

- A glovebox which is securely closed.
- A passenger seat permanently attached to the vehicle.
- Working safety belts, if the vehicle was manufactured with safety belts.
- Working emergency/parking brake.

### **Financial Responsibility**

You must show that your vehicle is properly insured before the driving test begins (or the test will be postponed) by providing one of the following:

- A document with a liability insurance policy or surety bond number.
- An assigned risk insurance card with the name of the assigned insurance company, file number, and current coverage dates.
- A current insurance binder or copy of an insurance policy signed or countersigned by an insurance company representative.
- A rental car contract (the driver **must** be listed on the contract as the insured).
- A DMV-issued certificate of self-insurance or acknowledgment of cash deposit.
- A written confirmation from the insurer that the person is insured.

### **After Your Driving Test**

Your DL means you have met the driving test requirements. However, in everyday driving you will have to deal with many situations you did not encounter on your driving test. The best way to deal with unexpected situations is to always use the same safe driving habits and responsible attitude you demonstrated on your driving test.

**GOOD LUCK!**

## **Safe Driver Checklist**

### **Before Starting the Vehicle:**

- Adjust the mirrors and seat.
- Fasten the safety belt.
- Know where the operating controls are located.

### **Starting the Vehicle:**

- Vehicle is in “Park” or “Neutral”.
- Foot is on the brake pedal.
- Start the vehicle smoothly.

### **Moving Forward:**

- Signal.
- Look over your shoulder before pulling into traffic.

### **Stopping:**

- Stop when necessary, behind crosswalk, or limit line.

### **Turns:**

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

### **Backing:**

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

### **Changing Lanes:**

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

### **Driving On The Freeway:**

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

### **Defensive Driving Techniques:**

- Check the mirrors frequently and before braking.
- Check the cross streets before entering an intersection.
- Check the signal lights and signs.
- Keep your eyes “moving” (watch the sides and middle of the road).
- Allow plenty of room around the vehicle.
- Follow at a safe distance.

**Save Time. Go Online.**

[www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)

DRIVING CHANGE

**Go online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) to:**

- Renew your vehicle registration.
- Renew your driver license or identification (ID) card.
- Calculate registration fees.
- Verify and update vehicle registration insurance suspension information.
- Take a sample driver license test.
- Order special license plates.
- Get forms, brochures, and handbooks.
- Find answers to your DMV questions.
- Make appointments (except commercial driving test\*).

**Call 1-800-777-0133 for automated service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to:**

- Make appointments (except commercial driving test\*).
- Renew your vehicle registration. See your renewal notice for the renewal ID number (RIN).
- Get forms and publications.
- Listen to general information.
- Verify and update vehicle registration insurance suspension information.

**\*To make a commercial driving test appointment or speak with a technician, call 1-800-777-0133 during our normal business hours.**

For persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or with a speech impairment, call TTY 1-800-368-4327.

### **Privacy**

The Department of Motor Vehicles strives to protect against loss, misuse, unauthorized access, or alteration of the information under its control. Our Privacy Policy is located online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) under the **Privacy Policy** link at the bottom of the page.

SO (REV. 3/2017)



**Fast Facts**

**22**

**Preparing for Your Driving Test**

### **What's Inside:**

- DMV's Goal.
- What to Expect.
- DMV Wants You to Pass.
- Who Takes a Driving Test?
- Are All Driving Tests the Same?
- Preparing for Your Driving Test.
- Other Test Information.
- Test Vehicle Requirements.
- Financial Responsibility.
- After Your Driving Test.
- Safe Driver Checklist.



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FFDL 22 (REV. 8/2017) WWW

## DMV's Goal

One of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) major goals is keeping all drivers licensed for as long as it is safe to do so, as well as enhancing highway safety by increasing driver competency. DMV recognizes that the independence and mobility that driving provides are important factors in the quality of life for most Californians.

## What to Expect

You can expect to be treated with respect, fairness, and courtesy during the entire examination process. If you are not treated in this manner, please contact the office manager.

## DMV Wants You to Pass

Many people take their driving test when they have not sufficiently prepared, practiced enough, or practiced the right way. Others get very nervous because they don't know what to expect. The DMV examiner will ride with you only to make sure that you can drive safely and obey traffic laws.

Your driving test will last about 20 minutes. The test consists of basic actions you will encounter while driving, such as:

- Left and right turns.
- Stops at controlled and uncontrolled intersections.
- Straight line backing.
- Lane changes.
- Driving in regular street traffic.
- Driving on the freeway (if required).

DMV wants you to pass your driving test. Study this pamphlet as well as the *California Driver Handbook*. Relax and do your best.

## Who Takes a Driving Test?

You will take a driving test if you have:

- Never been licensed in California or any other state or you hold a driver license (DL) from a foreign country.

- A vision-related problem.
- A limited term DL for specified physical and mental (P & M) conditions.
- A physical condition (except corrective lenses) for which DMV imposes a restriction or you have a restriction on your DL and request the restriction be removed.
- An out-of-state junior, provisional, or probationary DL.
- Been licensed out-of-state but do not have the DL to surrender.

Driving tests for DL renewals or holders of out-of-state or U.S. territory DLs are normally waived, if the DL is presented. However, DMV may require a driving test at any time.

## Are All Driving Tests the Same?

The driving test for the noncommercial (basic) DL Class C is the same for all drivers regardless of age. An adult driver takes the same type of driving test as a teen driver. A driver with a physical and/or mental condition may take a different version of the driving test containing additional test elements.

## Preparing for Your Driving Test

- **Get enough practice.** Some drivers need more practice than others. Minors (under 18 years old) must complete 50 hours of behind-the-wheel training (10 hours must be night driving) before taking a driving test. When you practice, pretend you are taking a driving test. Ask your accompanying driver to calmly point out your mistakes. Ask questions about particular driving situations that may have confused you. Correct your mistakes. The next time you practice, try to correct any driving errors you made the time before. The DMV examiner is there to ensure you have demonstrated that you can handle your vehicle in regular traffic situations, not to trick you. During your driving test, the examiner will note how you obey the

rules of the road and traffic signs and/or signals. They will note other areas in which you may need improvement.

- **Safe driving tips.** Practice these tips to improve your driving skills:
  - Steer smoothly at all times.
  - Accelerate smoothly. Don't rev the engine or make it stall.
  - Stop the vehicle gently. Start braking well ahead of where you must stop to avoid sudden movement. Know where to stop. Be aware of crosswalks. If your view is blocked at a crosswalk, move forward carefully and look both ways before entering the intersection.
  - Be sure your vehicle is in the correct gear. Don't grind the gears. Don't coast to a stop.
  - Always obey the posted speed limits. If needed, reduce your speed to adjust for existing weather, road, and other traffic conditions. Remember to turn on your headlights if you need to use your windshield wipers in poor weather conditions.
  - Follow at a safe distance. Use the 3 second rule. Increase your following distance in bad weather or poor visibility.
  - Know what the traffic signals mean and obey them at all times.
  - Always use the proper lane. Turn from the correct lane into the correct lane.
  - Signal for all lane changes and turns.
  - Always look for potential hazards (scan), and check your mirrors frequently. Always look over the proper shoulder before making lane changes or pulling away from the curb.
  - Drive defensively. Anticipate another driver's errors.

If you are unsure about your driving skills, review the following DMV tools: *Parent-Teen Training Guide*, *Senior Guide for Safe Driving*, *California Driver Handbook* and the streaming videos available online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). These tools provide detailed instructions on how to correctly perform the driving actions required on a driving test, as well as the laws and rules of the road and safe driving practices.

## Other Test Information

For your safety, ask the examiner to show you their DMV identification (ID) badge before the test begins. Pets or passengers, other than the examiner or other authorized personnel, are not permitted during your driving test.

If you have any questions, ask the examiner **before** your driving test begins. During the test, the examiner will ask you questions and give you directions but they will not engage in general conversation.

## Test Vehicle Requirements

The vehicle you use for your driving test must be safe to drive. Before the test, the examiner checks for:

- 2 license plates. The rear plate must show current registration.
- Functioning front and back turn signals and brake lights.
- A working horn designed for the vehicle.
- Tires with no bald spots.
- Adequate brake pressure (you will be asked to step on the brake pedal to see if it works properly).
- A driver's side window that rolls down.
- A windshield that allows a full unobstructed field of view for you and the examiner.
- 2 rear view mirrors (1 must be on the outside, to the driver's left).
- Driver and front passenger doors that open from both the inside and outside.