STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DMV
Department of Motor Vehicles
CA.GOV

English

California

PARENT-TEEN TRAINING GUIDE



This handbook is available at **dmv.ca.gov.**

Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Toks Omishakin, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency

Steve Gordon, Director
California Department of Motor Vehicles

THIS PAGE LEFT
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

HANDS OFF THE MOBILE DEVICE



It Can Wait!

It is against the law for minors to use a hands-free device while driving.



Messages

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DMV
DRIVING CHANGE...
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

THIS PAGE LEFT
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GETTING STARTED.....1

Parents'/Guardians' Role.....1

Driving Risks.....1

How to Use This Guide.....5

The Provisional Driver License...6

Principal Licensing Requirements.....6

Before Starting the Engine.....7

During Practice.....9

DRIVING SKILLS.....10

Operating a Manual Transmission.....10

Backing Up the Vehicle.....11

Practicing Turns.....11

Signaling to Other Drivers.....12

Right Turns.....12

Left Turns.....13

Intersections.....14

Roundabouts.....16

PARENT-TEEN DRIVING CONTRACT.....18

Lane Choice.....21

Lane Changes.....21

Keeping Space Around the Vehicle.....21

Parking on Hills.....23

Parallel Parking (Street with Two-Way Traffic).....23

U-Turn.....25

Freeway Driving.....25

Driving at Night.....26

SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND EMERGENCIES.....27

What to Do if a Collision Occurs.....27

When You Hear a Siren.....27

Motorcycles, Bicycles, Scooters, Etc.....27

When You See a School Bus....27

Railroad Crossings.....28

Quick Stops and Skids.....28

If Your Brakes Fail.....28

Tire Blowout.....29

Stuck Accelerator.....29

When You Cannot See Because of Fog, Rain, or Snow.....30

Driving on Slippery Roads.....31

Driving in Wind.....31

Overheating Car Conditions.....31

When You Are Stuck in Snow or Mud.....32

Hydroplaning.....32

SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST....32

Safe Driver Checklist.....33

Is Your Teen Ready for a License?.....35

Tips for Your Teen About DMV's Driving Tests.....35

Now That Your Teen Has a License.....36

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG..37

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG..39

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG..40



California has the nation's highest number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities. When you drive, take extra care around people walking and biking. It's the human thing to do.

- Look twice for people walking or biking before you make a turn. Always come to a complete stop before making a right turn on red.
- Stop for people in crosswalks. Every intersection is a crosswalk, even if it's unmarked.
- If another car is stopped at a crosswalk, you should stop, too. There may be someone crossing that you can't see.

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

SHARE THE ROAD
CALIFORNIA PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION PROJECT

OTS
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

#GoHumanSoCal /GoHumanSoCal

© Copyright, Department of Motor Vehicles 2019

All rights reserved.

This work is protected by U.S. Copyright Law. The DMV owns the copyright of this work. Copyright law prohibits the following: (1) reproduction of the copyrighted work; (2) distribution of copies of the copyrighted work; (3) preparation of derivative works based upon the copyrighted work; (4) displaying the copyrighted work publicly; or (5) performing the copyrighted work publicly. All requests for permission to make copies of all or any part of this publication should be addressed to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Legal Office MS C128
PO Box 932382
Sacramento, CA 94232-3820

Advertising sponsorship, instead of your fees, helps defray the printing costs of this publication. The products and services provided by the advertising sponsors are not promoted or endorsed by the DMV, but the significant contribution by the advertising sponsors is most appreciated.

If you would like to advertise in this publication, please call the Office of State Publishing Advertising Department at 1-866-824-0603.

WHEN
RED LIGHTS ARE FLASHING
THERE IS NO PASSING
IN EITHER DIRECTION



Let's keep our kids safe, California!

OTS CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

SHARE THE ROAD

GETTING STARTED

Teen drivers tend to be high-risk drivers. Teens receive more traffic citations and are hurt or killed at a higher rate than other drivers. As a parent/guardian, you want to keep your teen safe.

Parents'/Guardians' Role

While California law sets the requirements for teen driving, you as an informed parent/guardian and role model can enhance your teen's safety by assuring that they have adequate instruction. This *Parent-Teen Training Guide* helps you provide your teen with additional driving skills. This guide does **not** contain all of the licensing requirements. Before you and your teen begin the driving practice sessions:

- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the *California Driver Handbook*, which contains all licensing requirements.

  Important: It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on a California roadway without a valid permit or driver license (DL) for the class of vehicle being operated.
- Read pages 9–10 of this guide prior to beginning your practice sessions.

The best teacher is a good role model!

Driving Risks

Driving is potentially dangerous for everyone, but more so for teen drivers. The risk of vehicle collisions is higher among teens than any other age group. In fact, per mile driven, teen drivers are nearly 3 times more likely to be in a fatal crash. According to the Center for Disease Control, traffic collisions are the leading cause of death for teens. Lack of experience may lead to judgement errors and increased risk-taking. It takes practice to be able to drive safely. Teens show the most improvement within the first year, and within the first 1,000 miles driven.

Among teen drivers, those at especially high risk for motor vehicle collisions are:

- Males - In 2013, the motor vehicle death rate for teen male drivers and passengers was twice that of their female counterparts.
- Teens driving with teen passengers - The presence of teen passengers increases the collision risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with the number of teen passengers.
- Newly licensed teens - Collision risk is particularly high during the first months after getting a DL.

Talk to your teen about avoiding the following risky driving situations:

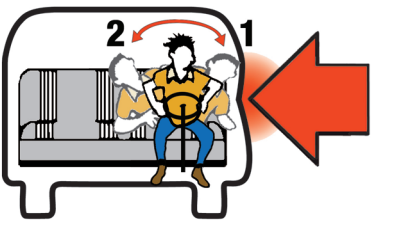
- Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
  - Drinking any amount of alcohol impairs a person's judgement. Many drugs, legal and illegal, can negatively affect perception and reaction time while driving. The combination of drugs and/or alcohol while driving can be deadly. There is a zero tolerance law in California for teens who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- High speeds
  - Teens involved in severe collisions were usually driving at high speeds.
- Distractions
  - Music, cell phones, pets, and passengers should be avoided where possible. As the number of teen passengers increases, the risk of collision increases. The provisional DL restricts carrying teen passengers for the first year or until the driver turns 18 years old.
  - It is illegal to use a cell phone or other wireless electronic communication device while driving, unless making a call for emergency services or on private property. Furthermore, it is against the law for teens to use hands-free devices while driving.

- Mental State
  - Ensure your teen is aware that their emotions can interfere with safe driving. Ensure your teen is in the proper state of mind, not tired, mad, sad, etc.
- Financial Responsibility
  - The California Compulsory Financial Responsibility Law requires every driver and every owner of a motor vehicle to maintain financial responsibility (liability coverage) at all times. You must possess evidence of financial responsibility whenever you drive, including the drive test, and must show it to a peace officer after a traffic stop or collision, when asked to do so. If you do not comply with this law, you may have to pay a fine or your vehicle may be impounded.
- Driving at night
  - Driving at night requires extensive practice. The highest collision risk for teens occurs on weekend nights. The provisional DL restricts night driving for the first year or until the driver turns 18 years old.
- Obstructions
  - Anything that restricts or obscures the driver's view and ability to scan traffic is dangerous. Objects blocking the front or side windows, or hanging from the rearview mirror, should be removed. Also, remind your teen to be cautious when driving near blind intersections, parked vehicles, and when driving in unpleasant weather, such as fog, snow, or heavy rain.

