

BEHIND THE WHEEL LESSON # 1  
ENTERING VEHICLE AND PREDRIVING HABITS  
BASIC DRIVING MANEUVERS

PREDRIVING HABITS

Key in  
Lock door  
Adjust seat  
Adjust mirrors  
Put seat belt on  
Make sure all doors are locked and seat belts are on.  
Starting vehicle  
Make sure gear shift is in "P"  
Turn key  
Check gauges

Pulling away from the curb

Press brake FIRMLY with right foot  
Select proper gear  
Signal  
Rearview mirror check, side view mirror check, blind spot check (check , check, check)  
Release brake, then accelerate

Left turn

Position car just right of center line  
Signal 100' before intersection  
Brake BEFORE turning (10 mph)  
Check intersection (L-R-L)  
Yield to any pedestrians or cars  
Take the car through the midpoint of the intersection before turning

Right turn

Position car 3' from curb  
Signal 100'  
Brake BEFORE turning  
Check intersection (L-R-L)  
Yield to pedestrians and cars  
Turn where corner begins

HELPFUL TIPS:

1. LOOK AT TIRE PRESSURE PRIOR TO ENTERING
2. ADJUST SEAT, PUT ON SEAT BELT, ADJUST MIRRORS, and CHECK GAUGES WHEN YOU TURN THE KEY ON
3. CHECK SURROUNDING AREA FOR HAZARDS (PEOPLE, PETS, AND OTHER HAZARDS)
4. USE THE HAND OVER HAND STEERING METHOD WHEN TURNING

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON # 2  
UP AND DOWN HILL PARKING

UPHILL PARKING

Signal Right  
Pull over < 12” from & parallel to curb  
Turn AWAY from curb (left)  
Shift: Neutral  
Roll back gently into the curb  
Park / Parking Brake

UPHILL (LEAVING)

Release parking brake  
Shift to drive  
Signal  
CHECK, CHECK, CHECK (CHECK REARVIEW, SIDE VIEW, AND BLIND SPOT)  
Watch as you go

DOWNHILL PARKING

Signal Right  
Pull over < 12 ” from & parallel to curb  
TURN RIGHT /Shift: Neutral  
Roll forward gently into the curb  
Park / Parking Break

DOWNHILL PARKING (LEAVING)

Release Parking Brake  
Shift to REVERSE / SIGNAL  
Touch the gas (pull off curb)  
Straighten Wheel  
Shift to DRIVE  
Signal  
CHECK, CHECK, CHECK  
Watch as you go

HELPFUL HINTS

*UPHILL* < 12”  
“UP UP AND AWAY!”  
Check 3 x’s

*DOWNHILL* < 12”  
Towards the curb  
Reverse to leave !!  
Check 3 X’s

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #3  
TURN ABOUTS

TURN ABOUTS (4 KINDS)

1. 2 Point Turn
2. 3 Point Turn
3. Drive Around the block
4. U - Turns

2 Point Turn

1. SIGNAL
2. TURN INTO RIGHT SIDE OF DRIVE
3. SIGNAL
4. CHECK FOR TRAFFIC
5. BACK INTO CORRECT LANE

*Most important step during this maneuver: to check the roadway*

Use of driveway or alley

Make sure you turn into correct lane when entering and leaving driveway or alley

3 Point Turn

1. SIGNAL RIGHT
2. PULL OVER TO RIGHT
3. SIGNAL LEFT
4. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK (REARVIEW, SIDE VIEW, BLIND SPOT)
5. DRIVE FORWARD TURNING LEFT (STOP)
6. SIGNAL RIGHT, RAPIDLY TURN WHEEL TO RIGHT AS YOU DRIVE IN REVERSE (CHECK OVER SHOULDER WHILE IN REVERSE)
7. SIGNAL LEFT, DRIVE FORWARD IN CORRECT LAND

