

Community HS District 94 Driver Education Program



Driving Skills Handbook

Community High School District 94 Drivers' Education:

Behind the Wheel Lesson Sequence

Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction.• Right and left turns.• Stopping.• Backing.
Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right and left turns.• Three-point turnabout.• Curb parking.
Lesson 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backing Review.• Two-point turnabout.• Three-point turnabout review.• Perpendicular parking.
Lesson 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Downtown driving.• Traffic lights.• Merging in traffic.
Lesson 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uphill and downhill parking.• Two-point turnabout review.
Lesson 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right turns onto highway.• Lane changing.• Angle parking.
Lesson 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Left turns onto highway.• Lane changing.
Lesson 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highway driving.• Lane changing.
Lesson 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of all maneuvers.• Parallel parking.
Lesson 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final review or State CDTP Road Test for eligible students.

**“YOUNG DRIVERS
MAY TAKE RISKS
MORE OFTEN
BECAUSE
THEY ARE LESS
LIKELY TO
RECOGNIZE RISKY
SITUATIONS WHEN
THEY DEVELOP.”**

Helpful Hints for Home Practice Sessions

Before Practice Sessions

- Schedule short, frequent lessons during daylight hours until you feel confident the student can drive at night.
- Choose one driving skill to review and practice at each session. If possible, practice the most recent skill the new driver has learned in the driver education course.
- Use the In-Car Checklist provided by the driver education teacher to find out the proper maneuvers for the driving skill.
- Review the procedures and discuss them with the new driver.
- Review safety practices and rules for driving sessions (e.g., wear safety belts; lock doors; converse only about driving issues).
- Find a large, open parking lot for the first few sessions. Once you feel confident the new driver is ready, find a quiet residential area for the sessions.

During Practice Sessions

- Fasten your safety belts and lock the doors.
- Have the driver adjust the seat and mirrors.
- Sit in a position that allows you to place your hand on the steering wheel or foot on the brake quickly if necessary.
- Have the driver drive at a low speed during the first few sessions.
- Confine the conversation to driving maneuvers and techniques. Remember that the purpose of on-the-road experience is to practice driving and safety skills.
- Give directions quietly, clearly, and well in advance of the situation. Give “where-what” commands (e.g., “At the next corner turn left.”)
- Provide enough time for the new driver to perform each maneuver.
- Have the new driver practice the IPDE Process aloud [e.g., “I see a parked car (identify) and I think it might pull out (predict). I think I’ll slow down” (decide, execute)].
- Try to be calm, patient, and relaxed to instill confidence. Speak in a relaxed manner.
- Make positive remarks frequently to encourage the new driver. Remember that mistakes and lack of confidence are a natural part of learning.
- Tell the new driver immediately when an error has been made and calmly suggest how to correct it.
- Be consistent in your comments and reactions. The new driver will begin to see a pattern between what he or she does and what you say or do.
- Look and think well ahead of the new driver to anticipate problems, and inform the new driver well in advance.
- In an emergency situation, give a short, precise command in a firm, controlled voice. Be prepared to take steering control, reach across the vehicle with your foot to apply the brakes, or reach across the vehicle with your foot to depress the accelerator.
- You might want to use a hand-held mirror to keep track of traffic conditions to the rear and to check the eye movement of the new driver.

After Practice Sessions

- Review and evaluate the skills that have been practiced in the lesson.
- Make comments as brief and positive as possible.
- Repeat the lesson if you feel it is necessary or if the driver education teacher suggests further practice.
- Set a good example for the new driver to imitate while you are driving.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Insist on belt use.

Make sure your teens know the importance of seat belts. Remember, it's the law in every state (except New Hampshire), and you and your teen could be held liable legally and financially if someone is injured riding with you. Belt use reduces the chance of a serious injury or fatality significantly.

Drinking and driving don't mix.

More than a third of all teen traffic fatalities involve alcohol. Make it clear that it is illegal and highly dangerous for anyone to drive after drinking or using any other drug. No excuses. No second chances. No alcohol, period. It is illegal in all 50 states for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol much less drink and drive.

Slow down.

Excessive speed is a major factor in crashes involving teens. Tell your teenager to slow down and take their time. Teens should keep their speed equal to the driving conditions they encounter. For example, when it rains the road becomes slicker. Also visibility is less and they need more time to stop-so leave more space between the car and other vehicles. Also, they should turn on the headlights in inclement weather, it's the law in most states. Keep right except to pass...and pass carefully.

Avoid distractions.

Teens learning to drive demand full attention. Your teen's responsibility is to operate the vehicle safely. Distractions like the radio, cell phones, and passengers take your teens attention away from the road. Remember increasing distractions, increases the risk of a crash.

Limit passengers while learning.

Fatal crashes are more likely to occur when other teenagers are in the car. **The risk of a crash increases with every additional passenger.** The best policy is to restrict teen passengers, especially multiple teens, all the time. Teens should be concentrating on the driving and not talking to others, this can cause a distraction and could become lethal.

Caution in intersections.

Red light and stop sign running are a huge problems and many people are seriously injured or killed because they didn't pay extra attention to other traffic. After a traffic light has turned green, or your teen is pulling away from a stop sign, teach them to look left, right, and left again before proceeding. The light may be green, but that means "proceed with caution." No one should assume that other traffic will stop for a red light or stop sign.

Don't drive when sleepy.

Drowsy driving is a serious problem that leads to thousands of auto crashes each year and teens don't often get enough sleep. If they find themselves becoming sleepy while driving, pull over at a safe place and get out and walk around. Another solution is to reschedule the trip for another time to reduce risk of drowsy driving, especially if it's a long trip.

Use your head!

Teens and all drivers should use their head, always looking over their shoulder before changing lanes or merging, don't rely on the mirrors alone, they have blind spots.

Use turn signals.

Advise your teen to signal when they change lanes as well as when turning.

Don't tailgate.

This is a bad habit that is a major cause of crashes. Insist teens leave plenty of space between themselves and the vehicle ahead. They should be able to see the rear tires of the car in front in slow traffic situations. At higher speeds they should leave a three-second cushion between the car and the vehicle in front of them.

Be courteous.

Teach teens to be courteous by letting motorists trying to enter the roadway out into traffic ahead of them. When a driver ahead puts on a turn signal, slow down and let him over. Courtesy on the road goes a long way to making life more enjoyable for everyone.

**** Remember you are a role model.***

New drivers learn a lot by example, so practice safe driving. Teens with crashes and violations often have parents with poor driving records.

Coaching Guide

When driving with your teen, don't forget to practice the four key skill sets that can help keep them safe: hazard recognition, vehicle handling, space and speed management. The following coaching guide highlights these components and will help enforce these driving skills for life.