- Not using a safety belt
  - The driver and all passengers must wear a safety belt or you and/or your passenger(s) may be cited. If the passenger is under 16 years old, you may be cited if they are not wearing their safety belt. The graphic illustrates what can happen in a collision. If you are struck from the side, the impact could push you back and forth across the seat. Safety belts and shoulder harnesses keep you in a better position to control the vehicle and may minimize serious injuries. The graphic also illustrates how your vehicle stops when you collide, but you keep going at the same speed you were traveling, until you hit the dashboard or windshield. At 30 mph, this motion is equivalent to hitting the ground from the top of a three-story building.

The graphics below illustrate what can happen in a collision:

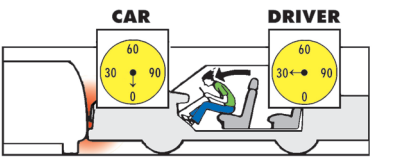
IMPACTS



IMPACTS - If the red arrow were another car hitting your car on the driver's side:

1 you would first be thrown against the driver's side door,

2 then you would "rebound" and be thrown toward the passenger side door.



NOTE: Lap-only belts increase the chance of spinal column and abdominal injuries—especially in children. The use of a safety belt reduces the chance of being thrown from a vehicle in case of a collision.

How to Use This Guide

1. **Discuss the expectations and responsibilities of operating a vehicle safely.** It is recommended that you and your teen complete a Parent-Teen Driving Contract outlining the agreed upon expectations and responsibilities of a safe driver. **Note:** A sample Parent-Teen Driving Contract is included in this guide starting on page 18.
2. **Develop a lesson plan.** You and your teen should identify what driving skills your teen should focus on practicing.
3. **Familiarize yourself with proper skills.** Read the directions for the skill you wish your teen to practice and log them on the Supervised Driving Log on pages 37-40. Check the directions in this guide to be sure the skill is performed correctly.
4. **Demonstrate.** Allow your teen to observe a demonstration of driving skills in different scenarios. Discuss any errors or questions your teen might have regarding different driving situations.
5. **Practice and record your progress.** Have your teen practice the skill. When you decide that your teen can perform a certain skill easily and well, double-check the directions and note the driving skills on the Supervised Driving Log on pages 37-40.
6. **Prepare for the test.** Review the Driving Risks section starting on page 1 with your teen. Use the Safe Driver Checklist on page 33 to take your teen on a "test" drive. Make sure that your teen performs all the items on this list correctly. Spend more practice time with your teen on any item(s) missed.

The Provisional Driver License

To decrease motor-vehicle collisions involving teens, a special "provisional" license and instruction permit is issued to minors. A minor is a person under 18 years old.

The following restrictions apply to minors during the first 12 months:

A minor cannot:

- Drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Transport passengers under 20 years old, unless accompanied by a licensed:
  - Parent or guardian.
  - California driver 25 years old or older.
  - Or certified driving instructor.

Principal Licensing Requirements

As a parent or guardian, you may revoke your consent at any time by completing a Request for Cancellation or Surrender of a Driver License or Identification Card (DL 142) form. The form is available online at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website at **dmv.ca.gov** or at a DMV field office. Revoking your consent will cancel the minor's instructional permit or DL and may extend the provisional restrictions when applying for a new application.

Complete driver education (classroom training) and **driver training** (behind-the-wheel training) in a public or private high school, or a state-licensed professional driving school. (The hours required for driver education and driver training classes are defined in the *California Education Code* §§51851 and 51852.) Internet, correspondence, or other distance-based driver education training must be the equivalent of an approved classroom instruction.

Note: If you use the services of a professional driving school, ask to see the instructor's identification (ID) card and confirm that the school is licensed by DMV. Professional driving schools and instructors in California are licensed by DMV after meeting qualifying standards.

Pass the knowledge test. Your teen should have completed the knowledge test on the TouchScreen Terminal (TST) and obtained a provisional instruction permit. If your teen did not pass the knowledge test, they must wait 7 days (1 week), not including the day the test was failed before retaking the test.

NOTE: The provisional instruction permit is not valid until your teen begins driver training with an instructor or is 17½ years old.

Complete at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice. It will take more than 15 minutes of practice time every day for 6 months to complete 50 hours of practice driving, of which at least 10 hours must be night driving practice. The parent or guardian **and** the instructor must sign the statement on the provisional permit certifying that the teen has completed the supervised training. The signed permit must be presented to DMV before the driving test may be taken.

NOTE: You may obtain a *Driving Test Criteria* (DL 955) handbook at a local DMV field office or online at **dmv.ca.gov** to assist with driving instruction.

Your teen must have a California instruction permit or an instruction permit issued from another state for at least 6 months (or turn 18 years old), before they can schedule their driving test.

Information regarding the knowledge and driving tests are found in the *California Driver Handbook,* which is based on the *California Vehicle Code.*

BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE

- Review your teen's instruction permit. Be aware of any provisional restrictions and additional instructions.
- Identify practice areas appropriate to your teen's driving ability. This will allow you to be aware

of any hazards, signs, or signals. Start with basic driving situations, such as in a residential or rural area, and increase complexity over time. Congested, urban traffic or freeways are not the best starting areas.

- Until your teen has learned the traffic rules and how to control the vehicle, you may consider practicing in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, if possible, because it is easier to drive.
- Evaluate the vehicle's tire tread. Each tire must have 1/32" inch tread depth grooves and any 2 major adjacent tread grooves.
- Review and demonstrate the proper arm signals for: a left turn, a right turn, and slowing down or stopping.
- Have your teen sit in the driver's seat of the vehicle, and before starting the engine:
  - Adjust the seat, if necessary.
  - Adjust the mirrors, if necessary. The vehicle must have at least 2 mirrors, including one on the outside of the left side of the vehicle, that are secure, unbroken, and provide clear visibility.
  - Fasten the safety belt(s). For the best protection, safety belts should be adjusted to fit your teen before they start driving. Always wearing your safety belt helps develop a habit for your teen anytime they are driving.

Note: The parent or guardian seat should be positioned to allow them to take control of the vehicle, if needed.

  - Locate and demonstrate that the following are fully functional:
    - Driver window
    - Turn signals
    - Brake lights
    - Hazard warning lights (emergency flashers)
    - Emergency/parking brake
    - Defroster (front/rear)
    - Horn
    - Headlights
    - Windshield wipers

Note: The windshield should be free from any cracks

and material obstructing or reducing visibility.

