

NEXT GEN DRIVING

Millennial **Kate Evans** takes the new Ford Focus on a stress-free test drive.



(for people who are smart with money, I'm automatically excluded). Starting at \$17k, it's a good looking car that's incredibly tech savvy, and made me question my commitment to my current car/travelling wardrobe.

The Focus has sensors that tell you when people are in your blind spot – a light shows up on the side mirror. Nothing went off to tell me if there was a cute dog in the car behind me, however. The lights weren't

a necessity for me, as I'm not one of those wankers who changes lanes without checking, but maybe if they had this car, they'd get honked less for cutting people off all the damn time.

It also let me set a distance I'd like to stay behind the car in front, if I was creeping too close to them, yep, another warning beep.

Yet for all my skillful ability to indicate and not tailgate, I'm useless at sharp corners. I mostly – OK, always – forget to slow down. My risky cornering has definitely contributed to my parents' grey hairs.

But when I took a corner a bit too fast and wandered out of my lane a little, the Focus autocorrected me, pulling me back in line. The car can read where you are in the lane and adjusts accordingly so you're safely in the middle. I tested this on an empty country road. Every single time I drifted, the car corrected me and set me straight.

Another thing that makes me believe that a self driving car, which also takes your groceries inside for you, is on the way: this bad boy can park itself. As I'm possibly the worst parker I know – I've made friends do it for me – this car offers hands-free perpendicular parking (and is the first Ford globally to do so).

If I had a full understanding of every single button and dial in the car, I'm sure I would have mastered it. It's a little fiddly, so it's not a car I'd casually lend to friends or family (which is a good thing as my brother always borrows my car and always conveniently forgets to fill it up).

As the (slightly altered) saying goes, anything I can do, a very intelligent person has invented a way for technology to do it better. It's definitely the case with the Ford Focus. It's a strong, independent car that don't need no driver. **F**

I NEED TO TELL YOU ALL something straight up: I'm no car connoisseur. When it came to choosing my first car I wanted one that had a handbag holder, yes I'm a walking stereotype. My car's also part dodgem – I've been rear-ended twice, and parking, who's good at that? It gets me to the bus stop every day (I really am lazy) and it's perfect for hiding yet another LBD purchase from my mum.

Then work gave me the opportunity to test-drive the new Ford Focus; a car that's aimed at my generation, and is affordable,