*Most important step during this maneuver: to check the roadway*

Drive Around the Block

Safest Kind of Turn About

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #4  
BACKING

AROUND A CORNER

1. RIGHT ARM ON PASSENGER SEAT
2. LOOKING OUT THE BACK WINDOW & USING SIDEVIEW MIRROR (KEEP YOUR HEAD MOVING)
3. REAR TIRE FOLLOWS CURB
4. COUNTER STEER ( 1 FULL TURN ) WHEN CAR IS PARALLEL TO THE CURB  
(*SIMILAR TO A 2 POINT TURN*)

STRAIGHT LINE

1. RIGHT ARM ON PASSENGER SEAT
2. LOOKING OUT BACK WINDOW & USING SIDE VIEW MIRROR (KEEP YOUR HEAD MOVING)
3. SPEED CONTROL – you do not NEED to use accelerator / COVER BRAKE

CHANGING LANES

1. SIGNAL
2. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK (REARVIEW, SIDE VIEW, BLIND SPOT)
3. ACCELERATE OR MAINTAIN SPEED
4. SLIGHT TURN OF THE WHEEL

HELPFUL HINTS

1. ANYTIME YOU ARE IN REVERSE LOOK OUT THE BACK WINDOW AND IN YOUR SIDE VIEW MIRROR
2. WHILE IN REVERSE, USE OF THE ACCELERATOR IS NOT NECESSARY. COVER THE BRAKE. THE SLOWER YOU GO, THE EASIER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE VEHICLE.
3. TWO PROBLEM AREAS FOR CHANGING LANES: MAINTAIN SPEED & CHECKING BLIND SPOT

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #5  
Angle Parking / Parallel Parking

ANGLE PARKING

1. CHECK FOR TRAFFIC & SIGNAL
2. FLASH BRAKE LIGHTS TO WARN DRIVERS BEHIND
3. CREEP FORWARD UNTIL YOU CAN SEE THE CENTER OF THE SPACE
4. TURN WHEELS SHARP TO THE RIGHT
5. COVER BRAKE AS YOU ENTER THE STALL
6. STRAIGHTEN WHEELS AS YOU ENTER STALL

LEAVING

1. CHECK BOTH WAYS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CARS
2. BOTH HANDS ON WHEEL, LOOK OVER RIGHT SHOULDER
3. BACK STRAIGHT UNTIL FRONT END WILL CLEAR CARS IF YOU TURN THE WHEEL
4. TURN WHEELS HAND OVER HAND (CHECK FRONT END CLEARANCE AS YOU DO THIS)

PARALLEL PARKING

1. SIGNAL TO DESIRED SIDE OF STREET YOU WISH TO PARK
2. PULL UP EVEN WITH AND ABOUT ONE FOOT AWAY FROM THE CAR IN FRONT OF  
THE SPOT YOU WISH TO PARK
3. TURN WHEELS ALL THE WAY AND BACK SLOWLY UNTIL YOUR MIDDLE DOOR  
POST LINES UP WITH THE OTHER CAR'S BUMPER. STOP!
4. STRAIGHTEN WHEELS, BACK STRAIGHT UNTIL FRONT DOOR LINES UP WITH OTHER  
CAR'S REAR BUMPER. STOP!
5. BACK AND TURN WHEELS OTHER WAY WHILE CHECKING FRONT END CLEARANCE  
IN FRONT AND BEHIND YOU. CONTINUE TO CHECK OR HAVE SOMEONE GET OUT  
OF THE CAR TO CHECK YOUR CLEARANCE IN THE FRONT AND THE BACK.
6. STOP CAR WHEN PARALLEL AND LESS THAN 12 " FROM CURB IN CENTER OF  
PARKING SPOT SO YOU DON'T GET BLOCKED IN.