During Practice

- Avoid all distractions. The stereo and other electronic devices should be turned off. This includes cell phones. Initially avoid having passengers in the vehicle. As your teen gains experience, passengers may be in the vehicle but should not interfere or distract your teen.
- When giving directions, first state where the action will take place, and then state the action to be completed (for example, "at the next intersection turn left"). Give directions in plenty of time so your teen can understand and prepare to complete the action.
- Be patient, sympathetic, and understanding. Keep your voice calm. Be alert at all times.
- Avoid the use of terms with possible double meanings (instead of "right" in response to a question, say "correct").
- For each action, guide your teen through 2 or 3 practice trials, and then allow your teen to practice without specific assistance or direction.
- Avoid driving long distances. Even 1 hour can be exhausting to a new driver. It may be better to initially start with short driving experiences and build up to longer ones. Stop practicing when your teen becomes tired or upset.
- Read the traffic environment ahead, to the sides, and behind while observing your teen's driving behavior.
- If you see a bad traffic situation ahead that your teen cannot handle, pull over and stop.
- Do not expect your teen to drive the way you do. You have years of experience and have developed behaviors and patterns that your teen does not have.
- When your teen is done practicing, show them how

to park the vehicle and turn off the engine.

- After driving, evaluate and summarize each driving experience. Ask your teen how they think they did. This could help identify concerns and things that should be practiced. This guide provides a sample lesson plan and pages for tracking your teen's progress.

DRIVING SKILLS

Operating a Manual Transmission

A vehicle with an automatic transmission is recommended because it is easier to operate. If operating a manual transmission and your teen has problems shifting, practice the steps below without releasing the parking brake. With the ignition off, have your teen:

1. Depress the clutch pedal to the floor. Hold it there.
2. Practice shifting through all the gears.
3. Practice until shifting is automatic.
4. Practice pressing down the clutch and shifting to a gear you have chosen. After shifting becomes easy, have your teen practice shifting in and out of first gear when stopping and starting.

Shifting into First Gear

1. Place the gearshift into neutral.
2. With the clutch firmly depressed and a foot on the brake pedal, start the engine.
3. Release the parking brake.
4. Move the gearshift lever from neutral to first gear.
5. Let the clutch come up very slowly until it reaches the point at which the engine takes hold and begins to pull the vehicle forward.
6. Move your foot from the brake to the gas pedal and press down gently.
7. Slowly let the clutch pedal come up all the way.

Note: Do not allow your teen to push in the clutch and coast to a stop. The vehicle must remain in gear at all times.

Backing Up the Vehicle

Practice on a residential street with little or no traffic, or in a parking lot with no obstacles or vehicles. Before starting to back up, have your teen turn their head to survey the area rather than relying just on the rearview and/or side mirrors, or camera, which may not show all hazards. Avoid backing around corners or sharp curves unless there is good visibility in all directions. If your teen seems to have problems backing, have them follow the steps below:

1. Put their left hand at the top of the steering wheel.
2. Place their foot on the brake.
3. Shift to reverse.
4. Check in all directions for traffic, children, animals, and objects in or moving toward their path.
5. Release the parking brake.
6. Place their right hand on the back of the seat and look over their right shoulder through the rear window.
7. Release the foot brake slowly and apply the accelerator, if needed — be ready to brake to control the speed of the vehicle.
8. Occasionally check their blind spots.
9. Move slowly and avoid sudden movement of the steering wheel.
10. Turn the steering wheel to the right, if they wish to back to the right. Turn the steering wheel to the left, if they wish to back to the left.
11. Press the brake gently to stop.
12. Shift into park.

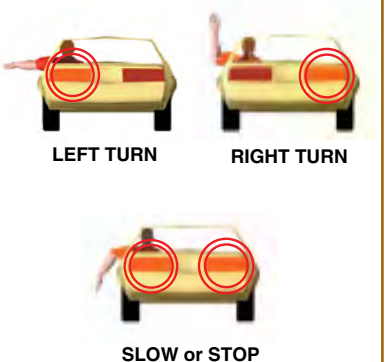
Practicing Turns

Practice turning in a large, open parking lot, or other area without traffic, pedestrians, or bicyclists. The first few times, give directions on steering throughout the turn. Be ready to grab the wheel, if necessary. Practice right turns first.

Signaling to Other Drivers

Have your teen demonstrate arm and electric turn signals as shown in the graphic. During the driving test, your teen must use the vehicle's turn signal during the last 100 feet before reaching the left or right turn. At freeway speeds, it is best to signal at least 5 seconds before changing lanes.

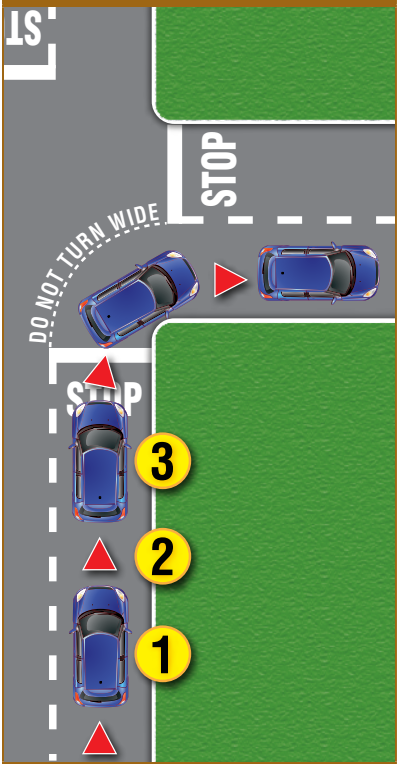
SIGNALING TO OTHER DRIVERS



Right Turns

Give the instruction to turn at least 200 feet (more than one-half city block) before turning. This will allow the teen enough time to signal, check traffic, and start the turn. Approach the turn in the right lane, turn into the right lane,

MAKING A RIGHT TURN



(1) About 100 feet from corner:
- *Reduce speed.*
- *Begin signaling.*

(2) STOP BEHIND LIMIT LINE:
- *Look over right shoulder.*
- *When safe, move as close to the right curb as possible. Enter bicycle lane when it is safe.*
- *Look both ways.*

(3) If safe, turn into right lane.

and remain in that lane until the turn is completed.

Note: Do not turn wide as it could create a hazard with oncoming traffic.

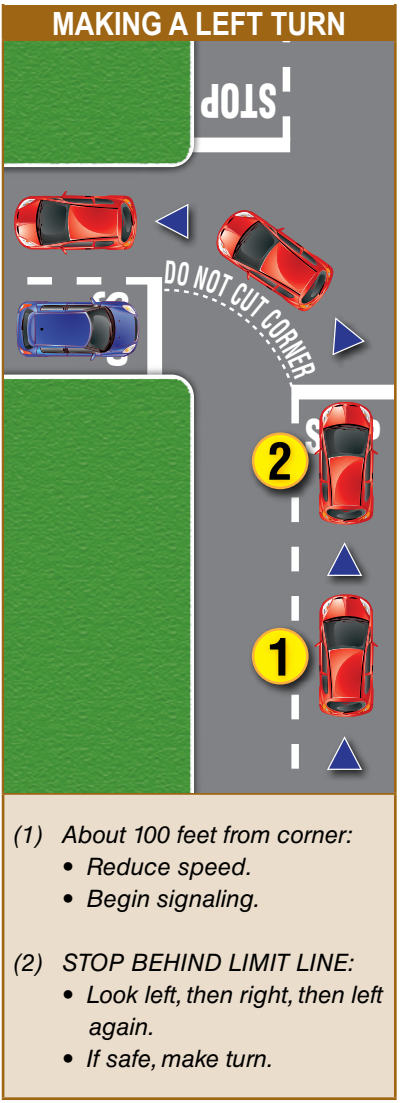
If your teen has difficulty making right turns, follow these steps:

1. Signal a right turn as soon as possible, without confusing other drivers.
2. Slow down as they approach the turn. Check the traffic ahead, behind, and over their right shoulder.
3. Drive close to the right edge of the road. If they are merging into a bike lane, they must look over their right shoulder before merging to ensure the lane is clear.
4. Obey all the signs and/or traffic signals. At the intersection, look left, right, and left again.
5. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.
6. Turn the wheel to the right when the front bumper enters the intersection.
7. Complete the turn in the right lane.
8. Turn the steering wheel as the front end of the vehicle enters the proper lane, and then straighten the vehicle in the lane.

Left Turns

After your teen can make a right turn well, practice left turns. If your teen has difficulty making left turns correctly, follow these steps:

1. Signal a left turn as soon as possible, without confusing other drivers.
2. Slow down as they approach the turn. Check the traffic ahead, behind, and over their left shoulder.
3. Drive close to the center divider or turn lane.
4. Obey all signs and/or traffic signals. At the intersection, look left, right, and ahead.
5. Keep the steering wheel straight and yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.



6. Look left, ahead, right, and left again and proceed into the intersection when safe while turning the steering wheel to the left to enter the new lane.
7. Accelerate the vehicle and allow the wheel to straighten on the new lane to complete their turn.

Note: Do not drive too close to the corner as it could create a hazard with oncoming traffic.

Intersections

Discuss the following steps for controlled intersections and uncontrolled or "blind" intersections with your teen.

Directions for Controlled Intersections

1. When approaching an intersection with a traffic signal light, be ready to brake and keep plenty of room between their vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Even when the light is green, it is against the law to enter an intersection when there is not enough space to completely cross before the light turns red. If heavy traffic (gridlock)

causes them to block cross traffic, they can be cited.

2. Check traffic ahead and to the side for vehicles on cross streets before entering the intersection.
3. Watch oncoming traffic for any vehicle making an illegal turn.
4. Check for and yield to any pedestrian and bicyclists crossing at a corner or other crosswalk.

When the Light Turns Yellow

Teach your teen how to decide when it is safe to stop at a yellow light. As your teen approaches the green light, have them tell you, at regular intervals, whether it would be safe to proceed if the light were to turn yellow. Make certain that your teen consistently identifies the point at which a safe stop could be made.

Directions for Uncontrolled (No Signs or Signals) and Blind Intersections

Encourage your teen to develop the skills to:

- Judge the speed and distances of other vehicles at or approaching an uncontrolled intersection.
- Safely select an appropriate space for entering an intersection where there is cross traffic.

A blind intersection means that a driver cannot see traffic on the cross street for at least 100 feet in each direction during the last 100 feet before crossing because a building or other object blocks the view. When approaching a blind intersection, have your teen:

1. Slow to a safe speed, a maximum of 15 mph, which will let them stop safely.
2. Look for pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross traffic.
3. Look for approaching vehicles on side streets.
4. Look left, right, and left again for traffic on the cross street before entering the intersection.
5. If their view is blocked, move slowly forward until they can see clearly in both directions.
6. If the road is clear, cross the intersection.

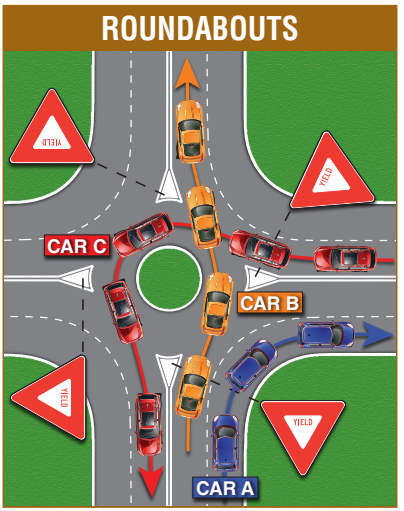
Roundabouts

A roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a counter-clockwise direction. Roundabouts do not have bicycle lanes, so traffic must share the road. Vehicles or bicycles entering or exiting the roundabout must yield to all traffic, including pedestrians.

When approaching a roundabout have your teen:

- Slow down as they approach the roundabout.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the roadway.
- Watch for signs and/or road markings that guide or prohibit certain movements.
- Enter the roundabout (heading to the right) when there is a big enough space in traffic to merge safely.
- Travel in a counterclockwise direction. Do not stop or pass.
- Signal when they change lanes or exit the roundabout.
- If they miss their exit, continue around until they return to their exit.

For roundabout with multiple lanes, have your teen choose their entry or exit lane based on the destination as shown in the graphic. For example, to:



- Turn right at the intersection, choose the right-hand lane and exit in the right-hand lane (Car A).
- Go straight through the intersection, choose either lane, and exit in the lane entered (Car B).
- Turn left, choose the left lane, continue around, and exit in the lane entered (Car C).

Parent-Teen Driving Contract

We, _____ and _____, agree to the following conditions:
Name of Teen — Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian

Initial if applies	Teen Driver's Responsibilities	Initial if applies	Parent's Responsibilities
	I will inform my parent/guardian about my destination, who will be the passengers, and when I will return.		I will listen in a respectful manner to the explanations or concerns expressed by my teen regarding the operation of a vehicle or terms of the contract.
	I will call home if my plans change.		I will provide respectful feedback when accompanying my teen in a vehicle.
	I will notify a parent/guardian if I think that I will be more than 30 minutes late.		I will serve as a good role model when operating a vehicle.
	I will respect and obey all driving laws and safely drive not endangering my life or the lives of others.		I will respect and obey all driving laws and safely drive not endangering my life or the lives of others.
	Everyone in the vehicle will wear a safety belt at all times.		Everyone in the vehicle will wear a safety belt at all times.
	I will never drink alcohol and/or use drugs and drive.		I will never use alcohol and/or use drugs and drive.
	I will never ride in a vehicle where alcohol or drug use is occurring.		I will never ride in a vehicle where alcohol or drug use is occurring.
	I will not be a passenger in a vehicle whose driver appears impaired.		I will not be a passenger in a vehicle whose driver appears impaired.
	I will not drive aggressively, such as speeding, tailgating, or cutting others off.		I will not drive aggressively, such as speeding, tailgating, or cutting others off.
	I will call home if I cannot get home safely.		I (we) agree to come and get you at any hour from any place, with no questions asked, or I (we) will arrange transportation to bring you home safely. I (we) expect that a discussion of such incident would follow at a later time.
	I will not let anyone else drive or use the vehicle entrusted to me.		