1) Hazard Recognition:

- Approaching and turning left at intersections
- The point of no return
- How to scan for trouble
- Minimizing distractions
- Safety zones
- Minimum eye lead time

2) Vehicle Handling:

- Contact patches and load shifts
- How acceleration, deceleration, braking and turns affect vehicle balance
- Shifting loads gradually
- Adjusting to your vehicle's size and weight
- Conventional braking systems versus anti-lock braking systems (ABS)
- Emergency braking techniques

3) Space Management:

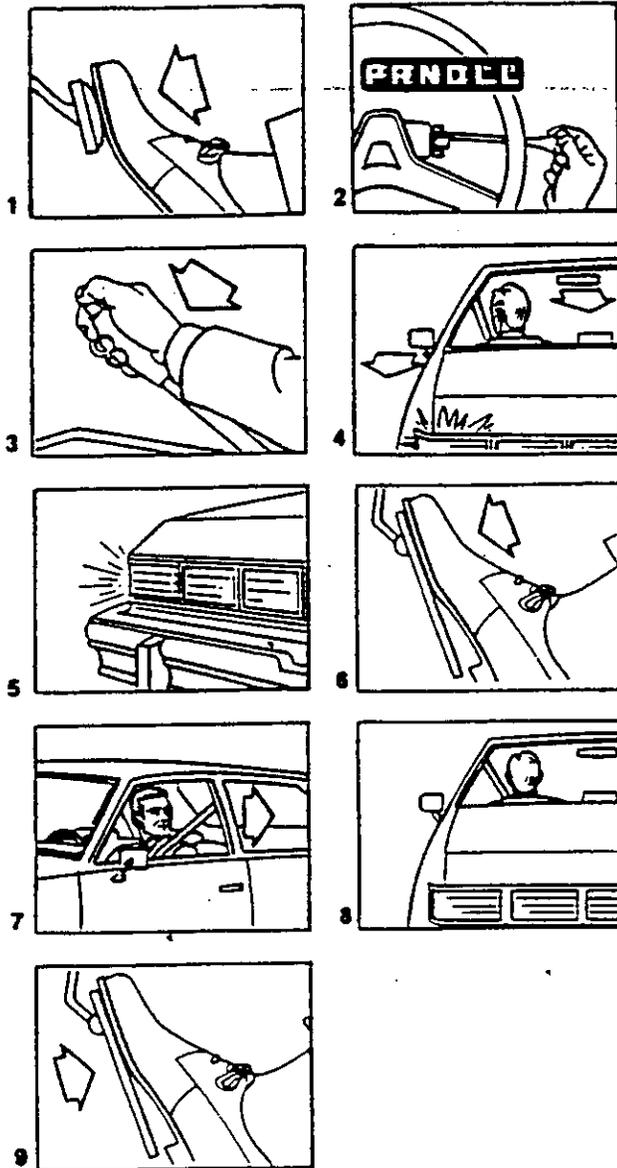
- Maintaining space around, ahead and behind your vehicle
- Learning how to adjust your speed
- Maintaining a safe following distance
- How to avoid being rear-ended
- Avoiding a head-on crash

4) Speed Management:

- How to stay in contact with the road
- Driving at a speed that doesn't impede
- How to recover from skids in both front and rear wheel drive vehicles
- Using proper signals and covering the brake

Basic Car Control

In-Car Checklist



Putting the Car in Motion

After starting the engine, follow these steps:

1. With the engine idling in PARK, press down the foot-brake pedal.
2. Move the selector lever to DRIVE.
3. Release the parking brake while continuing to hold the foot-brake pedal down.
4. Check for traffic ahead and in both rearview mirrors. Glance over your left shoulder. See if any vehicle is approaching from the rear.
5. If you are going to move away from the curb, use the turn signal to alert other drivers.
6. When the street is clear, press gently on the accelerator.
7. Quickly check again over your left shoulder for traffic.
8. Cancel the signal, if necessary.
9. As you reach your desired speed, let up a little on the accelerator. Adjust your speed to traffic conditions.

Caution: Always press down on the foot-brake pedal and come to a full stop before shifting to any gear. This action keeps your car from moving before you are ready.

Instructor's notes and comments

Driving Environment

Use a large empty parking lot or a deserted street.

Procedure for Practice

Ask the driver to locate all instruments and controls. Practice starting, stopping and backing in a straight line before beginning practice in turning.

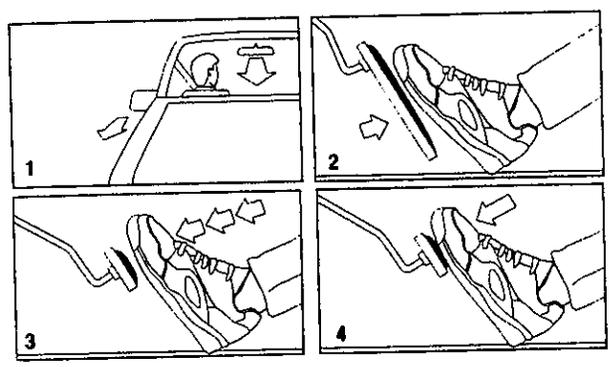
Tips and Common Errors

Watch for correct hand positions on the steering wheel and hand-over-hand procedure during turns. Make sure the foot brake is depressed before shifting.

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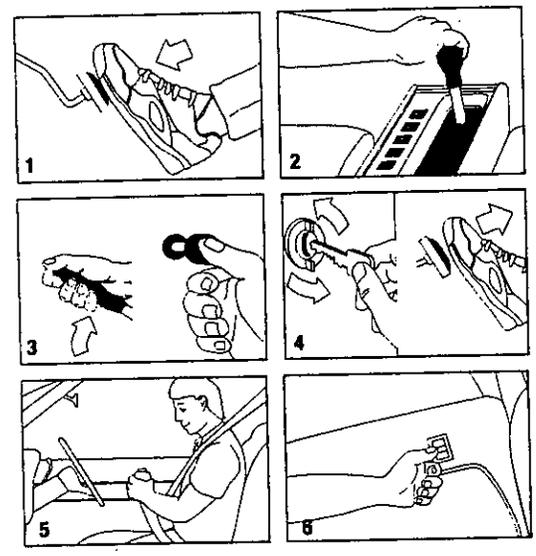
In-Car Checklist

Basic Vehicle Control



Stopping the Vehicle

- 1. Check traffic in both mirrors before slowing down.
- 2. Let up on the accelerator.
- 3. Tap the foot brake lightly.
- 4. Gradually press down on the foot-brake pedal. Ease up on the brake just before stopping. Leave the selector lever in DRIVE if you plan to start moving again immediately. Otherwise, shift to PARK.



Securing the Vehicle

- 1. Once you have stopped, continue pressing the foot brake
- 2. Shift to PARK in an automatic or to REVERSE in a stickshift vehicle.
- 3. Set the parking brake. Turn off all accessories. Close all windows.
- 4. Turn off the ignition switch. Remove the key.
- 5. Unfasten your safety belt.
- 6. Lock all doors.

Leaving the Vehicle

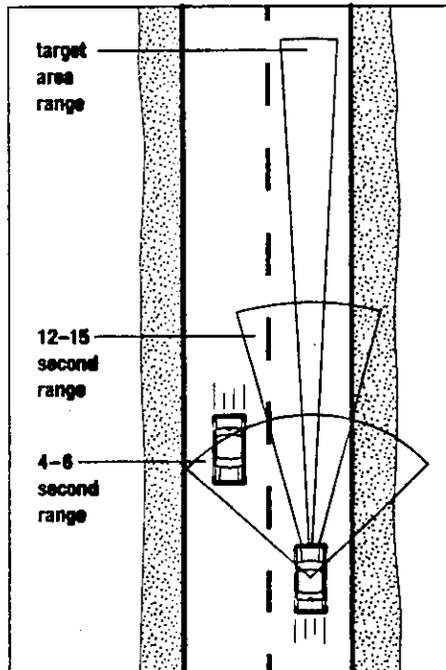
- 1. Check inside and outside mirrors.
- 2. Make sure you have your keys.
- 3. Glance over your left shoulder before opening the door.
- 4. When it is safe, open the door and get out quickly. Release the foot brake.
- 5. Lock the door. Walk around the rear of the vehicle to reduce your risk of being hit.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Name _____ Date _____

In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Orderly Visual Search Pattern

Below is an example of an orderly visual search pattern for straight-ahead driving.