LEAVING

1. TURN WHEELS TOWARDS CURB
2. BACK UP SLIGHTLY (DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH ROOM YOU HAVE)
  3. TURN WHEELS AWAY FROM CURB (ALL THE WAY)
  4. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK (REARVIEW, SIDE VIEW, AND BLIND SPOT)
5. PULL AWAY MAKING SURE YOU CAN CLEAR THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #6  
CITY / LOW CONFLICT AREAS:

MANAGE: VISIBILITY, TIME, AND SPACE

1. SIPDE
2. SMITH SYSTEM
3. USE YOUR MIRRORS AND MAKE IT *EXTREMELY OBVIOUS* THAT YOU ARE LOOKING ALL AROUND YOU

RAILROAD CHECKS:

1. SLOW DOWN
2. LOOK
3. LISTEN (PUT WINDOW DOWN SLIGHTLY AND TURN OFF RADIO)

SPEED CONTROL:

1. MAINTAIN A CONSTANT SPEED
2. COVER BRAKE ON TURNS & ACCELERATE WHEN CAR STRAIGHTENS
3. BE AWARE OF SPEED CHANGES (WATCH SIGNS AND ADJUST SPEED)

STOP SIGNS:

1. STOP IN 1 OF 3 PLACES: BEHIND THE WHITE LINE, CROSSWALK, OR PRIOR TO INTERSECTION
2. HAVE SMOOTH AND CONTROLLED STOPS

LANE USAGE:

1. MAINTAIN PROPER LANE USAGE AT ALL TIMES

HELPFUL TIPS:

1. *REACT BEFORE THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU*  
IF YOU REACT TO TRAFFIC PRIOR TO THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU REACTING, THE INSTRUCTOR WILL KNOW YOU ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE ROADWAY.  
(EXAMPLE: USING YOUR BRAKES TO SLOW DOWN BEFORE THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU DOES)
2. *TURN YOUR HEAD WHEN MAKING YOUR CHECKS*  
TURN YOUR HEAD IN AN OBVIOUS FASHION SO THEIR IS NO DOUBT THE INSTRUCTOR KNOWS YOU ARE MAKING THE CORRECT ROAD AND MIRROR CHECKS.
3. *YOUR GRADE GOES DOWN WHEN THE INSTRUCTOR GETS NERVOUS*  
MAINTAIN CONTROL OF YOUR ATTITUDE AND YOUR VEHICLE

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #7

REVIEW: BLIND SPOTS & PRACTICE STUDENT'S NEEDS

CHANGING LANES (BLIND SPOTS):

1. MAINTAIN SPEED
2. SIGNAL (SIGNALLY PRIOR TO CHECKING ALLOWS THE DRIVER TO "READ" THE TRAFFIC. THIS HELPS IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS WHERE OTHER DRIVERS MAY REACT TO A SIGNAL AND HELP THE DRIVER GET WHERE HE OR SHE WANTS TO GO)
3. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK ("READ" TRAFFIC AT THIS TIME, OTHER DRIVERS MAY HELP YOU OVER)
4. MAINTAIN SPEED AND SLIGHTLY TURN WHEEL TO CHANGE LANES

HELPFUL TIP:

1. KNOW ALL MANEUVERS UP TO THIS POINT BECAUSE YOU WILL REVIEW THEM

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #8  
RURAL HIGHWAYS:

GENERAL:

1. MAINTAIN SPEED (ESPECIALLY GOING UP AND DOWN HILL)
2. MAINTAIN CORRECT LANE USAGE (STAYING IN CENTER OF LANE)
3. 2-3 SECOND FOLLOWING DISTANCE

CURVES:

1. LOCATE CURVE
2. CHECK BEHIND YOU
3. EVALUATE CURVE AND ADJUST SPEED ACCORDINGLY
4. AFTER YOU PASS THE CURVES MIDPOINT, ACCELERATE GENTLY IF CONDITIONS PERMIT
5. EVALUATE NEW ROAD AHEAD

PASSING:

1. GET YOUR READY POSITION BY KEEPING AT LEAST 3 SECONDS OF FOLLOWING DISTANCE
2. WHEN SAFE, SIGNAL A LEFT LANE CHANGE, CHECK BLIND SPOT, CHANGE LANES
3. ACCELERATE 10 MPH FASTER THAN VEHICLE YOU ARE PASSING (WITHIN SPEED LIMIT)
4. MAINTAIN SPEED AND STAY IN LEFT LANE UNTIL YOU CAN SEE 2 HEAD LIGHTS OF THE  
VEHICLE YOU JUST PASSED IN YOUR MIRROR.
5. SIGNAL, CHECK, CHECK, CHECK, AND MOVE BACK TO RIGHT LANE.

HELPFUL TIPS:

1. AT HIGHER SPEEDS YOU NEED TO LOOK FURTHER AHEAD OF WHERE YOU NORMALLY WOULD
2. CONSTANTLY LOOK IN MIRRORS AND READ TRAFFIC AT INTERSECTIONS
3. MAINTAIN CORRECT LANE USAGE

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #9  
EXPRESSWAYS: MERGE & EXIT

ENTERING THE HIGHWAY

1. MAKE SURE THE ENTRANCE IS THE ONE YOU WANT
2. ONCE ON ENTRANCE RAMP CHECK FRONT AND REAR ZONES
3. SIGNAL AND BEGIN TO SEARCH FOR AN OPENING
4. ONCE YOU REACH THE FINAL STRAIGHT-AWAY, ACCELERATE TO FLOW OF TRAFFIC
5. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK
6. MAINTAIN SPEED AND MERGE

LANE CHANGE

1. CHANGE LANES ONE AT A TIME
2. SIGNAL EVERY LANE CHANGE
3. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK
4. ACCELERATE GENTLY AND MOVE TO NEXT LANE
5. CANCEL SIGNAL

EXITING THE HIGHWAY

1. 1/2 MILE PRIOR TO EXITING, CHECK IN FRONT AND BEHIND YOU
2. SIGNAL
3. CHECK, CHECK, CHECK AND MOVE TO DECELERATION LANE
4. FLASH BRAKES TO WARN DRIVERS BEHIND YOU
5. PREDICT STOP OR YIELD SIGN AT END OF EXIT RAMP

HELPFUL TIPS:

1. SCAN FAR AHEAD BECAUSE YOU ARE TRAVELING AT SUCH A HIGH RATE OF SPEED
2. KEEP YOUR SPEED UP ANYTIME YOU ARE ON THE HIGHWAY (TOO SLOW CAN BE DANGEROUS)
3. SIGNAL YOUR INTENTIONS WELL IN ADVANCE
4. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS KNOW WHO IS AROUND YOUR VEHICLE
5. MAINTAIN 3-4 SECOND FOLLOWING DISTANCE (HIGHER SPEED = LESS TIME TO REACT)

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #10  
COMPLEX CITY / HIGH CONFLICT AREAS

STUDENT NEEDS TO BE COMPETENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. *READING ROAD SIGNS IN HIGH TRAFFIC VOLUME*

EXAMPLE: ONE WAY STREETS, NO LEFT TURN, WRONG WAY, NO TURN ON RED

2. *SAFELY MANEUVERING THE VEHICLE IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS*

EXAMPLE: LANE CHANGES, FOLLOWING DISTANCE, USING SIPDE & SMITH SYSTEMS

3. *EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER DRIVERS*

EXAMPLE: REACTING TO OTHER'S TURN SIGNALS & ACTIONS, SIGNALING OWN INTENTIONS, PREVENTING COLLISIONS(?)

BEHIND THE WHEEL  
LESSON #11 & 12  
REVIEW AND FINAL ROAD TEST

REVIEW -- ON THE LESSON PRIOR TO THE ROAD TEST, STUDENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO THROUGH EVERYTHING THAT WILL BE ON THE ROAD TEST. THERE WILL BE NO SURPRISES. STUDENTS WILL BE TESTED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. UP AND DOWN HILL PARKING
2. BACKING AROUND A CORNER
3. 2 - POINT TURNS
4. 3 - POINT TURNS
5. LANE CHANGES
6. ALL AROUND DRIVING ABILITY

THROUGHOUT LESSON #11, STUDENTS WILL HAVE ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO FINE TUNE THEIR DRIVING SKILLS PRIOR TO THE FINAL ROAD TEST.

HELPFUL DRIVING TIPS:

1. PRACTICE ALL MANEUVERS ON YOUR OWN TIME
2. FAILURE TO DRIVE OUTSIDE OF DRIVING WITH AN INSTRUCTOR WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO PASS THE BTW PORTION OF DRIVER EDUCATION
3. PRACTICE
4. PRACTICE
5. PRACTICE