Vehicle Costs and Maintenance

_____ will be responsible for the following (indicate the dollar amount or percentage of the cost):
Name of Teen

_____	Vehicle cost	_____	Fuel cost	_____	Vehicle damage	_____	Vehicle insurance
_____	Vehicle registration	_____	Maintenance cost	_____	Fines/penalties	_____	Other

Check all that apply:

_____	Check oil and other fluids regularly	_____	Report unusual performance	_____	Inspect tires and check air pressure	_____	Keep interior and exterior clean
_____	Clean all windows	_____	Refuel when tank is less than ¼ full	_____	Perform normal maintenance	_____	Other

_____ Additional conditions or responsibilities: _____

We understand and agree to the terms of this contract, which may be renegotiated and revised later.

_____
Signature of Teen

_____
Signature of Parent or Guardian

_____
Date

_____
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Connect with us



Lane Choice

Note the importance of choosing the lane that is appropriate for the driving action, such as turning or parking.

Drive in the lane with the smoothest flow of traffic. For example, if a roadway has 2 lanes in the same direction, select the right lane. If they can choose among 3 lanes, pick the middle lane. To drive faster, pass, or turn left, use the left lane.

Lane Changes

You may discover your teen has difficulty changing lanes in a smooth, continuous movement. Have your teen follow the steps below to make sure that a lane change is made safely:

1. Signal.
2. Check the traffic ahead.
3. Look in the mirrors for breaks in the traffic.
4. Check their blind spot by looking over their shoulder into the lane they wish to occupy.
5. Change lanes by moving into a break in traffic flow.
6. Steer to center the vehicle in the new lane.
7. Turn off the signal.

Problems to Watch for:

- Failing to check the rearview mirror.
- Failing to look over their shoulder at blind spots.
- Checking over their shoulder too long while the vehicle drifts from its path or gets dangerously close to vehicles ahead.
- Not knowing if there is enough room to change lanes. At first, you should make the judgment for your teen. When your teen is able to look over their shoulder and still stay in the lane, have your teen tell you when it is safe to change lanes. Continue requiring a verbal check until you agree with their decision.

Keeping Space Around the Vehicle

Most drivers do not see “the big picture” as well as they should because they follow too closely, and the vehicle ahead blocks their view of the road.

Good drivers maintain a safe following distance to see more of what is happening in traffic. The more distance they allow between their vehicle and the vehicle ahead, the more time they will have to see a hazard or collision down the road. They will have more time to stop, or to avoid the problem.

Encourage your teen to keep enough distance between their vehicle and the vehicle ahead, to the sides, and to the rear. Your teen will then have a "bigger picture" of their driving environment. Steering will be easier and the vehicle can travel in the center of the lane instead of hugging one side of the lane or the other.

Teach your teen how to keep at least a **three-second** following distance. When the vehicle ahead passes a signpost or other object near the road, count "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." If you pass the selected object before completing this count, you are too close.

When crowded by a tailgater, your teen should allow extra room between their vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Allowing more following distance gives them and the tailgater more time to react in an emergency. "Lose" the tailgater as soon as they can. Have your teen change lanes and allow the tailgater to pass them, or slow down to allow enough space between them and the vehicle in front of them. If this does not work, have your teen pull off the road when it is safe and let the tailgater pass.

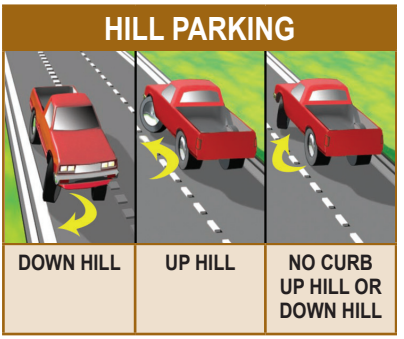
If another driver closely changes lanes in front of them, it is better to just take their foot off the gas. This will give your teen space between their vehicle and the other vehicle without swerving into another lane. Do **not** overreact in this situation.

Tell your teen to avoid driving in the blind spot of other drivers. The other driver may not see your teen's vehicle and could change lanes, causing a collision.



Parking on Hills

Have your teen practice parking on hills with little or no traffic. If they are unable to practice parking on hills in your area, have your teen practice on a flat road and discuss the procedures for parking on hills.



When parking, have your teen:

- On a sloping driveway, turn the wheels so the vehicle will not roll into the lane if the brakes fail.
- Headed downhill, turn the front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road. Set the parking brake.
- Headed uphill, turn the front wheels away from the curb and let the vehicle roll back a few inches. The wheel should gently touch the curb. Set the parking break.
- Headed either uphill or downhill when there is no curb, turn the wheels so the vehicle will roll away from the center of the road if the brakes fail.

Note: Always have your teen set the parking brake and leave the vehicle in gear or in the "park" position.

Parallel Parking (Street with Two-Way Traffic)

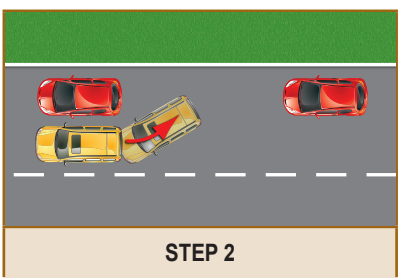
Parallel parking is a driving technique which allows your teen to park parallel to the road in line with other parked vehicles. The steps below explain how to parallel park safely.

1. Find a space and pull the vehicle alongside the space or vehicle in front of where they intend to park. Look for a space at least 3 feet longer than the vehicle. When they find a space, signal that they intend to park. Leave approximately 2 feet between the vehicle or space next to the vehicle and stop once the bumper is aligned with the space. Check the rear view mirror

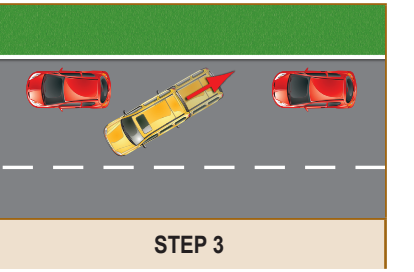
and look over shoulder for approaching vehicles. Keep the foot on the brake and put the vehicle in reverse. Maintain the signal.



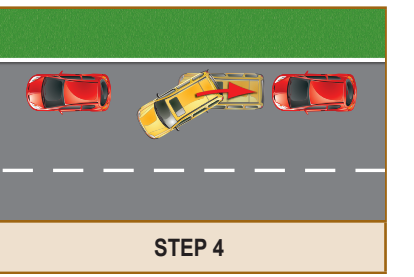
2. Lift the foot off the brake. Before backing up, check mirrors and look over shoulder for any hazards. Begin to back up, at approximately a 45 degree angle.



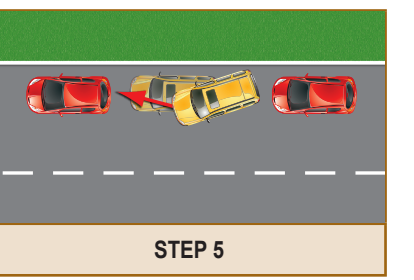
3. Straighten out. Begin turning the steering wheel away from the curb when the rear wheel is within 18 inches from the curb.



4. Pull forward if necessary. Your teen may need to pull forward and backward to straighten out. The vehicle should now be parallel and no further than 18 inches from the curb.



5. Check for hazards. Shift the vehicle into park, turn off the engine. Check the mirrors and look over shoulder for any hazards before opening the vehicle door.



U-Turn

1. Practice U-turns on a wide, residential street with little or no traffic. Do not make a U-turn in heavy traffic.
2. During the first practice session, act as your teen's eyes while they concentrate on making the turn.
3. When your teen can make the turn easily, encourage them to look in all directions for traffic before turning and while making the turn. (Near intersections a vehicle can come around the corner in just a few seconds.)

Freeway Driving

When your teen is ready for freeway driving, try to choose long on-ramps and off-ramps to practice entering and exiting the freeway. The following are freeway driving directions to give to your teen:

Entering the Freeway

1. Be in the proper lane for the on-ramp.
2. While still on the ramp, check mirrors. Watch traffic in the lane they will be entering. Also, watch for vehicles to the rear and sides if there is more than one lane merging. Remember—you do not have the right of way.
3. Turn on the signal.
4. Look for a space in the traffic. Adjust the speed to match that of vehicles on the freeway.
5. Do not slow or stop unless necessary.
6. When reaching the freeway, look over shoulder before moving into a space in the first lane.
7. Do not cross over any solid lines while merging.

On the Freeway

1. Keep up with traffic as much as possible without exceeding the speed limit. Yield to faster traffic. Stay to the right, as much as possible.
2. Leave plenty of room around the vehicle. Use the three-second rule described on page 22 for following distance, and adjust the lane position as needed for traffic conditions.

3. Watch for merging traffic at on-ramps.
4. Signal and look over the shoulder before changing lanes.

Leaving the Freeway

1. When planning to exit a freeway, well before the exit, scan for signs indicating which lane to use.
2. Move into the proper exit lane at least one-half mile before the exit. Do not wait until the last minute. You may cause a collision if you change lanes in a hurry.
3. Signal 4 or 5 seconds before the off-ramp.
4. After entering the off-ramp, slow to the posted speed limit.
5. Do not cross over any solid lines when exiting.

Driving at Night

Do not start night driving until your teen has mastered all driving skills during the daylight hours. Begin night driving in a familiar, low traffic area. Below are the directions to give your teen for driving at night:

1. Turn the headlights on when darkness makes it harder to see (no later than one-half hour after sunset). It is illegal to drive using only parking lights.
2. Drive more cautiously. Your teen should be able to stop the vehicle within the distance that they can see ahead.
3. Leave plenty of room around the vehicle.
4. Signal well in advance of every move.
5. Avoid looking into the headlights of an oncoming vehicle. Look to the right edge of the road. Your teen must learn to maintain the vehicle's direction of travel when the headlights of oncoming traffic make it hard to see.
6. Practice all of the skills described for a minimum of 10 hours of night driving.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND EMERGENCIES

What to Do if a Collision Occurs

Talk to your teen about what to do in the event of a collision. What to do as a witness or as someone involved in a collision is noted in the *California Driver Handbook*.

When You Hear a Siren



When a fire truck, ambulance, police vehicle, or other emergency vehicle approaches from behind with its siren on, have your teen pull over when possible to the right side of the road. Stop until the emergency vehicle passes. However, never stop in an intersection. Continue through the intersection and then pull to the right as soon as possible. Failure to pull over may result in a citation. Sometimes, the driver of an emergency vehicle will use a loudspeaker to direct a driver blocking the road.

Motorcycles, Bicycles, Scooters, Etc.

Be aware that because they are small—motorcycles, bicycles, scooters, and skateboards—can be difficult to see.

When You See a School Bus

When you see flashing red lights on a school bus, have your teen stop at a safe distance away from the school bus, and remain stopped until the red lights stop flashing. Traffic in both directions must stop unless driving on a divided highway. School buses are required to flash the red lights at all stops.

Be cautious around stopped school buses, even if the red lights have stopped flashing. Assume a child might dart out in front of you.

Railroad Crossings

When driving close to a railroad crossing, have your teen look and listen for trains in both directions. Be ready to stop, if necessary. Expect a train on a track at any time, day or night. Never stop on a railroad track. Usually by the time a train sees a vehicle, it will be too late for it to stop. When traffic is heavy, wait off the tracks until your teen is sure they can drive over the tracks without stopping.

Quick Stops and Skids

Avoid sudden stops. If your vehicle has four-wheel antilock braking system (ABS), apply firm pressure on the brake pedal.

Note: To determine if a vehicle has ABS, review the vehicle owner's manual. There may also be an illuminated ABS symbol on the dashboard immediately after starting the engine.

If your teen stops quickly or the vehicle begins to skid, and the vehicle:

- Has just rear-wheel ABS (common in light trucks), ease up on the brake pedal while maintaining just enough pressure to allow the front wheels to roll again so you can steer.
- Has rear-wheel ABS, stop braking and turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid.
- Has front-wheel ABS, steer where you want to go and carefully accelerate to keep the vehicle moving.
- Does **not** have ABS, lightly and briefly "pump" the brakes. To pump the brakes, your teen should:
  - Push the brake pedal hard.
  - As the vehicle begins to skid, quickly let up on the brake. Push it down again quickly.
  - Use this quick, pumping action until the vehicle is stopped.

If Your Brakes Fail

If the brakes fail, your teen should:

1. If available, downshift into a lower gear.
2. If the vehicle:
   - Has four-wheel ABS, apply firm pressure on the brake pedal.
   - Has just rear-wheel ABS, ease up on the brake pedal

while maintaining just enough pressure to allow the front wheels to roll again.

– Does not have ABS, pump the brake pedal.

3. Apply the parking brake, but be ready to release it if the vehicle begins to skid.
4. Remember they can still steer and swerve to avoid a collision.
5. Sound their horn and flash their lights to warn other drivers.
6. When they no longer need to change direction and have stopped, turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles, so do **not** turn off the ignition until they come to a complete stop.)

Tire Blowout

Teach your teen to always keep both hands on the wheel. If a tire goes flat suddenly, they need both hands to control the vehicle. If they have a sudden tire blowout, your teen should:

1. Hold the steering wheel tightly and steer straight ahead.
2. Slow down gradually. Take their foot off the gas pedal slowly, but do not hit the brakes.
3. Let the vehicle slow to a stop, completely off the road.
4. Apply the brakes when the vehicle is almost stopped.

Stuck Accelerator

If the accelerator becomes stuck, your teen should:

- Shift to neutral.
- Apply the brakes.
- Keep their eyes on the road.
- Look for a way out.
- Warn other drivers by honking and turning on hazard warning lights.
- Try to drive the vehicle safely off the road.
- When they no longer need to change direction and have stopped, turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles, so do **not** turn off the ignition until they come to a complete stop.)