1. Look ahead to your target area range.
2. Evaluate your left-front, front, and right-front zones in the 12-15 second range. Search driveways and intersections for possible changes in your line of sight and path of travel.
3. Glance in rearview mirror to check your rear zones.
4. Evaluate your 4-6 second range before entering that space.
5. Look ahead again to evaluate another 12-15 second range.
6. Check your 4-6 second range.
7. Glance in rearview mirror.
8. Check speedometer and gauges.

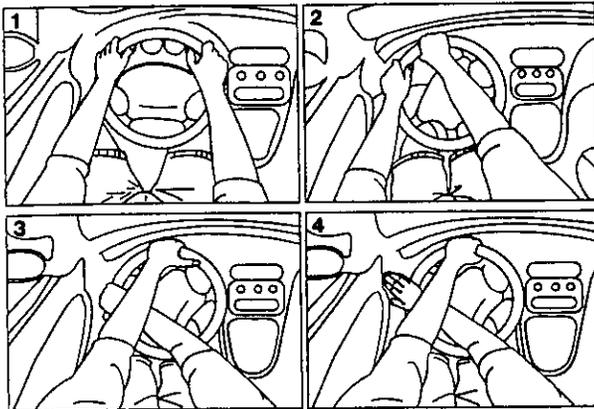
Repeat this pattern or a similar pattern as you move forward.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

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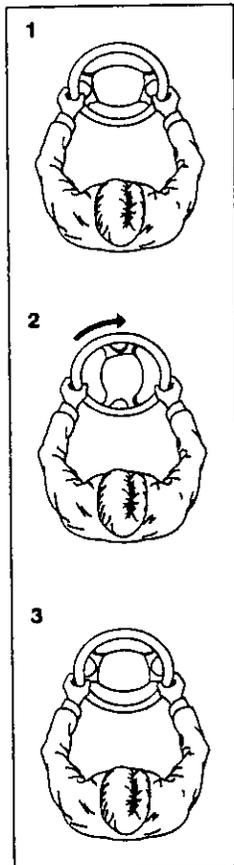
In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Hand-Over-Hand Steering

- 1. Begin the turn from a balanced hand position.
- 2. Start pulling down to the left with your left hand. Your right hand pushes the wheel toward the left about a quarter turn.
- 3. Release your left hand from the wheel and cross it over your right hand to grasp the wheel near the top. Continue pulling down.
- 4. You can complete the turn by continuing to pull down with the left hand as you release the right hand.
 - Some steering wheels will straighten after a turn if you relax your grip. However, be ready to unwind the wheel hand-over-hand, especially at lower speeds, with front-wheel drive vehicles, and when backing.



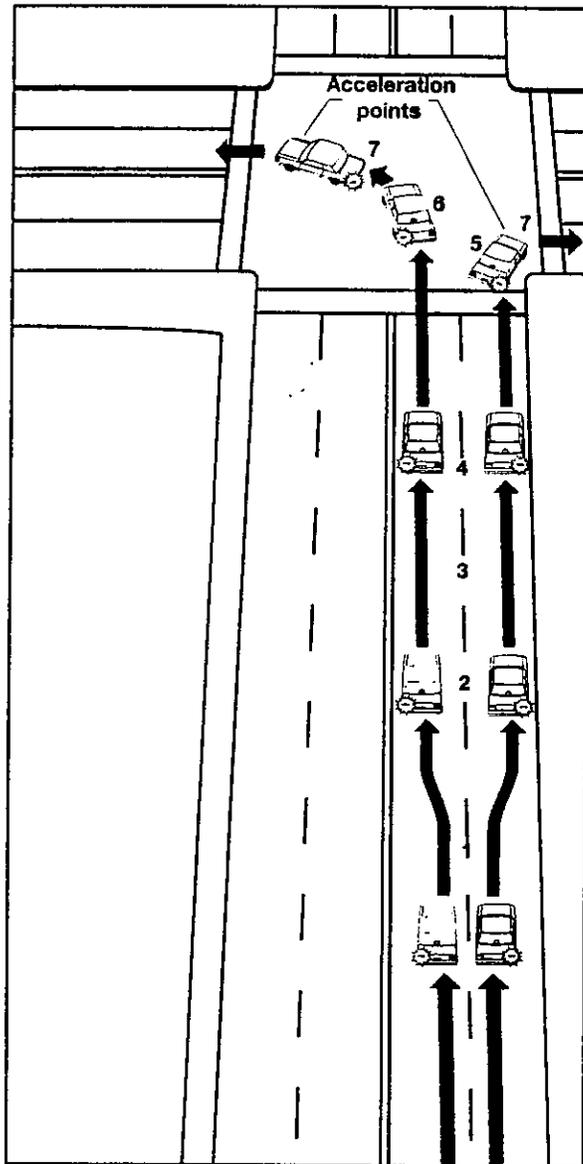
Push-Pull Steering

Some drivers prefer push-pull steering for some maneuvers. This method allows you to keep both hands on the wheel at all times.

- 1. One hand grasps the steering wheel near the 4 o'clock (right hand) or 8 (left hand) o'clock position.
- 2. That hand then pushes the wheel up to near the 12 o'clock position. At the same time, the other hand slides up to the 11 or 1 o'clock position and pulls down.
- 3. As the pulling hand comes down, the pushing hand returns to the original position to continue the process. With this method, you never cross your arms while driving.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



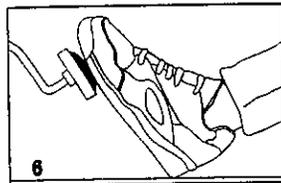
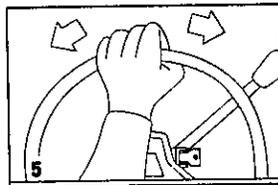
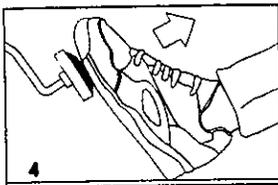
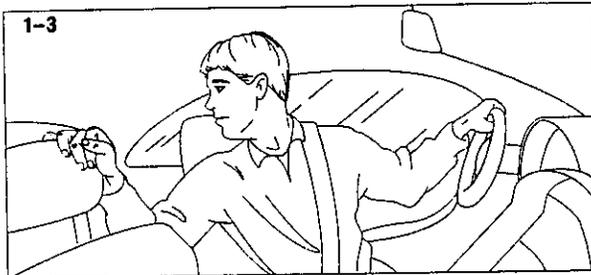
Procedures for Turning

- 1. Position your vehicle in the correct lane for the turn. For a right turn, be in lane position 3 if there are no parked vehicles. For a left turn, be in the lane nearest the center line in lane position 2. (On a one-way street, be in the far left lane.) Signal about half a block before the turn.
- 2. Brake early to reduce speed.
- 3. Use your visual search pattern to check the front zones for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- 4. Slow to about 10 mph just before the crosswalk.
- 5. For a right turn, check to the left again before turning. Then look in the direction of the turn. Begin turning the wheel when your vehicle's front bumper is even with the curbline.
- 6. For a left turn, check traffic to the left, then right, then left again. Turn the steering wheel just before the front of your vehicle reaches the center of the intersection. Continue looking left into the lane you will enter.
- 7. As you begin your turn, make a quick blind-spot check through the right side window. Check front and rear zones. If the intersection is clear, turn into the nearest lane of traffic going in your direction. Accelerate about halfway through the turn as you return the wheel to the straight-ahead position.

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Instructor's Notes and Comments

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Steering Straight Backward

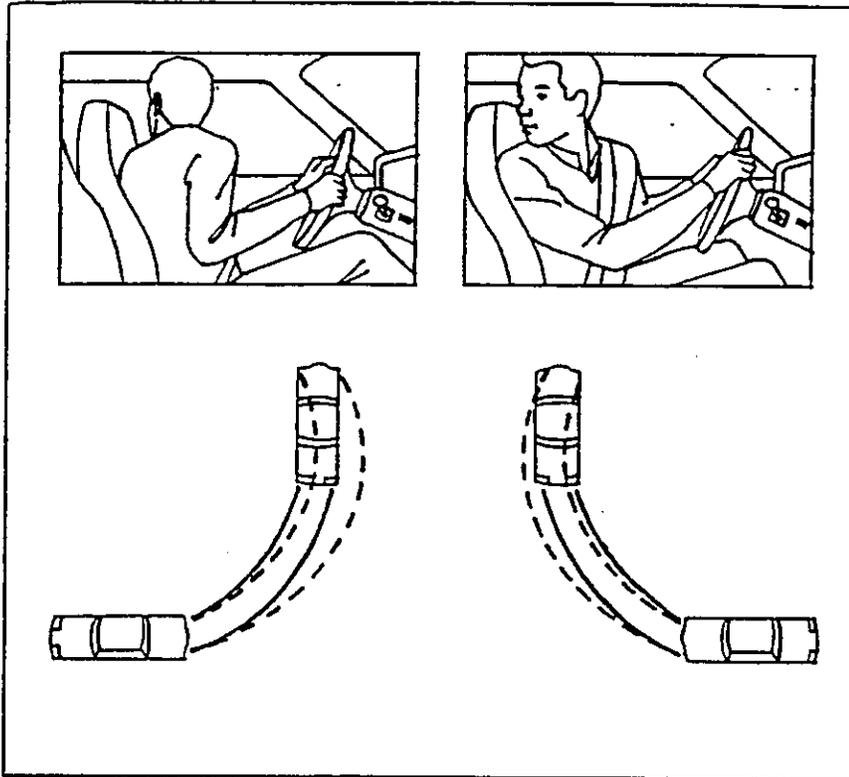
Steering when moving backward involves knowing where to look and how to control direction and speed.

- 1. Hold the brake pedal down and shift to REVERSE.
- 2. Turn your body to the right, and put your right arm over the back of the passenger seat. Look back through the rear window.
- 3. Put your left hand at the top of the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock position.
- 4. Release pressure on the brake just enough to allow the vehicle to creep backward slowly.
- 5. While looking back through the rear window, move the top of the steering wheel toward the direction you want the back of the vehicle to go.
- 6. Keep your foot over the brake pedal while your vehicle is moving backward. Glance quickly to the front and sides to check traffic. Continue to look back through the rear window as you brake to a stop.

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Instructor's Notes and Comments

Performing Basic Car Maneuvers

In-Car Checklist



Backing Left

Backing Right

Backing Left and Right

- 1. Before backing, check for traffic, pedestrians, parked cars, and low stationary objects behind you. Turn your head toward the direction you will back. Look through the rear side and side windows in that direction.
- 2. Keep both hands on the steering wheel, ready for hand-over-hand steering. Pull the wheel to the left to back left. Pull the wheel to the right to back right. The back of your car will go in the direction you turn the wheel.
- 3. Back slowly as you enter the turn. Begin to unwind the steering wheel to finish the turn in a straight position.

When backing left, allow a wide space on the right side. The front wheels will move far to the right of the rear wheels. The front of your car will swing wide to the right.

When backing right, allow a wide space on the left side.

Instructor's notes and comments

Driving Environment

Practice these maneuvers with very little traffic and good visibility. A quiet street in a residential area is an ideal area for driveway, alley and three-point turnabouts. Select driveways that are wide enough to enter and leave without fear of driving on grass or into bushes.

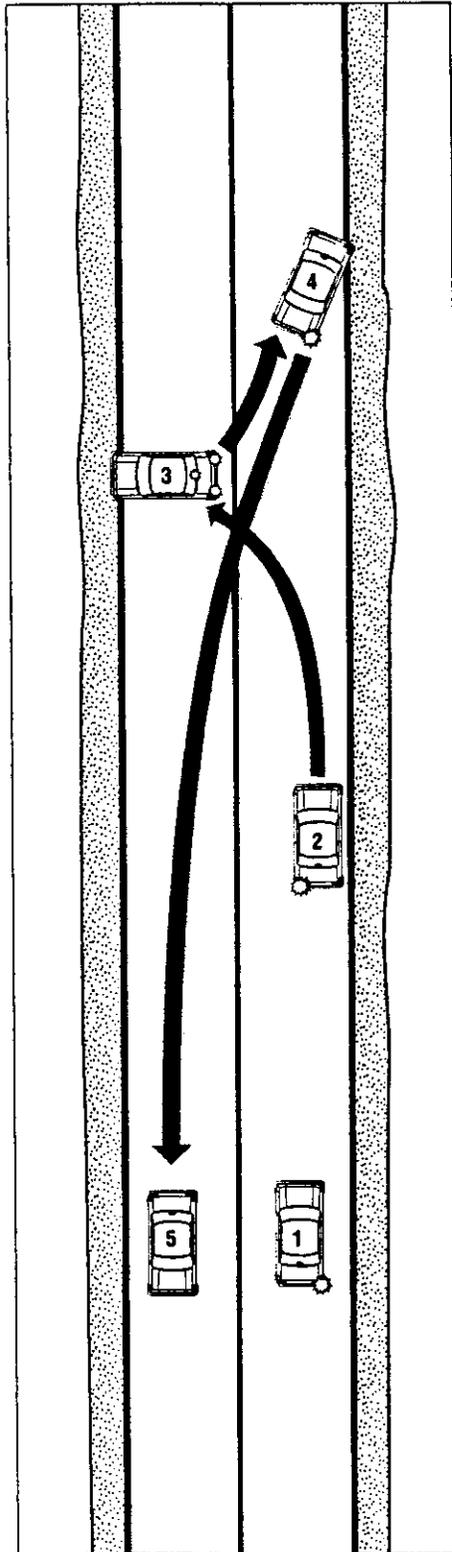
Procedure for Practice

Ask the driver to first explain to you the procedure to be followed before starting each type of turnabout. Since backing into a driveway on the right is usually one of the safest, begin with that type first. Then practice pulling into a driveway on the left and then the three-point turnabout.

Tips and Common Errors

Before backing into or out of a driveway, be sure the driver goes far enough beyond the driveway or road before stopping. While backing be sure to check for the proper steering technique and head position with eyes looking out the rear window. Beginners often wait too long to start turning and then fail to recover the wheel on time. After backing be sure the driver shifts to drive first and then checks traffic.

**Performing Basic
Vehicle Maneuvers**



Three-Point Turnabout

Make sure local and state laws permit this type of turnabout. This turnabout is hazardous to perform. Executing this maneuver may put you in a high-risk situation.

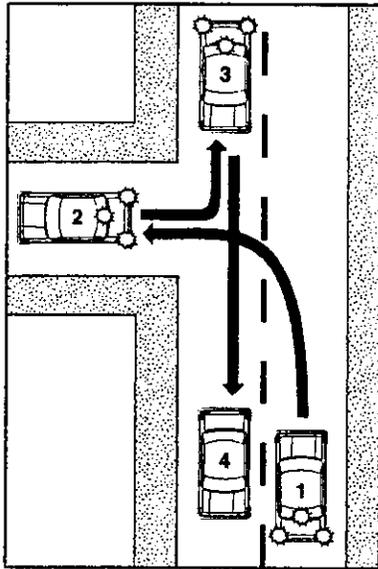
- 1. From location 1 check front and rear zones. Signal right and stop close to the curb as shown in location 2. Check traffic ahead, to the rear, and over your left shoulder. Signal a left turn.
- 2. Search front and rear zones as you turn sharply left. Move to location 3 with wheels straight. Stop before hitting the curb.
- 3. Check all traffic again. Turn the wheels sharply right while backing slowly to location 4. Back only as far as necessary to complete the maneuver and before hitting the curb. Stop with wheels straight.
- 4. Check traffic again and signal left. Move slowly forward while steering left toward location 5.

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Instructor's Notes and Comments

**Performing Basic
Vehicle Maneuvers**

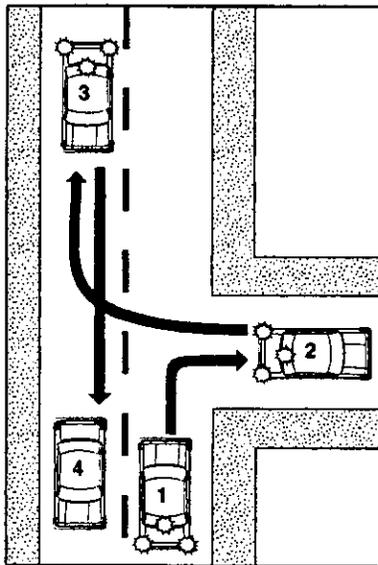
Two-Point Turnabout

Pull into Driveway on Left Side



Make sure local and state laws permit this type of turnabout.

- 1. Check traffic in front and rear zones. Signal a left turn and use the left-turn procedure to move to location 2. Stay as close to the right side as possible. Stop with your wheels straight when your vehicle is completely off the street.
- 2. Check traffic again, especially from the right. Back slowly to the right to location 3. Look to the right rear and side while backing. Stop with the wheels straight.
- 3. Accelerate gently, scanning all zones, as you drive forward toward location 4.



Pull into Driveway on Right Side

Make sure local and state laws permit this type of turnabout.

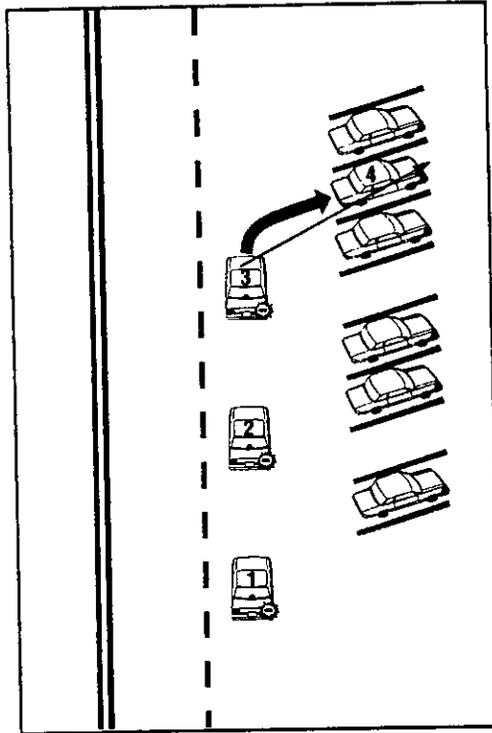
- 1. Check traffic in front and rear zones. Signal a right turn and use the right-turn procedure to move to location 2. Stop when your vehicle is off the street.
- 2. Check traffic again from both directions. Back slowly across the street, turning left toward location 3. Look to the left, rear, and side when backing. Glance to the front, then continue looking back while stopping with the wheels straight in location 3.
- 3. Accelerate gently, and drive forward to location 4.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Name _____ Date _____

In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers

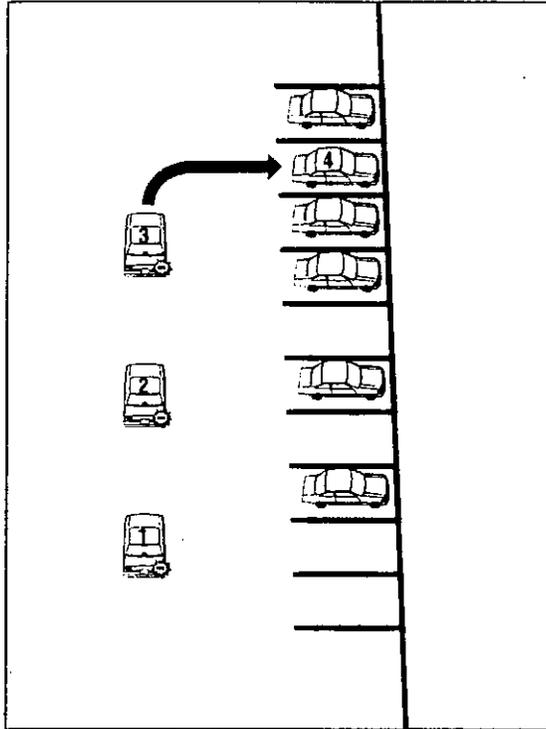


Angle Parking

1. Check for traffic and pedestrians. Position your vehicle at least six feet from the row of parked vehicles. Signal a right turn, check traffic to the rear, and begin braking.
2. Flash your brake lights to warn drivers behind. Check your right blind spot and continue braking.
3. Creep forward until you can see the center of the space without your line of sight cutting across the parking line. This is your reference point to begin turning. Turn the wheels sharply to the right. Slowly enter the stall.
4. Straighten the wheels when you are centered in the space. Determine your forward reference point to place the front of the bumper even with the curb or parking line.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

**Performing Basic
Vehicle Maneuvers**

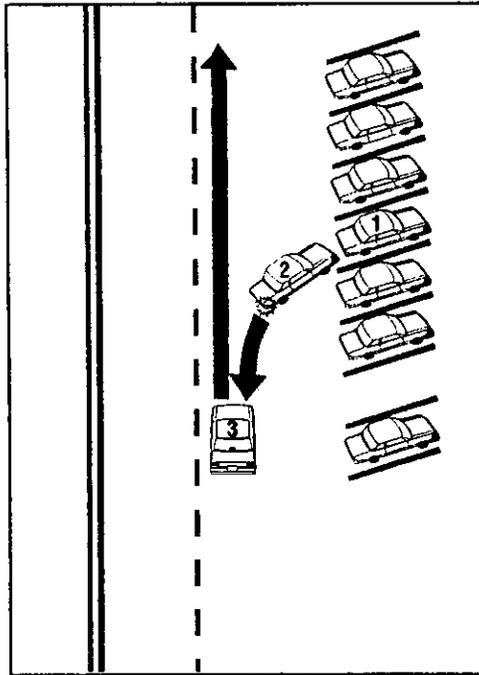


Perpendicular Parking

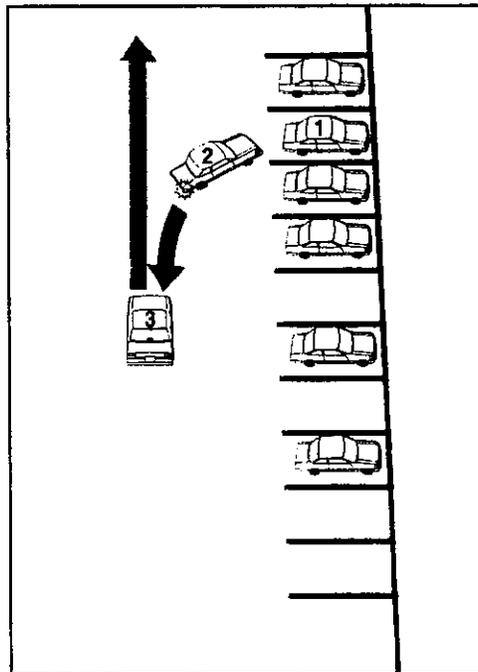
- 1. Position your vehicle at least eight feet from the row of parked vehicles, or as far to the left of the lane as possible. Flash your brake lights and signal a right turn. Check your right blind spot, and begin to brake.
- 2. Check traffic to the rear, and continue braking.
- 3. Determine your personal reference point to know when the front bumper of your vehicle passes the left rear taillight of the vehicle to the right of the empty parking space. Turn the wheel sharply right. Slowly enter the stall. Check your right-rear fender for clearance.
- 4. Straighten the wheels when you are centered in the space. Use a forward reference point, like the driver's side-view mirror, to stop before the wheels strike the curb.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Angle



Perpendicular

Leaving an Angle or Perpendicular Space

Your view often will be blocked as you begin to back into moving traffic. Back slowly. Look to the rear and to the sides as you search for other roadway users and pedestrians.

1. Creep straight back while you control speed with your foot brake. (Hold the clutch at the friction point in a stickshift vehicle.)
2. When your front bumper is even with the rear bumper of the vehicle on your left, begin to turn right.
3. Back into the nearest lane and stop with the wheels straight. Shift to a forward gear and proceed as you scan your front and rear zones.

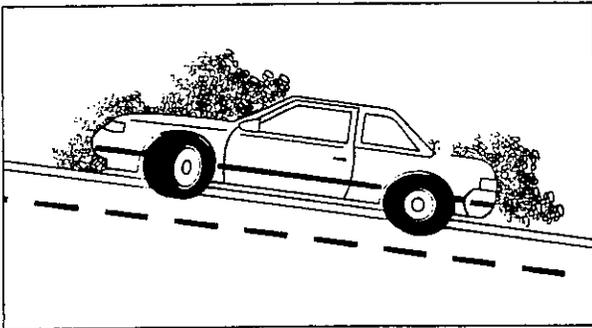
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Instructor's Notes and Comments

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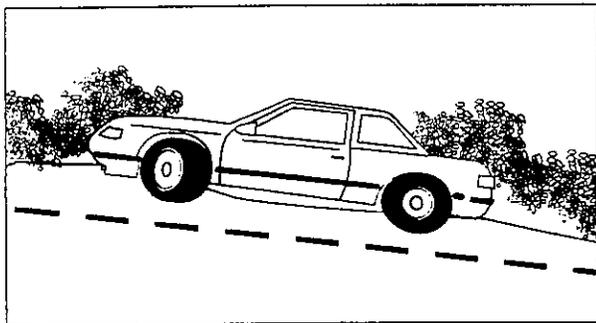
In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Uphill Parking with a Curb

- 1. Using personal reference points, position your vehicle close to the curb. Just before stopping, turn the steering wheel sharply left.
- 2. Shift to NEUTRAL. Let the vehicle creep back slowly until the back of the right-front tire gently touches the curb.
- 3. Shift to PARK (FIRST in a stickshift), and set the parking brake.
- 4. When leaving the parking space, signal, check traffic, and accelerate gently into the lane of traffic.



Uphill Parking with No Curb

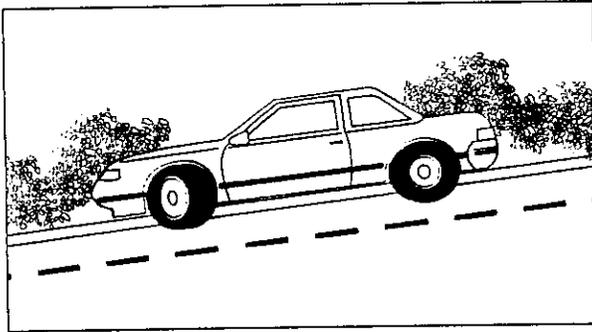
- 1. Pull as far off the roadway as possible. Just before you stop, turn the steering wheel sharply right.
- 2. Shift to PARK (FIRST in a stickshift), and set the parking brake.
- 3. When leaving the parking space, let the vehicle creep backward while straightening the wheels. Signal and check traffic. Shift to DRIVE (FIRST in a stickshift), and accelerate gently into traffic.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Name _____ Date _____

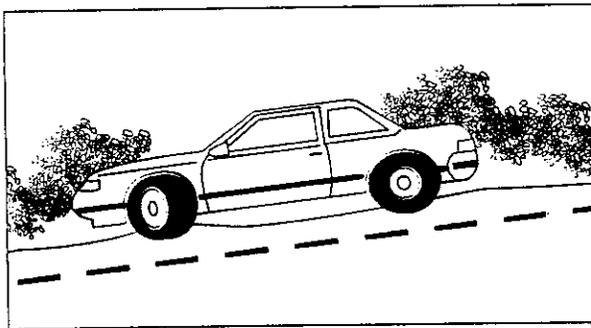
In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Downhill Parking with a Curb

1. Position your vehicle close to the curb and stop.
2. Let the vehicle creep forward slowly while turning the steering wheel sharply right. Let the right-front tire rest gently against the curb.
3. Shift to PARK (REVERSE in a stickshift), and set the parking brake.
4. When leaving the parking space, check traffic and back a short distance while straightening the wheels. Signal and check traffic again. Shift to DRIVE (FIRST in a stickshift), and accelerate into traffic.



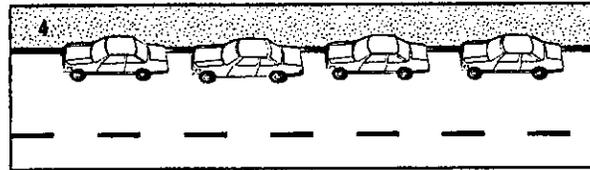
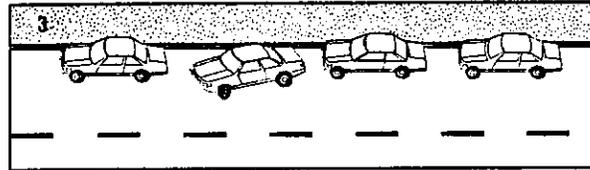
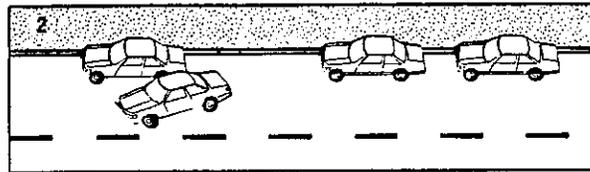
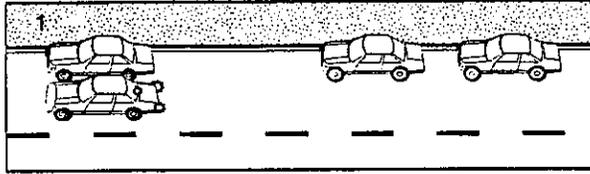
Downhill Parking with No Curb

1. Follow the same procedure as downhill parking with a curb. Turn wheels sharply right as you creep as near to the shoulder as possible.
2. Shift to PARK (REVERSE in a stickshift), and set the parking brake.
3. When leaving the parking space, use the same procedures as downhill parking with a curb.

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Instructor's Notes and Comments

**Performing Basic
Vehicle Maneuvers**



Parallel Parking

Select a space that is five to six feet longer than your vehicle. During the maneuver, the front of your vehicle will swing far to the left. Check over your left shoulder to be sure this needed space is clear.

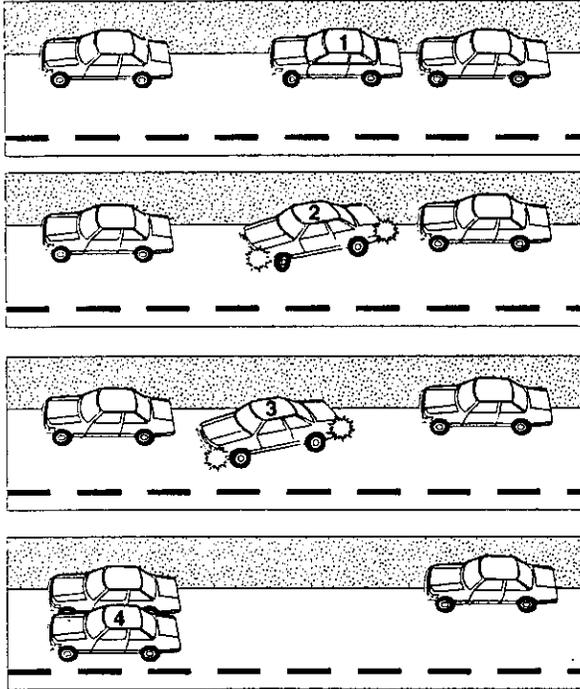
- 1. Flash brake lights, and signal a right turn. Stop two to three feet away from the front vehicle with the two rear bumpers even. Shift to REVERSE. Check traffic. Look back over your right shoulder. Back slowly as you turn right. Aim toward the right-rear corner of the space. Control speed with your foot brake (clutch at friction point in a stickshift vehicle).
- 2. When the back of your seat is even with the rear bumper of the front vehicle, straighten the wheels. Determine your personal reference point for this position. Slowly back straight. Look over your shoulder, through the rear window.
- 3. When your front bumper is even with the front vehicle's back bumper, turn your wheels sharply left. Back slowly. Look out the rear window.
- 4. When your vehicle is parallel to the curb, straighten wheels and stop before you touch the vehicle behind. Develop reference points to know your distance from the curb and from the vehicle behind you. Slowly pull forward to center your vehicle in the space.

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Instructor's Notes and Comments

Name _____ Date _____

In-Car Checklist

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



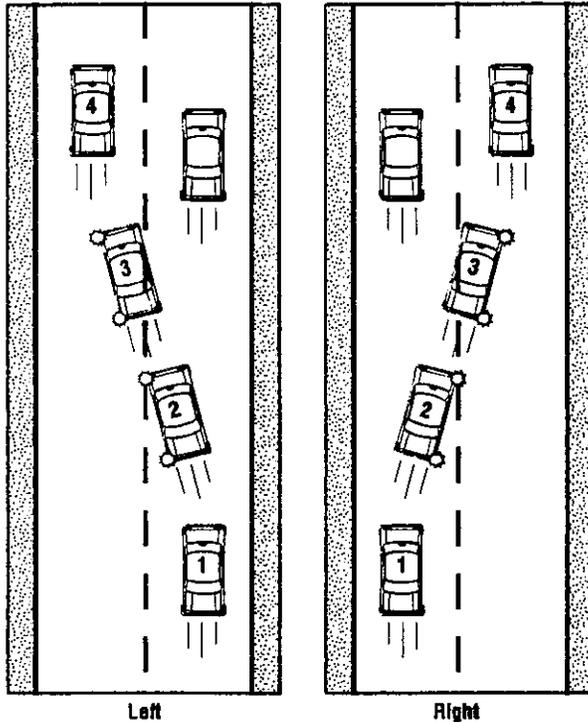
Leaving a Parallel Parking Space

You are responsible for avoiding a collision when leaving a parallel parking space. Yield to all traffic.

- 1. Back straight slowly until your rear bumper almost touches the vehicle behind.
- 2. Signal a left turn. Turn wheels sharply left. Check your left blind spot. Move forward slowly.
- 3. Check the right-front corner of your vehicle for clearance.
- 4. Turn your wheels slowly to the right when you are halfway out of the parking space. Scan front zones and accelerate gently as you center your vehicle in the traffic lane.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Performing Basic Vehicle Maneuvers



Changing Lanes

Follow these steps when making a lane change to the left:

- 1. Check traffic in the front and left-front zones. Check rear zones through the rearview mirrors.
- 2. Signal and make a blind-spot check over your left shoulder to see if any vehicle is about to pass you.
- 3. Increase your speed slightly as you steer smoothly into the next lane if it is clear.
- 4. Cancel your signal and adjust your speed.

Follow the same procedure when making a lane change to the right, with one exception. After checking traffic ahead and through both mirrors, check the blind-spot area over your right shoulder. Take only a glance to make the check. Be careful not to pull the steering wheel to the right as you turn to glance over your right shoulder. Keep steering straight as you check your blind spot. If the lane is clear, complete the lane change to the right the same way you would make a lane change to the left.

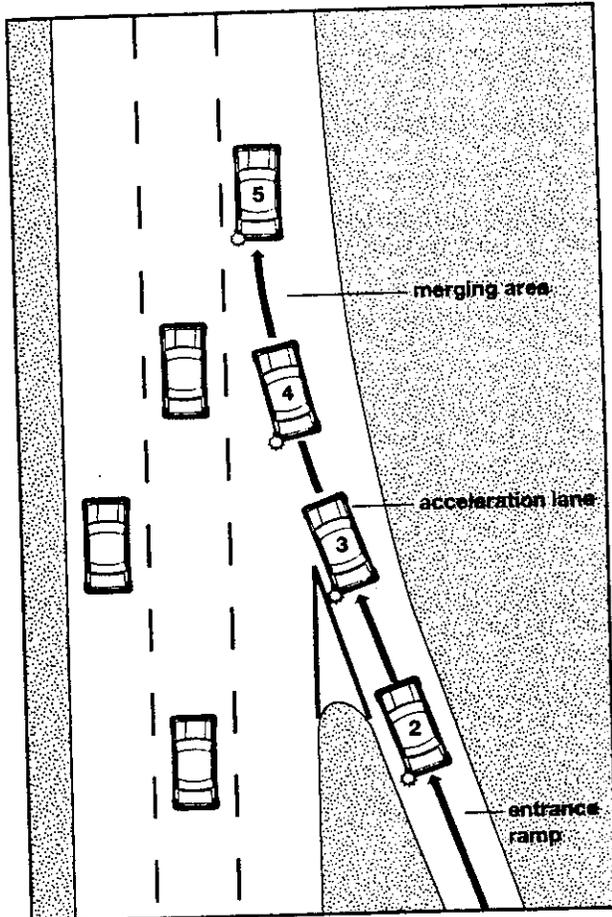
Instructor's Notes and Comments

Name _____

Date _____

In-Car Checklist

Driving on Expressways

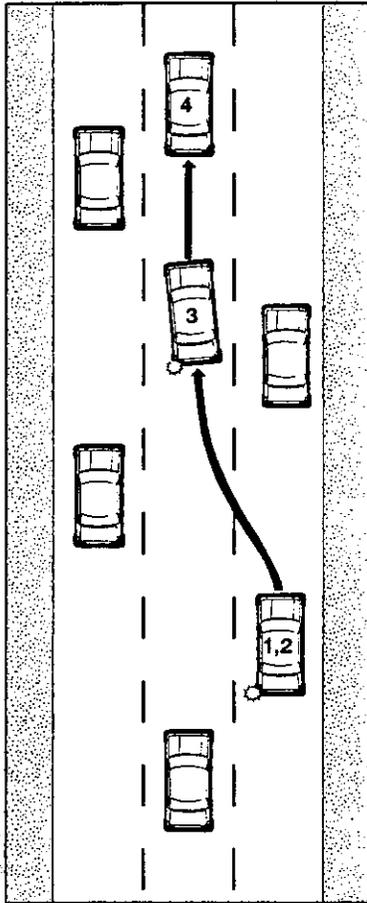


Steps for Entering

1. Make sure the entrance is the one you want. Look for a red and white WRONG WAY or DO NOT ENTER sign.
2. Once on the entrance ramp, check your front and rear zones. Signal and take quick glances through your left outside rearview mirror and over your left shoulder to find a gap in traffic where you can safely merge. Look for an entrance ramp signal light and be prepared to stop if it is red.
3. Once you are in the acceleration lane, gradually increase your speed. Continue to quickly glance over your left shoulder and through your outside rearview mirror. Decide when it is a safe time and place to merge into the gap in traffic.
4. Before entering the merging area, decide which vehicle to follow in the flow of the expressway traffic. As you enter the merging area, adjust your speed to match the traffic flow. Position your vehicle at a safe interval behind the vehicle you plan to follow. Merge smoothly.
5. Once on the expressway, cancel your signal and maintain the speed of traffic. Keep a space cushion around your vehicle.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Driving on Expressways



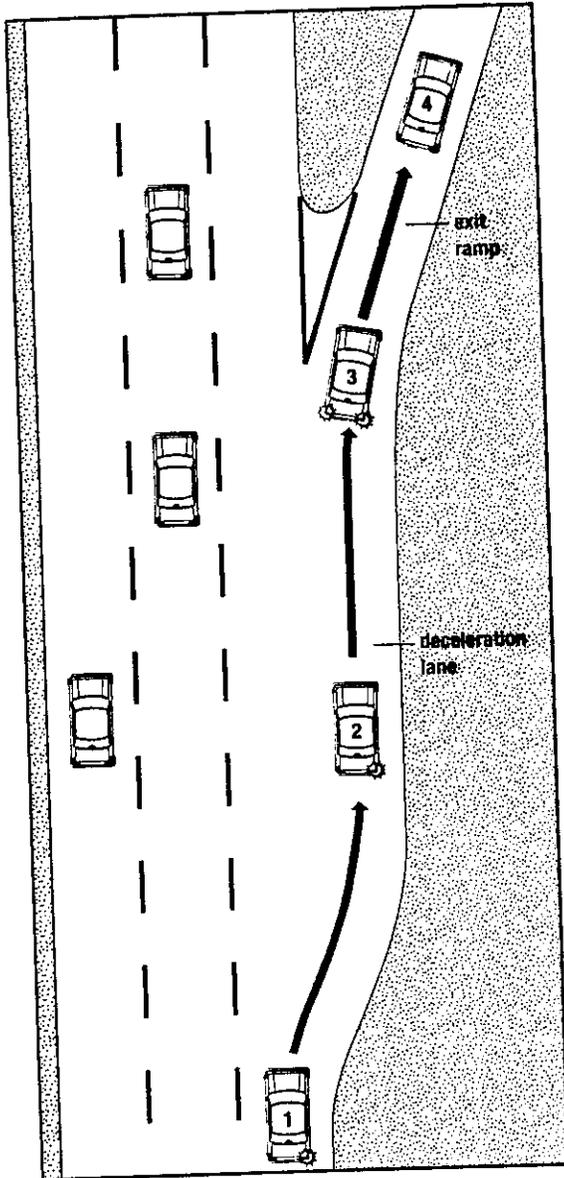
Lane Changing

Avoid changing lanes too often. Unnecessary weaving from once lane to another can lead to a collision.

- 1. Change lanes one lane at a time. Signal every lane change, whether or not other vehicles are present.
- 2. Check traffic in both rear view mirrors. Check the blind-spot area in the direction you want to move.
- 3. If your path is clear, accelerate gently and move to the next lane.
- 4. Cancel your signal after you have changed lanes.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Driving on Expressways



Steps for Exiting

- 1. At least one-half mile before the exit, check front and rear zones for traffic. Signal and move into lane position 3 in the lane that leads into the deceleration lane. Change only one lane at a time. Avoid last-second decisions and sudden moves. Do not reduce your speed until you are in the deceleration lane.
- 2. Move into the deceleration lane. Cancel your signal.
- 3. Flash your brake lights to warn drivers behind that you are slowing. Check your rear zones so you will know the speed of following traffic. Slow gradually and keep a safe space cushion ahead and behind you.
- 4. Identify the exit-ramp speed sign. Check your own speed, and adjust to the posted speed limit. Predict a STOP or YIELD sign at the end of the exit ramp.

Be alert when entering traffic on a local highway or street after leaving the expressway. Expect two-way traffic, pedestrians, intersections, and the need for lower speeds. Check your speedometer frequently and be alert for the typical hazards of two-way streets and roads.

Instructor's Notes and Comments

Driving Notes and Comments:

