hold the wheel still as you try and turn the handlebars in a steering motion. The bars shouldn't turn independently from the wheel.



Check the handlebar grips aren't loose and rotating around the handlebars and also that the ends of the handlebars aren't open. This is important to prevent nasty gouging injuries.

Is everything else on the handlebars firmly attached? You shouldn't need to check this before ~every~ ride, but it's part of generally being aware what state your cycle is in.

Bonus check: give your saddle a wiggle to check it's not slipping or tipping at the point where it clamps onto the seat post. Lean your weight on it to make sure the seatpost is not slipping or turning in the seat tube.

RIDE INFORMATION

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You might find it useful to take a multitool or some allen keys with you so you can make minor fixes and adjustments as needed.

[www.everydaysuperpowers.org.uk/zines/abcd-checks](http://www.everydaysuperpowers.org.uk/zines/abcd-checks)

Here you can also find any related zines and a blank template so you can create your own for the place where you live.

## INTRODUCTION

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The ABCD bike check is a series of quick basic safety checks you can use before a ride.

It's not comprehensive and assumes your cycle is generally in a decent condition. If you're riding something that's new to you or hasn't been used in a while, consider giving it a more thorough check or taking it to a mechanic for a service.

(A thorough check, once or twice a year, can be a good idea anyway.)



The M Check is another series of checks you might encounter. It's a bit more detailed than the ABCD check. In both cases you'll find variations in what goes on the list!

To help you remember these ABCD checks we've woven them into a journey with five checking check-ins. Ride the journey, working your way through the city and the checks. Make some memories along the way and use these to help you remember the checks when you need them.

THIS PAGE IS FOR...

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# notes

Well done! You have worked through a series of useful safety checks AND been for a cycle ride!

Use this page to make any notes, sketches, lists etc that you want to follow up on later.

START

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D

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# direction

You need a D location - you get to decide where.

Here are a few suggestions:

Once you've found a good, memorable, location to stop for a bit, do the D checks outlined on the next page.



# chain



Some hundred moving parts that benefit from being looked after.

Have a look at the chain.

If it's dirty or looking really oily, turn the cranks backwards and pull the lower run of the chain through a cloth to clean it up as much as you can. Chains only need a tiny amount of lube inside each roller. If the outside bits are oily then crud will stick to them and the chain will wear faster, causing more serious issues later on.



If the chain looks dry or makes a squeaky chattering noise, give it clean as above, then add a drop of chain lube to each roller. Leave it for a while if you can, then wipe off any excess lube with a cloth.

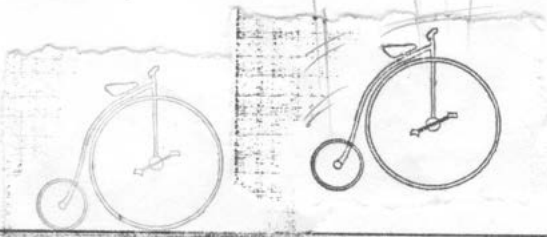
Chain care can be messy and take a bit of time, so is not always best left until immediately before you plan to go for a ride! Spare a thought for your chain when you return from a ride instead, and try to develop some regular chain care habits.



## DROP TEST

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This is a good way to identify any loose bolts or components that need securing.



Lift your cycle off the ground by about 10cm and allow it to drop back to the ground. Listen for any rattles or other noises that don't sound quite right.



**NO MUDGUARDS**

**NO CHAIN**

**NO PROBLEM!**

Mudguards might go ptwang a bit and, depending on what gear you're in, your chain might slap on the chainstay (the part of the frame between the pedals and the rear axle). This is normal.

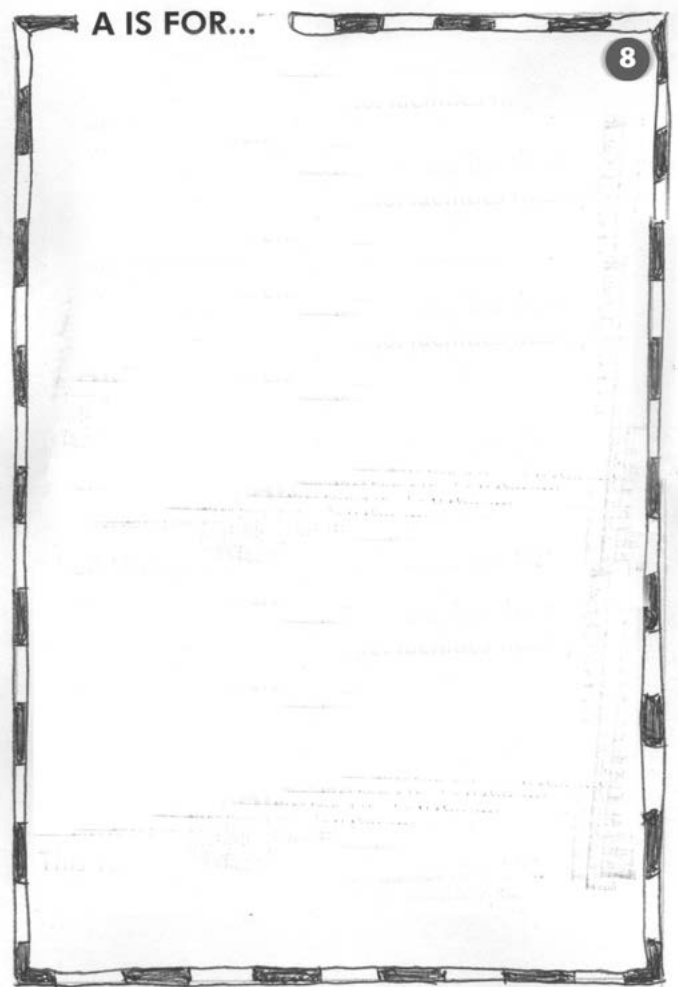
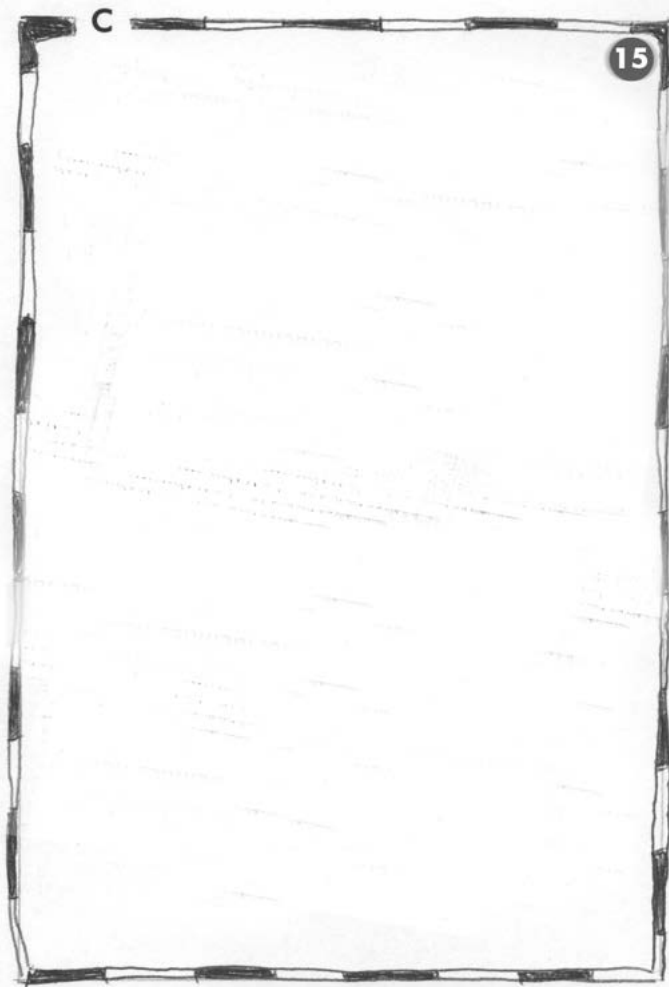


A

7

C IS FOR...

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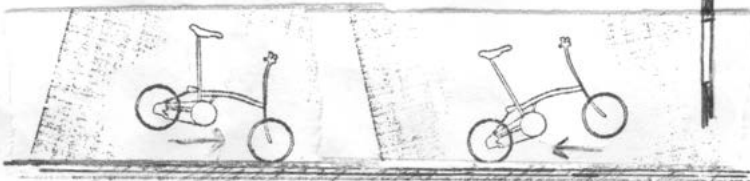


B IS FOR...

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# brakes

Test your brakes work effectively by standing next to your bike and checking each in turn.



1) Squeeze the lever for the front brake and push your bike forward. The front wheel should stay where it is and the back wheel should lift up in the air.

2) Squeeze the lever for the back brake and pull your bike backwards. The back wheel should stay where it is and the front wheel should lift up in the air.

You might need to adapt this technique if you have a different style of cycle...

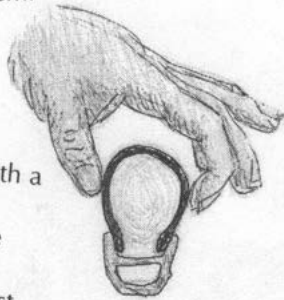
Bonus checks:

Make sure the brake pads aren't worn down and that rim brake pads are secured firmly and not rubbing on the tyre.

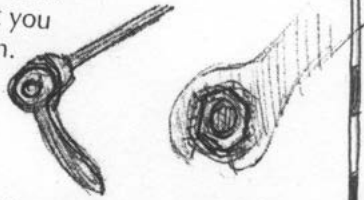


# air

Squeeze your tyres to make sure there is enough air in them.



If you have a pump with a gauge, you can inflate your tyres to within the range specified on the side of the tyre. For most purposes the tyres should be hard enough that you can't push the tyre in.



While you're looking at your wheels, make sure the quick releases or nuts at the axles are done up tight and that the wheels are spinning freely.