When You Cannot See Because of Fog, Rain, or Snow

The best advice is avoid driving in the fog. Do not use high-beam headlights in the fog because they create glare and reduce visibility. Only use low-beam headlights in the fog. Consider postponing a trip until the fog clears.

If your teen must drive, have them slow down and turn on the low-beam headlights. Never drive with just the parking or fog lights. Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the space you can see in front of your vehicle. Avoid crossing or passing lanes of traffic unless absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic they cannot see. Use their wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision.

If the fog becomes so thick that your teen can barely see, have them pull completely off the road and activate the hazard warning lights. Do not continue driving until the weather improves.

When the weather is bad:

1. Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. This is when roads are most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away.
2. Turn on the lights when visibility is poor—even in the daylight hours.
3. In very heavy rain or snowstorm, they may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. They may have to stop from time to time to wipe mud or snow off the windshield, headlights, and taillights. When driving in snowy areas, carry the proper equipment (chains, tires, etc.) in case they find themselves in conditions where they cannot drive without the proper equipment (see the vehicle owner's manual).

Note: You must turn on your headlights if snow, rain, fog, dust, or low visibility (1,000 feet or less) requires the continuous use of windshield wipers.

Driving on Slippery Roads

When driving on wet, icy, gravel, or dirt roads have your teen:

- Drive slowly and stay farther behind the vehicle ahead.
- Slow down as they approach curves and intersections.
- Avoid quick stops and fast turns.
- If applicable, shift into a lower gear before going down a steep hill.
- Avoid slippery areas, such as ice patches, wet leaves, oil, and deep puddles.

Driving in Wind

Drive slower than normal when it is very windy. Lighter vehicles, vans, recreational vehicles, and trucks with broad, high sides are sometimes blown out of their lane. If possible, avoid driving next to other vehicles. Have your teen grasp the steering wheel firmly. Be prepared to correct their steering as the wind force changes. Keep the windows closed.

Overheating Car Conditions

While driving in extreme heat, your teen should:

- Watch the temperature gauge for overheating of the engine.
- Avoid driving at high speeds for long periods.
- Use a lower gear in "creeping" traffic.
- Turn off the air conditioner, if the engine is overheating.
- See the vehicle owner's manual for more information.

While driving in extreme cold, your teen should:

- Watch the temperature gauge for overheating of the engine
  - The engine may not have the correct level of antifreeze.
- Use the defroster or slightly open your windows to keep them from "fogging up."
- See the vehicle owner's manual for more information.

When You Are Stuck in Snow or Mud

If your teen is stuck in snow or mud, they should:

1. Shift into a low gear and keep the front wheels straight.
2. Gently step on the gas pedal.
3. Avoid spinning the wheels. Drive forward as far as possible.
4. Shift into reverse and slowly back up as far as possible. Do not spin the wheels.
5. Shift into a low gear again and drive forward.
6. Repeat a forward-backward motion until the vehicle rolls free.
7. In deep mud or snow, put boards, tree branches, etc., under the tires. Never do this when the tires are spinning.

Hydroplaning

If water on the road is deeper than the tread of the tires, a fast moving vehicle may glide over the water and not touch the road surface. This condition is called hydroplaning. If they can see reflections on the road, or the vehicle ahead leaves no tracks on the water, the vehicle could hydroplane. To avoid hydroplaning, your teen should:

- Drive slowly.
- Maintain good tire tread.
- Have their tires properly inflated.
- If possible, steer around water.
- If they hear a sloshing sound from the tires, especially when changing directions, slow down.

SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST

- Use this checklist when your teen has finished practicing all the driving skills discussed in this guide.
- Take your teen on a long "test" ride. As you ride, check your teen's driving against the checklist.
- Be sure that your teen is following the safe driving habits listed.
- Check (✓) each item you see your teen doing correctly. This list should tell you where your teen still needs practice or help. Your teen should, as a habit, do all of the things listed before taking the driving test at DMV.

Safe Driver Checklist

Locate the Controls

Your teen should be able to locate the following controls and explains how they work:

- ☐ Hazard warning lights.
- ☐ Emergency and parking brakes.
- ☐ Headlights.
- ☐ Heater/defroster.
- ☐ Horn.
- ☐ Windshield wipers.

Before Starting the Vehicle

- ☐ Adjust the mirrors.
- ☐ Fasten safety belt(s).

Starting the Vehicle

- ☐ Vehicle is in "Park" or "Neutral."
- ☐ Foot is on the brake pedal.
- ☐ Start the vehicle smoothly. Do not overturn the ignition.

Moving Forward

- ☐ Signal.
- ☐ Looks over the shoulder before pulling into traffic.

Stopping

- ☐ Stops when necessary behind crosswalks or limit lines.

Turns

- ☐ Signal and slow for turns.
- ☐ Begin and end turns in the correct lane.
- ☐ Yield right-of-way, when necessary.
- ☐ Accept the legal right-of-way, when safe.
- ☐ See and react to hazards.

Backing

- ☐ Before moving, survey surroundings for possible obstacles.
- ☐ Look over the right shoulder when backing.
- ☐ Check the mirrors and look quickly to the side while backing.

Changing Lanes

- ☐ Signal.
- ☐ Check the mirrors.
- ☐ Check over the shoulder.
- ☐ Change lanes safely.

Parking on Hills

- ☐ Signal.
- ☐ Curb the wheels properly.
- ☐ Set the parking brake.

Parallel Parking

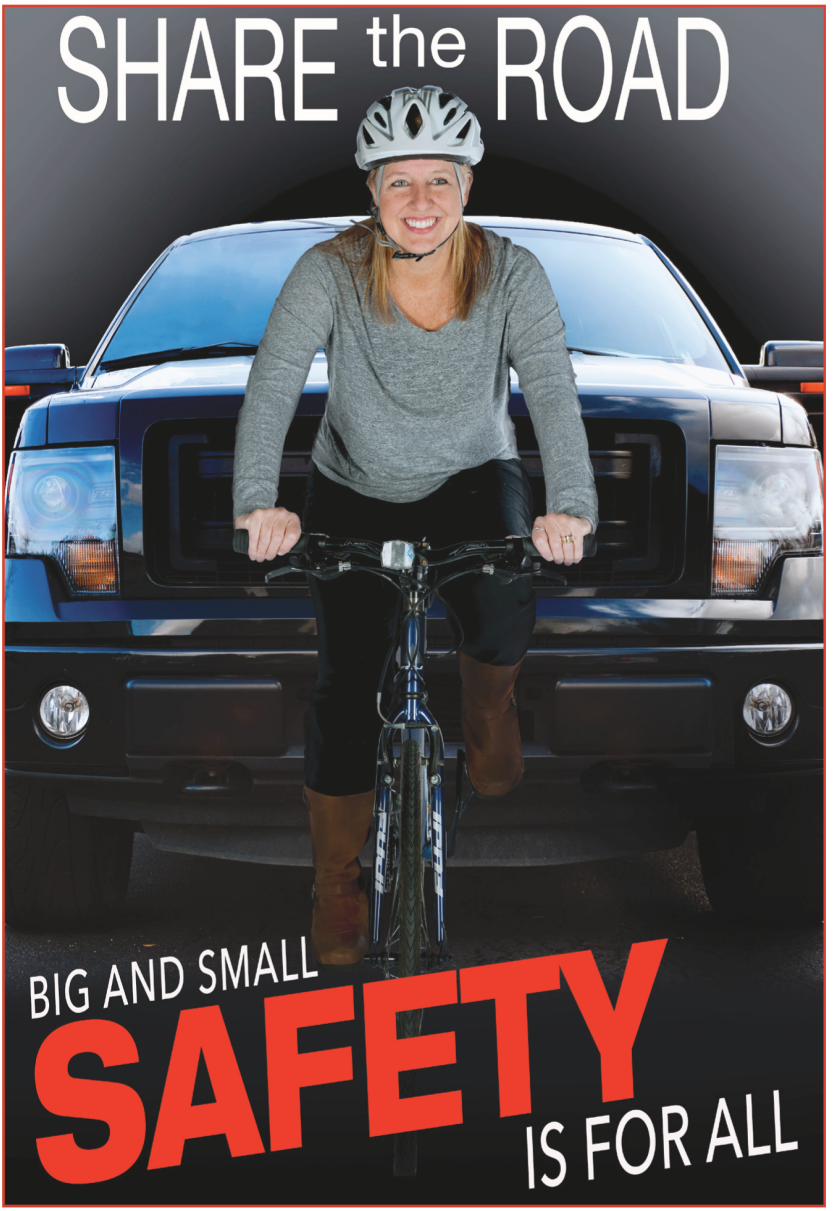
- ☐ Signal.
- ☐ Look over the shoulder while backing.
- ☐ Yield to other vehicles, when necessary.

Entering the Freeway

- ☐ Check traffic flow.
- ☐ Signal.
- ☐ Time entry onto the freeway.
- ☐ Check over the shoulder when accelerating into a space in traffic.
- ☐ Signal early and slow down on the exit ramp to the posted speed limit.
- ☐ Adjust speed to road conditions.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- ☐ Check the mirrors frequently and before braking.
- ☐ Check the cross streets before entering intersections.
- ☐ Check the traffic signal lights and signs.
- ☐ Keep eyes "moving" (watching the sides and middle of the road).
- ☐ Allow plenty of room around the vehicle.
- ☐ Follow at a safe distance.



- Slow down. Drive cautiously.
- Expect bike riders.
- Pass with care.

SHARE THE ROAD

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Is Your Teen Ready for a License?

Your teen is now ready to take a driving test with a DMV examiner if they have held their permit for at least 6 months from the day it was issued. (The waiting period is mandatory even though your teen may have already practiced all the driving skills listed on page 10.) When you feel your teen drives well enough to pass the DMV driving test for a provisional DL, confirm that the required hours are logged on the "Supervised Driving Log" on pages 37-40. Ensure you sign the certifying line of their instruction permit. Your teen must not drive to the DMV office alone on the day of the driving test appointment.

Tips for Your Teen About DMV's Driving Tests

Driving Test

- Make an appointment.
- Be sure your vehicle is properly registered and insured (bring the registration card and proof of financial responsibility [insurance]).
- Confirm that your instructor has signed your permit.
- Make sure your parent/guardian has signed your permit verifying the 50 hours of supervised training (10 hours must be of night driving).
- Bring a licensed driver, who is 25 years old or older and has a valid California DL.
- Bring your glasses or wear your contact lenses.
- Be sure you are thoroughly familiar with the vehicle you use for the driving test. You must know where all the controls are located and how to use them. Do not borrow a vehicle for the driving test, unless necessary.

  Note: If you use a rental vehicle, the driving test applicant must be listed on the rental contract. The contract must not exclude driving tests. Technology, such as back up cameras and self-parking, cannot solely be used on a driving test. For your safety, no pets or passengers, other than the DMV examiner or

other authorized personnel, are permitted in the vehicle during your driving test.

- If you fail the driving test, you must wait 2 weeks, not including the day the test was failed, and pay a retest fee before taking the driving test again.

Now That Your Teen Has a License

Congratulations, your teen is a licensed driver. Ensure you and your teen review the restrictions of their DL located on page 6 of this guide. Continue communication with your teen regarding their driving experience and any questions they may have.

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG

A parent, guardian, spouse, an adult 25 years old or older, who has a valid California DL may use this log to track the required 50 hours of supervised driving practice (10 hours must be night driving) for teens. The supervised driving practice is in addition to the driver training requirements. The use of this log is optional and provided for your convenience. If needed, photocopy this driving log before use.

Date	*Driving Skills Practiced*	*Driving Time Hours/Minutes 30 min, 1hr, etc.*		*Skills needing more practice*	*Adult's Initials*
		DAY	**NIGHT**	*(use abbrev.)*	
1/16	*Sample - SSC, LC, BUC, RT, LT*	*1 hr.*	*30 min.*	*BUC, LC*	*Mom*
TOTAL PRACTICE TIME					

All skills in each level should be mastered before attempting the next level. See page 7 for more information. The abbreviations listed below can be used to identify the driving skills practiced and those that need more practice.

Level I

Backing Up the Car (BUC)
Driving a "Stick" (DS)
Lane Choice and Control (LCC)
Left Turn/Right Turn (LT/RT)
Looking Ahead in Traffic (LAT)
Starting and Stopping the Car (SSC)

Level II

Intersections (I)
Keeping Space Around the Car (KSAC)
Lane Changes (LC)
Practicing in Traffic (PT)

Level III

Parking on Hills (PH)
Parallel Parking (PP)
U-Turn (UT)

Level IV

Freeway Driving (FD)
Night Driving (ND)
Special Problems and Emergencies (SPE)

THIS PAGE LEFT
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG

Continue to use this log to keep track of your teen's behind-the-wheel practice and their progress toward safe driving.

Date	*Driving Skills Practiced*	*Driving Time Hours/Minutes 30 min, 1hr, etc.*		*Skills needing more practice*	*Adult's Initials*
		DAY	**NIGHT**	*(use abbrev.)*	
TOTAL PRACTICE TIME					

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG

Continue to use this log to keep track of your teen's behind-the-wheel practice and their progress toward safe driving.

Date	*Driving Skills Practiced*	*Driving Time Hours/Minutes 30 min, 1hr, etc.*		*Skills needing more practice*	*Adult's Initials*
		DAY	**NIGHT**	*(use abbrev.)*	
TOTAL PRACTICE TIME					



T.I.R.E. Tips



T. Tread

Place an upside down penny in the tire tread. If you can see all of Lincoln's head, the tread is too low and you need a new tire.



I. Inflate

Check air pressure once a month. Low tire pressure can cause tire wear and poor gas mileage.



R. Rotate

Rotate your tires every 3,000–5,000 miles to increase tire tread life.



E. Evaluate

Evaluate your tires everyday for any abnormal wear, cracks, and nails.

A few minutes a month is all it takes to be tire safe.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DMV
DRIVING CHANGE...
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

NOTES

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK