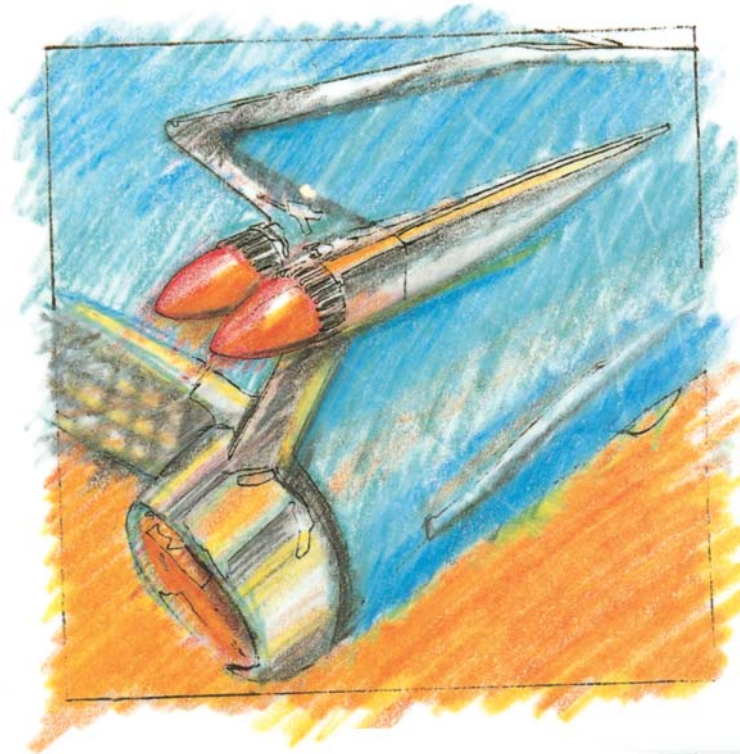




Cars: The Road Test



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What the Examination Involves

Vision Test

Your eyes will be tested by a mechanical device. If you need glasses, you will be required to wear them while driving. Your license will be coded for corrective lenses.

Knowledge Test

This test consists of a series of questions about your responsibility as a driver, including knowledge of laws and safe driving practices.

You must also know the meaning of standard road signs. To learn more about road signs, please refer to the “Traffic Signs, Signals and Markings” chapter of this book.

Road Test

Of course your car must be in safe driving condition before you can be given the test. The examiner will direct you to make certain starts, stops, turns and maneuvers that will help him determine whether you can handle a vehicle safely.

Parallel Parking

You will see an example of the proper way to parallel park your car or truck. Study this drawing, then practice many times doing what it tells you. Look back before and while backing your car.

Stopping Smoothly

You must be able to stop your car or truck as quickly and smoothly as possible, without stalling the engine. The examiner will be instructing you in this driving maneuver.

Backing

You must back your car for a distance of 100 feet at a slow rate of speed and as straight and smooth as possible. Turn your head and look back before and while backing. Be sure the way is clear of any other traffic. You will be required to pull off the road or turn your wheels full lock left or right before backing.

Stopping at Stop Signs

You must give the proper hand or brake signal, approach the sign in the proper lane, and stop before reaching a stop line or a pedestrian crosswalk. Remain stopped until you may proceed safely.



Turning Around

You must be able to execute a three-point turn on a street of average width, without hitting the curb, driving off the road surface or using a driveway.

Proper Clutching

If your car or truck has manual transmission, you will be asked to show the proper way to use it. You must hold the clutch all the way down when starting the motor and shifting gears. Do not ride with your foot resting on the clutch.

Approaching Corners

You must get in the proper lane, decrease the speed of your vehicle and look in both directions, making certain that the way is clear before entering the intersection.

Yielding the Right of Way

Always yield the right of way to pedestrians, motor vehicles, bicyclists, or anyone else who has moved into an intersection before you.

Stopping on Grades

You will be asked to stop correctly on a hill. If your car has a stick shift, it should be left in first or reverse.

Starting on Grades

Give appropriate signal, look back over your left shoulder, and when the way is clear, pull slowly into the street or highway.

Turning

Get into the proper lane and give a signal for at least 100 feet (about one fourth of an average city block) before reaching the intersection and making the turn.

Passing

Always look ahead and behind you to make certain no other vehicles are so near to you that it would be dangerous to pass. When necessary for warning another vehicle of your intention to pass, sound your horn. Carefully check the traffic. When the way is clear, signal your intent to pass, pull out of your lane to pass and then speed up a little so that you can get around the other car or truck as quickly and safely as possible. However, do not exceed the speed limit.





Railroad Crossings

You may have to demonstrate how to cross railroad tracks during the road test.

Using The Horn

The horn must be used only when necessary to warn pedestrians, motorcyclists, bicyclists, or others who share the road with you. Do not use the horn to signal friends or to hurry other drivers.

Maintaining Good Posture

You will be expected to maintain good posture while taking your road exam. This means having the seat adjusted so that you are able to reach the various foot pedals, as well as the steering wheel, gear shift lever and turn signal lever. Also, you must be able to see without obstruction in all directions at all times.

Steering a Vehicle

Steering

The steering wheel is always turned in the direction you want the vehicle to move, whether moving forward or in reverse. Both hands should be placed on the outside of the steering wheel on opposite sides. Your grip on the steering wheel should be firm but gentle. Use your fingers instead of the palms of your hands and keep your thumbs up along the face of the steering wheel. Never turn the wheel while gripping it from the inside of the rim.

The proper grip on the steering wheel of a vehicle is extremely important. Think of the steering wheel as the face of a clock. Place your left hand at the 7 to 9 o'clock position and your right hand at the 3 to 5 o'clock position. Your grip should be firm but not too tight. Both of your hands should remain on the steering wheel at all times except when one hand is performing some other necessary function of driving such as shifting gears or giving hand signals for turning, slowing or stopping.

It takes practice to get the "feel" of the vehicle you are handling. When you are first learning to handle your car or truck, choose rural roads that are lightly traveled, when possible. After you feel you can steer the car accurately, making the tiny adjustments that are constantly necessary in steering, then you will be ready to practice other driving techniques such as turning and parking.



Hand-to-Hand Steering

Use hand-to-hand steering, commonly called push/pull steering, when turning the wheel during normal driving activity going forward above 10-15 mph. When using hand-to-hand steering your left hand grasps the wheel between 7 and 8 o'clock and your right hand grasps the wheel between 4 and 5 o'clock. Depending on the direction of the turn, your right or left hand pushes the wheel up and the opposite hand slides up, grasps the wheel and pulls down to continue the turn. While the pulling hand moves down, the hand that initially pushed up slides back toward its original position to make adjustments as needed. The driver should use the area on the wheel between 11 and 8 o'clock with the left hand and the area on the wheel between 1 and 8 o'clock with the right hand regardless of the direction of the turn. Simply reverse the hand-to-hand process to bring the vehicle into your intended path.

With your left hand positioned in the area between 7 and 9 o'clock and your right hand positioned in the area between 3 and 5 o'clock there tends to be less muscle stress; therefore, less steering causing any weaving in a lane. With your arms next to your body, it is more natural to keep both of your hands on the wheel at all times. Since your hands and arms never cross over the steering wheel, there is less chance of injury to the face, hands and arms in the event of a frontal crash when a vehicle is equipped with a driver side air bag. This is the preferred method of steering, 2 and 10 o'clock is not recommended because it can be dangerous in vehicles equipped with air bags.





Hand-Over-Hand Steering

Use hand-over-hand steering when turning the wheel at low speeds, such as at an intersection or when parking the vehicle. When using hand-over-hand steering, your left hand grasps the steering wheel between 8 and 9 o'clock and your right hand grasps the wheel between 3 and 4 o'clock. Depending on the direction of the turn, use the right top third of the steering wheel to move the wheel to the right and use the left top third of the wheel to move the wheel to the left. This process is repeated as necessary. Simply reverse the hand-over-hand process to bring the vehicle into your intended path.



Evasive Action Steering

When anti-lock brakes are engaged (if equipped) and steering inputs are required to avoid a hazard or the vehicle is forced off the roadway, it may be necessary to limit the steering input to avoid moving out of the intended lane of travel and across other lanes of travel. This evasive action/limited steering approach has been recommended with dealing with these problem areas since 1969. Vehicles designed after 1969 allow the vehicle to move 12 feet to the left or right at speeds under 35 with a 180 degree steering input to move the front of the vehicle, followed by a 360 degree input to move the back of the vehicle, followed by a 180 degree steering input to return the vehicle to a straight position without losing traction to the tires. As speeds increase much less steering input is needed to move the vehicle one lane space to the left or right. Modern vehicles only take 45 to 90 degrees of steering to move a vehicle back on the road after an off-road encounter. It is critical to limit the steering to not more than 180 degrees of steering when trying to evade a problem on the roadway. When more than 180 degrees of input is used, traction loss occurs and often the vehicle moves across the roadway in the approach of oncoming vehicles.



One Hand Steering

Use one hand steering only when backing or operating vehicle controls (wipers, flashers, lights, etc.) that require a temporary reach from the steering wheel. The placement of one hand on the steering wheel is critical to vehicle balance, steering reversals and avoiding potential injury. When the driver is required to reach for an operating control, it is important to keep the other hand in the normal vehicle operating position of 8-9 o'clock or 3-4 o'clock, depending on the steering wheel design. This keeps vehicle stability, reduces steering reversals and allows for additional steering efforts as needed. The only time that 12 o'clock is recommended is when backing a vehicle to the left or right and the driver has to turn in the seat in order to see the path of travel to the rear.

Manual Transmission

Driving a car with a manual transmission requires coordination of clutch, accelerator, and gearshift lever.

Using the Clutch

The clutch pedal must always be pressed down to the floor before starting the engine, before shifting, and before coming to a stop. Depressing the clutch disconnects the engine from the wheels and takes the car out of gear. At other times when driving, keep your foot off the clutch pedal. The habit of "riding the clutch," driving with the left foot resting lightly on the clutch pedal, causes needless clutch wear.

Shifting should be done smoothly from one position to the next and always with the clutch depressed to the floor. The speeds given for shifting are only intended to be guidelines.

Using Stick-shift Gears

Neutral: Car should be in this gear when starting engine.

First: This gear is used to start the car in motion. First can also be used for driving up or down very steep hills, for driving in mud, snow or ice, and for pulling heavy loads.

Second: This gear is used to bring the car up to a higher speed. It may also be used for steep hills or for driving in snow or ice.

Third: This gear in a three-speed transmission is used for steady forward driving. In a four-speed transmission, third is used to accelerate.

Fourth: This position is used on all level roads.

Fifth: This gear, in some cars, is also a cruising gear for higher speeds on level roads.



Reverse: This gear is used for backing the car. Never shift to reverse when the car is moving.

Starting The Engine

The following procedure is used to start a car with manual transmission:

1. Make sure parking brake is on.
2. Press clutch pedal to the floor with your left foot.
3. Put gearshift lever in neutral.
4. Turn on the ignition switch, and check the bulbs in the warning lights to make sure they work.
5. Turn the key forward only until engine starts.
6. Check gauges.

Putting The Car In Motion

1. With clutch pedal to the floor, move the lever from neutral to first gear.
2. Depress the foot brake and release the parking brake.
3. Signal. Check for traffic in both mirrors.
4. Check traffic ahead and behind by glancing over your left shoulder.
5. If clear, accelerate slightly, and release the clutch slowly. If you release it suddenly, the car will jerk forward and the engine may stall. You will feel the engine take hold and begin to move the car. The point where the engine takes hold is called the friction point.
6. Hold the clutch momentarily at the friction point.
7. Gradually press down on the accelerator, and let the clutch up all the way.


Shifting From First To Second

At about 10 to 15 m.p.h., use the following steps to shift from first to second gear:

1. Press the clutch down.
2. Release the accelerator.
3. Move the gearshift lever into second. A slight pause as you go across neutral into second will help you shift smoothly.
4. Accelerate gently as you release the clutch, hesitating briefly at the friction point.

Stopping From Upper Gears

When stopping from third, fourth or fifth gear, always use the brake pedal first to slow down before pressing down the clutch. By keeping the car in gear, the engine helps slow the car. In an



emergency, applying the brakes without using the clutch at all will stop the car. Follow these steps to stop the upper gears.

1. Check mirrors for traffic.
2. Let up on the accelerator.
3. Tap brake lightly to signal for a stop.
4. Brake gradually.
5. Press clutch pedal down.
6. Brake to a smooth stop. Shift into first or the proper gear when stopped.

Downshifting

Downshifting means shifting from a higher gear to a lower gear. The engine has greater pulling power in lower gears than in higher ones. If you have slowed down to about 15 m.p.h. in a 3-speed transmission and need to regain speed, you must downshift from third to second gear. Depress the clutch and shift to second gear. Accelerate gradually and let the clutch out, pausing briefly at the friction point. Depress the clutch and shift back into third gear when proper speed has been obtained.

You should downshift for added control, as when slowing down before entering a very sharp turn. Downshifting can also be used for extra pulling power when climbing long or steep hills. Downshift just before the engine begins to labor. Don't wait until it has almost stalled.

Using second gear going down a long or steep hill saves wear on the brakes, since the engine helps slow the car down. Let the clutch out after every downshift.

Turning Your Vehicle

There are certain things to do when making a turn:

1. Decide in advance where you want to turn. Never make a "last minute" decision to turn. It is too dangerous.
2. Look behind you and to both sides to see where other cars (or people) are, to determine if it is safe to turn. A "last-minute" decision does not allow you time to take these steps.
3. Signal first and then move into the proper lane. Use directional signals if your vehicle is so equipped; if not, use hand signals. Some very safety conscious drivers use both mechanical and hand signals for added protection. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should get into the proper lane for the turn you plan to make. The law requires you to signal at least 100 feet before making any kind of turn.



4. Slow down before reaching a crosswalk at an intersection. Make certain no pedestrians are in the way before you turn. Keep a constant speed and follow pavement markings in making a turn. Always finish your turn in

Handling Your Vehicle in Turning

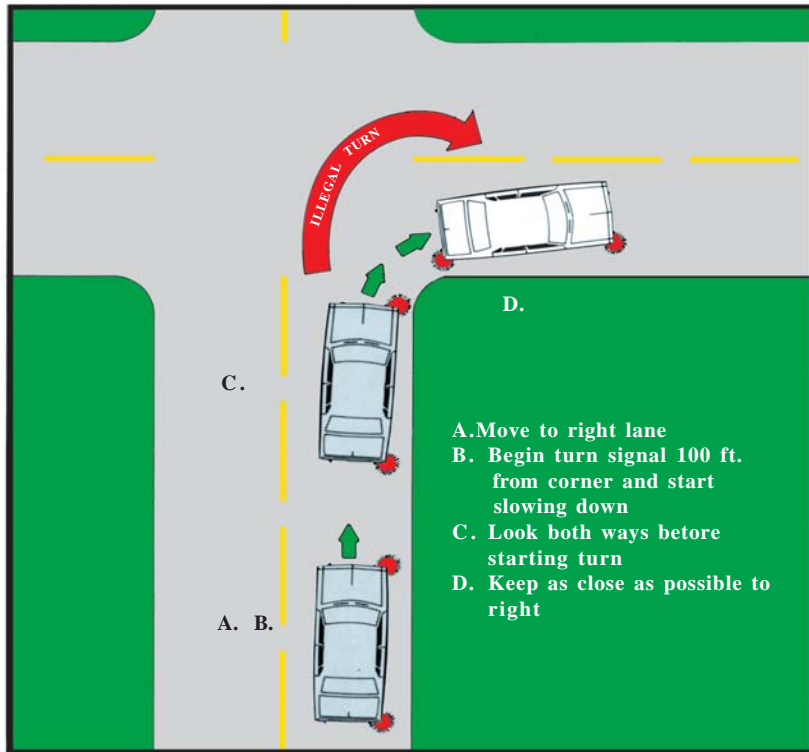
First, let's describe the proper way to handle a car with a straight gear shift since it involves more actions on the driver's part. In slowing down, chances are you will need to shift into second gear to maintain a constant speed. Some drivers get in the habit of leaving their left foot on the clutch or "riding it" as the turn is being made. Take your foot completely off the clutch and after you have made your turn and are ready to return to your normal speed, then push the clutch and shift to high gear.

If your vehicle has an automatic transmission, then the action described above is not required.

It is important for anyone making a turn of any kind to keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times. Steer your car in the proper lane.

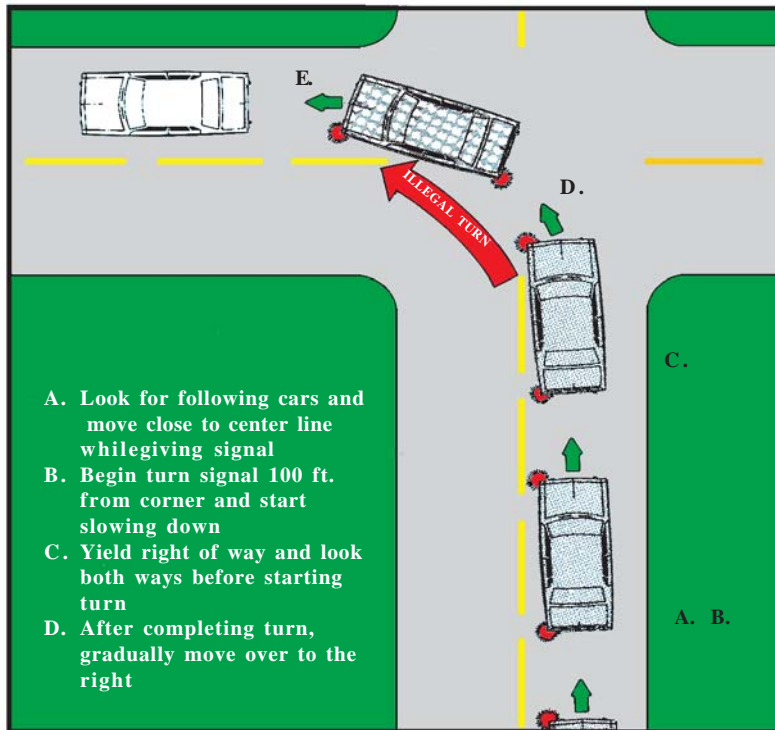
Right Turns

When you prepare to make a right turn, signal at least 100 feet ahead and approach the corner slowly, staying close to the right curb or edge of the roadway. Watch for people getting out of cars and opening car doors. Remain close to the right curb, or parked cars at the curb, while making your turn so that you will be in the right lane when the turn is completed.



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Left Turns

A left turn often takes more preparation than a right turn. You must think far enough ahead to get into the lane nearest the center of the road. Signal at least 100 feet ahead. Before turning, check traffic behind and in front of you. Make sure that no one is trying to pass you. Then enter the intersection from the lane nearest to the center line. Then turn into the lane nearest and to the right of the center line. Yield to pedestrians and oncoming traffic.

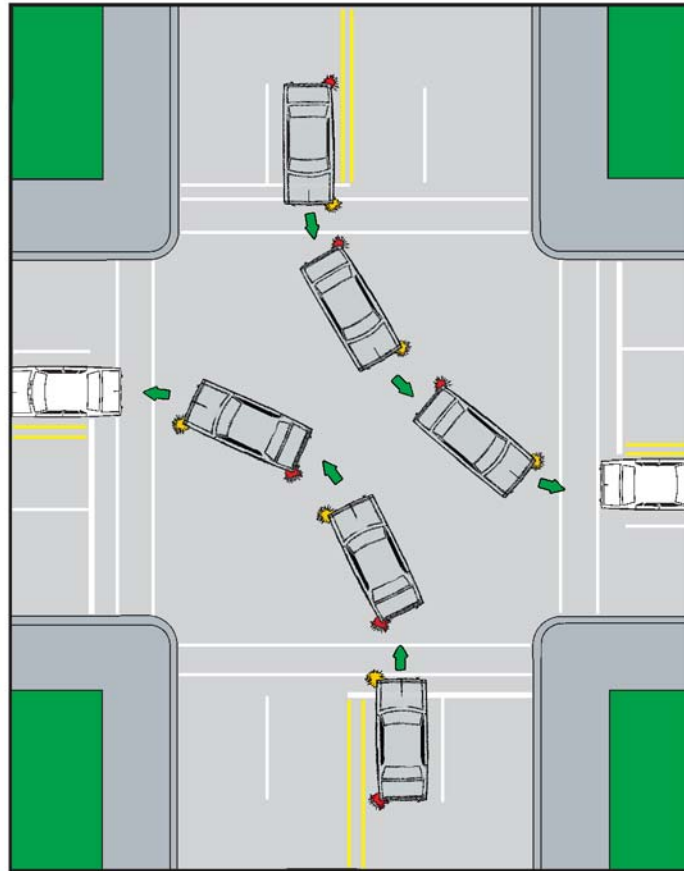
On a two-lane highway, the left turn should be made from as near the center line as possible and then follow the steps in the preceding paragraph.

Should the light turn red when you are in the intersection about to turn left, complete the turn when approaching traffic has cleared.

Left Turn-Two Vehicles

When you are meeting another driver at an intersection and both of you want to make a left turn onto the same street but going in opposite directions, then each should pass to the left of center of the intersection. It is illegal to make a left turn by keeping to the right of the center of the intersection, unless impractical to do otherwise or traffic control devices require a different path.





The above illustration shows the proper way for two cars to make a left turn in opposite directions. The cars should pass each other on the left side of the center of the intersection.

Left Turns-Non Intersection

At locations between intersections, left turns are made with the same preparation and precaution as at an intersection location. Solid yellow lines in your lane prohibit passing but may be crossed to enter driveways. On some streets there will be a "median" from which you should make your left turn, out of the way of other traffic. If there is a raised or grassed median, it will be necessary for you to use paved spaces to make your turn.

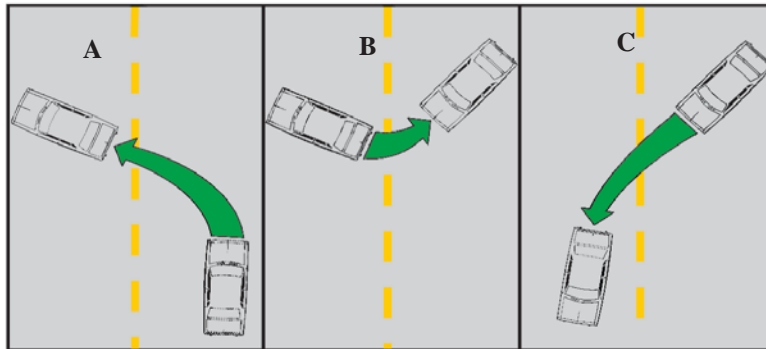
A two-way left-turn is a special lane marked for left turns by motorists traveling in opposite directions. When such a lane is designated by traffic-control devices, a left turn may be made only from this lane and may be driven in only when preparing for and making a left turn.





No Turns

You must never turn around while on or near any curve or hill. Your car or truck must be seen by other drivers approaching from either direction for at least 500 feet. Furthermore, when a turnaround or U-turn is not otherwise prohibited, you may not turn to proceed in the opposite direction unless the turn may be made safely and without interfering with other traffic.



- A. Give proper signal and stop the vehicle close to the right edge of the pavement. Check traffic by looking over your left shoulder to see traffic behind you and cautiously turn the steering wheel all the way to left. Pull forward to the left.
- B. Back toward the opposite side of street.
- C. Pull car into proper lane.

Three-Point Turn

Never turn around on a busy street. It is better to circle an entire city block.

1. Give proper signal and stop close to the right edge of the pavement.
2. Look over your left shoulder and check traffic behind you. Do not depend on your rearview mirror alone; be sure the way is clear both ahead and behind.
3. Signal for a left turn. Then follow the steps in the illustration above. You will hear this type of turn referred to as a three-point or "Y" turn, as shown in the illustration.

When performing this maneuver, all approaching traffic will have the right of way. The three-point turn must be performed without hitting the curb, driving off the road surface, or using a side street or driveway.



When To Use Your Horn

The horn of your vehicle should be used for warning purposes. Be on alert to sound your horn to get the attention of pedestrians and motorists.

Signals For Stops, Lane Changes And Turns

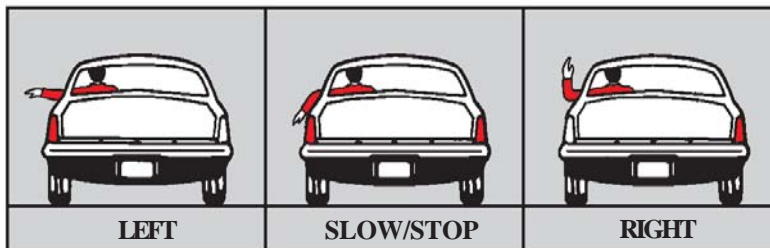
You must give a proper signal for any change in direction or lane, or for stopping, by either mechanical or hand signals. Make certain your mechanical signals are in good working order.

The proper signals should always be used in driving from a curbside parallel parking space into the flow of traffic, and also in moving over into another lane or to pass another vehicle. The proper signals should be given when returning to the right lane.

South Carolina laws require most types of vehicles to be equipped with signal lights and that drivers know the correct hand signals that apply to turning and stopping. They are:

1. Left turn: Hand and arm extended straight out.
2. Stop or decreased speed: Hand and arm extended downward.
3. Right turn: Hand and arm extended upward.

These hand signals are recognized nationally. Extend your arm well out of the car window when giving signals. Turn signals must be given at least 100 feet in advance.



It is illegal to flash turn signals:

1. On one side on a disabled vehicle.
2. As a “do pass” signal to other drivers.
3. Because the vehicle in front is going to turn.
4. On a parked vehicle unless preparing to start off.

When driving, never put your hand out of the window except to give a signal. Keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times and be ready to stop in an emergency.



Stopping

You must stop:

1. At an intersection or railroad crossing controlled by a stop sign.
2. When a traffic officer orders you to stop.
3. When there is a “yield” sign on the road you are traveling and traffic on the intersecting road is too close for you to enter safely. Once the way is clear, then proceed. A yield sign may also be seen at a railroad crossing. In that instance, you must yield if there is an approaching train.
4. When coming from an alley, private driveway or building in a residential or business district, before driving across the sidewalk.
5. Where there is a traffic signal and the light is red. Wait until the light is green before moving ahead. The green light, however, does not automatically give you the right of way. It is an invitation to proceed when the intersection is clear. Most accidents at traffic signals occur in the first few seconds of change. One driver fails to observe an error made by another. When a yellow light shows, following a green light, you should prepare to stop. If you are already in the intersection, clear the intersection as quickly as possible.
6. Where there is a flashing red light.
7. At a bridge span that is about to open for boat traffic.
8. When a pedestrian is using a white cane.
9. When an approaching authorized emergency vehicle (fire truck, ambulance, police car, etc.) gives visual and/or audible signals, after first driving your vehicle to the right side of the road as far as is practical.

You should not stop when meeting a funeral procession, unless you are required to do so by a police officer, but continue driving with caution.

Four-Way or Multi-Way Stops

The most common usage of stop signs is found at the intersection of two streets where traffic on one street must stop and traffic on the other street does not, thereby favoring the flow of traffic on the more important street.

Another situation is at an intersection where all streets have stop signs. When this occurs, a sign reading “4-way” or “Multi-Way” is added to the stop signs. A motorist arriving at the intersection must yield the right of way to motorists who arrived before him, waiting his turn to enter the intersection. If two motorists arrive at the same time, if on different streets, the driver on the left should yield to the driver on



the right; or if on the same street, a driver desiring to turn left should yield to the driver from the opposite direction.

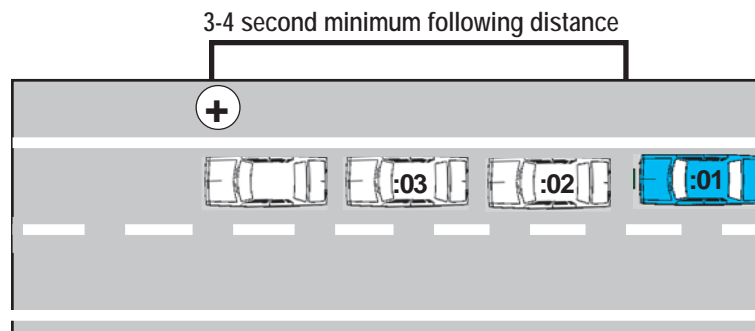
Following Other Cars

Rear-end crashes are very common at intersections and they can be avoided. The leading cause for these crashes is following other vehicles too closely.

When following another vehicle on any street or highway, use a minimum of three to four second following interval. If any unusual conditions exist, such as rainy weather or increased traffic, add an additional second.

To give yourself a three to four second following distance from the vehicle ahead of you, watch as the vehicle passes a stationary object such as a sign, pole or tree. Count the seconds it takes you to reach that the same point (“One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three). If you pass the object before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

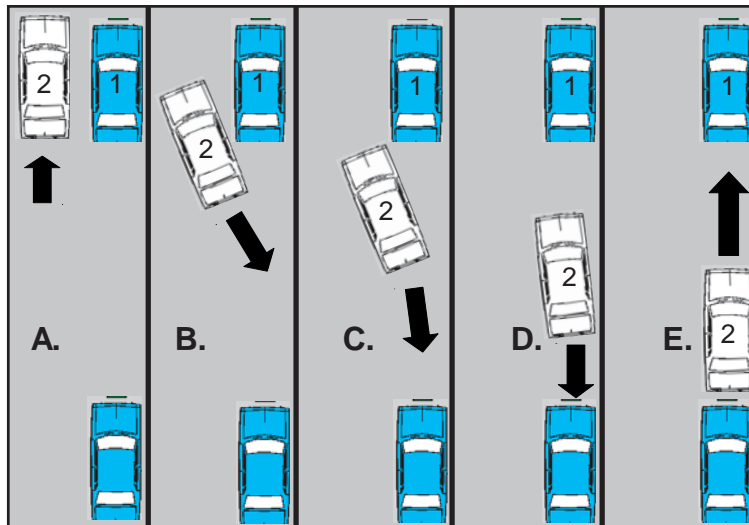
Always drive more slowly and allow more following distance when pavement is wet or icy and when driving in fog.





Parking

When parking parallel, you must maneuver your vehicle so that it is not more than 18 inches from the curb. Be sure to center your car in the parking space, clearly between the lines. Study the diagram before attempting to parallel park. When leaving a parking place, signal, use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to check traffic. Yield right of way.



- A. Car 2 pulls even with car 1
- B. Car 2 maneuvers gently toward the space
- C. Car 2 turns wheels sharply
- D. Car 2 begins straightening wheels
- E. Wheels on car 2 should be straight unless parking on a hill

Angle Parking

This is perhaps the easiest type of parking. Your only task is to drive your car into the parking space, which has lines on both sides, without touching either line. This type of parking does present greater hazards when you are backing out.

Parking On Hills

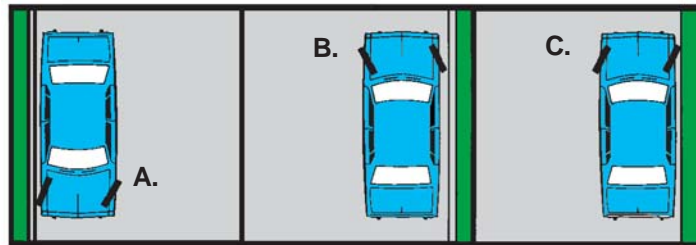
When parking on hills, you should do the following:

1. Headed downhill, with or without curb: turn wheels to the right (except when parking left on a one way- street).
2. Headed uphill, with curb: turn wheels to the center of the street with the back of the front tire against the curb.
3. Headed uphill, without a curb: turn wheels to the right so that the vehicle will roll off the road if the brakes fail.





In each case, the parking brakes should be set, the vehicle placed in the proper gear or park and the engine turned off. For a manual transmission, the car should be set in first or reverse. When leaving a parking space, signal, use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to check traffic. Yield right of way.



- A. Downhill with or without a curb, turn wheels toward curb
B. Uphill with curb, turn wheels away from curb
C. Uphill without curb, turn wheels to the right

Yielding Right of Way

Although there are laws governing right of way, you should never “demand” your rights in these situations, putting the fact that you are “right” ahead of your own safety and the safety of others. As a matter of fact, the law does not give anyone the right of way. It states only who does not have it. A good safety rule is to slow down before entering an intersection, look carefully to avoid a collision with other vehicles and once in an intersection, move on quickly to clear the way.

The term “right of way” refers to who shall wait and who shall yield at intersections or other places where two or more vehicles (or pedestrians) cannot all proceed at the same time.

The following rules tell you when you must yield to others or when others should yield to you.

1. When you are approaching an intersection at which there are no traffic signals or signs, you must yield to the other driver if he has already entered the intersection.
2. If two vehicles begin to enter an intersection at the same time and there are no traffic signs or signals, the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver on the right.
3. If you have entered an intersection and want to turn left, you must yield the right of way to approaching vehicles and any other vehicles already in the intersection. Make sure that no vehicle coming toward you is close enough for the turn to be dangerous.

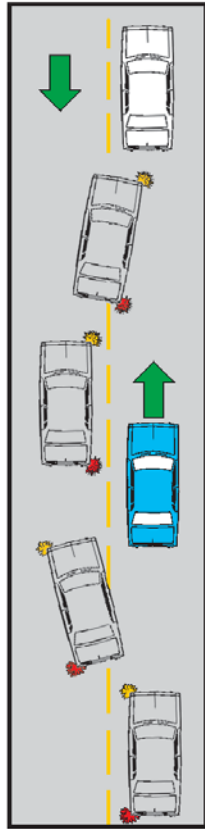


4. If you have stopped for a traffic light at an intersection and want to turn left when the green light appears, you must yield to traffic that is waiting on the opposite side of the traffic light. Never rush ahead and make a left turn in front of oncoming traffic.
5. You may turn right at a red traffic light, unless a sign prohibits it; however, you must come to a complete stop first, and then cautiously enter the intersection. You must also yield to all pedestrians and other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
6. If you are entering a street or highway from a private or side road in a rural area, you must yield to vehicles on the street or highway.
7. You are required to yield to authorized emergency vehicles, such as police cars, fire engines and ambulances, when these vehicles are giving a signal by siren or flashing lights. Pull to the right edge of the highway and stop.
8. You must yield to pedestrians who have properly entered the intersection but who have not had time to clear it. This is one of the most frequent and serious driver violations in cities and towns.
9. You must yield the right of way to school children entering or leaving a school bus.

Important Lane Passing Skills

As we continue to build more multi-lane highways, it is more important than ever to know the proper lanes for normal driving and how to safely change from one lane to another. There are different rules for passing other vehicles for two-lane, multi-lane and interstate driving.

1. On a two-lane road, it is necessary that you stay in your proper lane. To straddle the center line or drive in the oncoming traffic lane can virtually guarantee an accident. Passing on a two-lane road must be done only when you have a clear view well enough ahead of you to make certain that you can safely pass without meeting an oncoming vehicle. A solid yellow line in your lane tells you it is dangerous and illegal to pass.
2. On a highway of four or more lanes, “straddling” a lane may not only be dangerous and discourteous, but is also illegal. You may be blocking traffic behind you. Official signs or traffic lights may direct you in a certain lane. Of course, you must always obey these signals unless a law enforcement officer directs you to do otherwise.



Proper passing sequence on two-lane highway.

On conventional highways (not interstates) that have grass or concrete medians separating opposing traffic, you must cross only at the paved spaces provided for this purpose. It is illegal to cross such a median at any other place. Paved medians that are surfaced with stone or pavement similar to the traveled lanes and outlined with painted lines may be crossed unless prohibited by a sign.

It is illegal to cross the median of interstates at any place; you must use an interchange. If you go past your turnoff, you must keep going until you reach the next exit; then, taking that, you can return to where you originally wanted to exit.

On a highway with four or more lanes, slower traffic should always use the outside lane (closest to the shoulder). Traffic should use the two right hand lanes except when passing. Where traffic is heavy on all lanes, it is better to stay in your lane and move along at the speed of other traffic, not exceeding the speed limit. Avoid the dangerous practice of unnecessary lane switching.

Passing Other Vehicles

On a two-lane road where opposing traffic meets without any type of protection barrier, passing requires more thought, action and caution. After you have made certain that there is no oncoming traffic:

- Look into the rearview mirror and your outside mirror to make certain there are no vehicles attempting to pass you.
- Turn your head quickly to the left, checking the “blind spot” over your left shoulder.
- When you are sure that all these are clear, observe the vehicle you are preparing to pass and make certain he is staying in his lane.
- Give your left turn signal.
- Quickly check again to be sure there is no oncoming traffic.

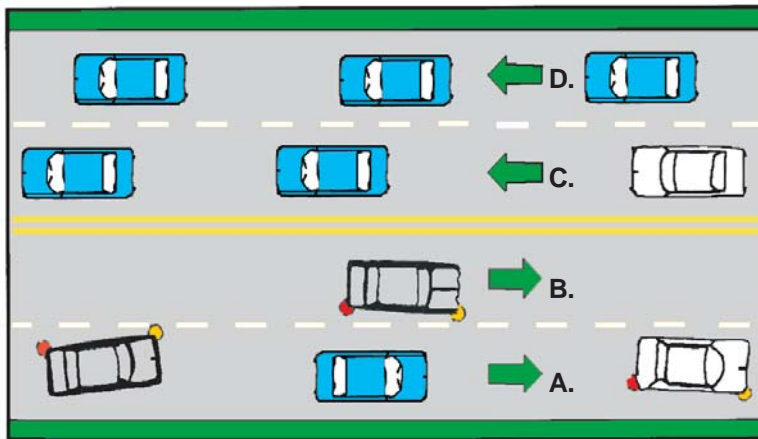




- Pull over the center line as you approach the other vehicle.
- Then go quickly around the vehicle you are passing.
If you need to exceed the speed limit to pass, you should not pass.

Wait until you can see both headlights of the other car in your rearview mirror and turn your head to check blind spots before returning to the right lane. Be sure to give a right turn signal before moving back into the right lane. Never “cut in” on the driver you have just passed.

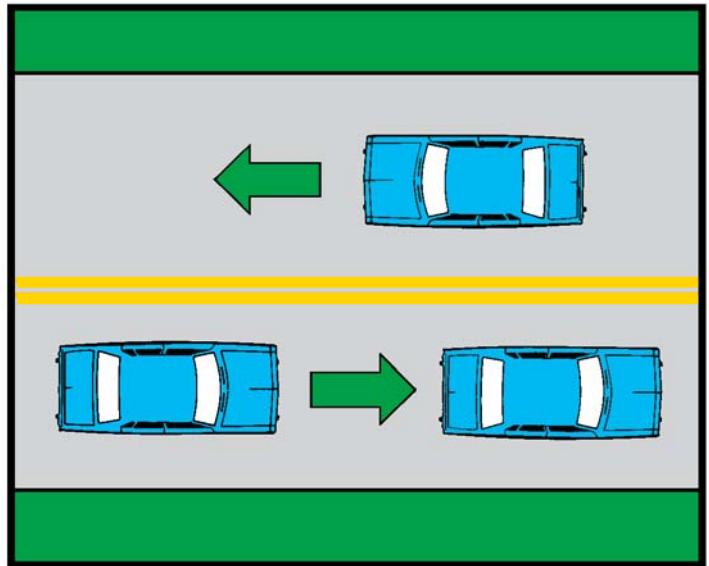
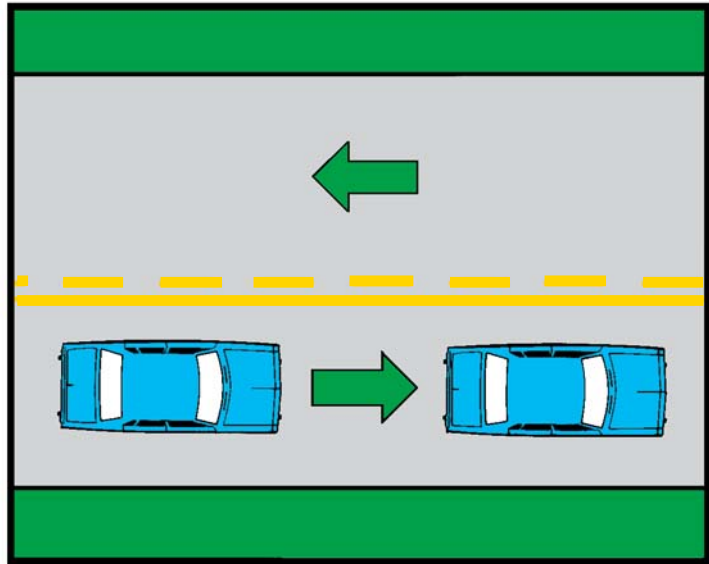
No matter what kind of road, street or highway, always observe carefully what other motorists in the area are doing when you are passing. Good drivers are constantly on the lookout for unexpected actions of other drivers and pedestrians. A particularly important thing to watch for is any indication that the driver is not aware that you are passing him. Signal and then make certain he knows your intentions.



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On a four-lane highway, slower traffic should travel in the right lane. As in lanes A and B, a motorist may pass another car or simply remain in center lane (in lane C) provided he/she is the fastest moving vehicle.





When broken yellow lines separate the lanes of traffic on a two lane highway, you can pass when there is no oncoming traffic. When a solid yellow line appears on your side of the center line (ill. A), do not pass. When there are two solid yellow lines (ill. B), passing is not permitted in either direction.



Passing On Right

In most cases you pass another vehicle by moving to the left. There are times, however, when it is permissible to pass a vehicle on the right:

1. When the other vehicle is making a left turn and there is room on the paved portion of the roadway.
2. On a street or road where the way is wide enough and clear ahead, with no parked cars obstructing the way or “hiding” pedestrians, and where the pavement is wide enough for two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction. Use caution and observe what other drivers and pedestrians are doing, so that any abrupt action on their part will not catch you unaware. Passing on the right is permissible only when movement can be made safely and without driving off the roadway.

When Being Passed

When a driver is passing you, be on guard so that you may protect yourself from any of his potentially unsafe actions. Maintain speed and position when being passed, unless the driver must return to your lane because of an oncoming car. Then slow down when he speeds up or speed up if he slows down.

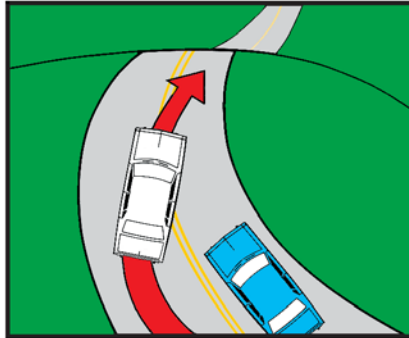
When Not to Pass

It is illegal to drive to the left of center to pass a vehicle in the following places:

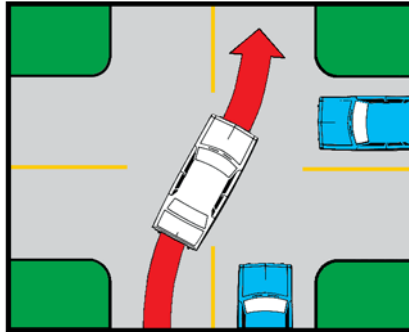
1. On a hill or a curve, or at any place where you cannot see far enough ahead to pass safely. According to the law, you must have clear passing distance so that you can pull back into the right lane at least 200 feet before meeting an oncoming vehicle.
2. At a street crossing or highway intersection.
3. At any railroad crossing.
4. When meeting another vehicle close enough to constitute a hazard.
5. Where a sign tells you not to pass.
6. When a vehicle in front of you has stopped to let a pedestrian cross (even if the pedestrian is crossing illegally).
7. In an area where road construction or maintenance work is underway and passing would be hazardous to the road workers, to you or the other motorists.
8. When a solid yellow line is in your lane.



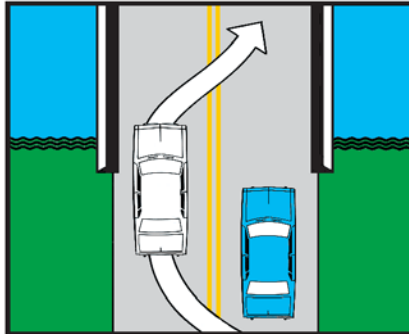
A. Do not pass on a hill



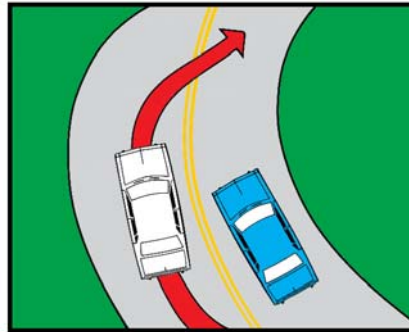
B. Do not pass at an intersection

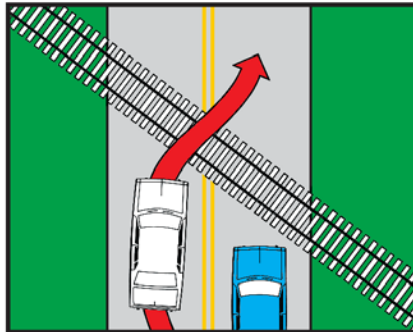


C. Do not pass within 100 feet of a bridge or tunnel when view is obstructed

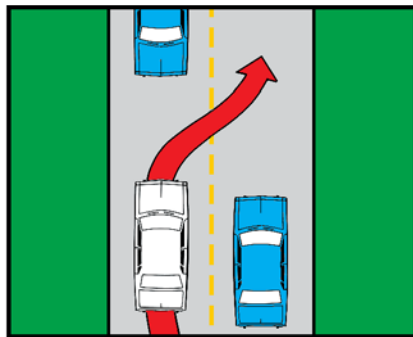


D. Do not pass on a curve





E. Do not pass near railroad crossings



F. Do not pass when there is oncoming traffic



Interstate Driving

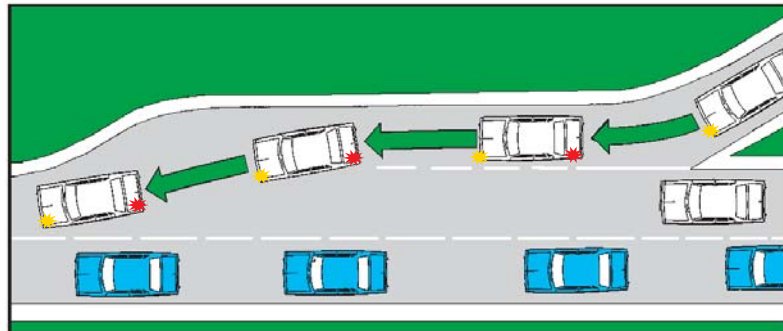
Interstates require sharp driving skills, along with more preparation, in order to drive safely. The basic feature of an interstate is that access to it is controlled. You can get on or off only at special places known as interchanges.

Entering An Interstate

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the interstate. Once on the entrance ramp, you should begin checking traffic on the interstate.

Check traffic by using your rearview mirror and outside mirror as well as quickly checking over your shoulder for the blind spot. Watch the vehicle in front to be sure it is not stopping on the entrance ramp. (Vehicles on the interstate have the right of way, but courteous drivers will permit you to move into the interstate traffic.) From the entrance ramp, you should move into the acceleration lane. This is the lane that runs alongside the main roadway. On the acceleration lane, you can





Entering Highway

Using the proper signal, carefully come down the entrance ramp moving onto the acceleration lane, watch for gap in the traffic and ease into that gap so that you do not have to stop on the entrance ramp or acceleration lane.

pace your speed to the speed of interstate traffic. When you find a large enough gap between vehicles, you should move into the gap as smoothly as possible.

You should not come to a full stop on either the entrance ramp or the acceleration lane. Once onto the interstate, drive with the flow of traffic as much as possible, but do not exceed the speed limits.

Driving On The Interstate

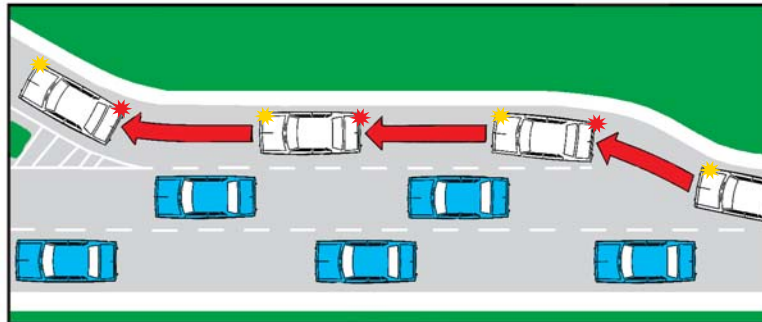
Posted speeds on these roads are for good driving conditions. When the weather changes (fog, rain, snow, etc.) you must slow down and drive at a speed safe for conditions. The most important thing is to drive with the flow of the traffic at all times, but do not exceed the posted speed limits.

Know Your Lanes

Driving in the proper lane on a interstate is a “must” for safety. The extreme right lane is usually for slower speeds and also for entering and leaving the interstate. The other lanes are usually for motorists who want to drive and maintain the posted speed limit. However, if another vehicle overtakes you from the rear you should pull over to allow him to pass.

Changing Lanes

Before changing lanes to pass, carefully check all traffic conditions around you. Use your rearview and outside mirrors, and quickly check over your left shoulder for the blind spot. At interstate speeds, vehicles can quickly come up on you from behind, so change lanes with care, signaling your intention to change lanes at least 100 feet in advance.



Leaving Highway

Get into right lane. Signal your intentions. Once in the deceleration lane, slow down gradually so as to be at the exit speed when the exit is reached. Motorists who mistakenly drive past an exit should never stop on a interstate, but should go on to the next exit and come back to the exit they missed.

Driving Too Slowly

The slowest speed you may normally travel on a interstate is posted. Sometimes, especially when the weather is good and traffic is light, even this can be too slow. Most important, drive with the flow of traffic as long as the traffic is not exceeding the posted speed limit.

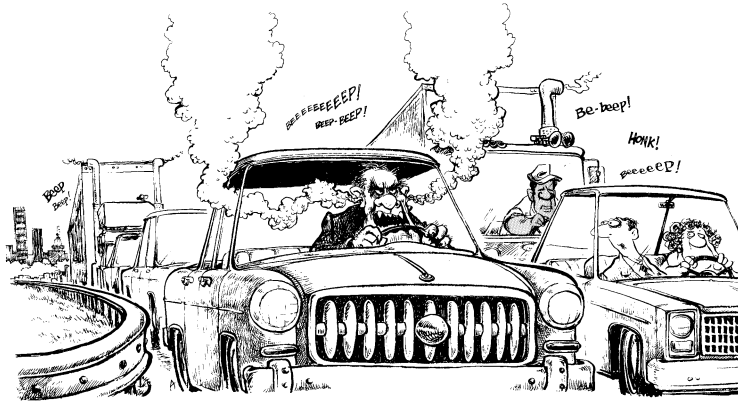
Stay Well Behind

With high-speed traffic it is extremely important to stay well behind the vehicle in front of you. Of course, in some traffic congestion this is not always possible. But remember: the faster the speed, the longer it takes to stop when you must react to other drivers' unexpected moves.

Rush Hour Driving

This is sometimes a very frustrating type of driving. One little "fender-bender" accident can clog the interstate for miles. If you are involved in such an accident and your vehicle is dangerously obstructing traffic, move your vehicle to a safer position of the highway if possible, so that other traffic can resume its normal speed. Also if you are traveling past an accident scene, don't stop or slow down to a crawl to see what is happening. Often, curiosity seekers are the biggest offenders in clogging rush-hour traffic.





Keep your cool in rush hour traffic.

When Emergencies Occur

If you have trouble and must stop, drive entirely off the traveled portion of the interstate and give a signal that you are having difficulty. Get out of your vehicle on the right side if at all possible. Otherwise a passing motorist may not see you in time to stop. If you have one, tie a white cloth to a left door handle of your vehicle. Raise the hood to indicate trouble.

Since there is always a possibility that you may have to make an emergency stop, it's a good idea to carry a flare or flashing light in the trunk of your vehicle. (If you use a flare, place it about 75 feet behind your vehicle to warn other traffic.)

One of the major reasons for planning your trip ahead is to know exactly where you want to leave the interstate. This move has to be planned well in advance. When you see the sign indicating that your exit point is nearing, begin preparing for it. Signal and move into the correct exit lane as soon as it is reached. Once you're in the deceleration lane, reduce your speed gradually in order to be at the exit speed. (Do not drop your speed below the minimum speed while in the main traveled portion of the highway.)

Some exits are made from the extreme left lane. Posted speed limits are usually based on the design of the particular exit ramp.



Tips for Interstate Driving

1. When entering an interstate, increase your speed while in the acceleration lane up to a speed that will permit you to move into a gap between vehicles.
2. Yield to other cars already on the interstate but try not to bring your vehicle to a complete stop.
3. Backing on an interstate is illegal, dangerous and can cause a serious accident.
4. After leaving the interstate, be sure to adjust your speed downward for other types of highways. Continue to check your speedometer closely.

Primary Highway Driving

Defensive driving is particularly important on the primary highways. The majority of traffic accidents and deaths occur on the state's primary highways when the weather is good and the roads are dry.

These highways are usually in good condition. Many of them have four or more lanes and it seems that since danger is not apparent, many motorists are lulled into a false sense of security and have lapses that bring about accidents.

It is important to stay alert on these highways. Remember that even though they may have four or more lanes, unlike the interstates they do not have controlled access. That means a vehicle could dart in front of you from an intersecting street, a place of business, a residence, behind a parked vehicle and so forth.

Keep your eyes moving, and keep your mind alert; let anticipation be your key word. Always be ready to react to the unexpected.

Secondary Road Driving

Because many of our secondary roads do not carry heavy traffic, drivers may often be lulled into a sense of false security on these roads. You may go for miles and not see a vehicle, and you begin to think that you have the road to yourself. Then, suddenly there's a crossroad ahead where another vehicle has the right of way and you have not given yourself enough time to stop.

Defensive driving is a must on these roads, just like any other highway in South Carolina.

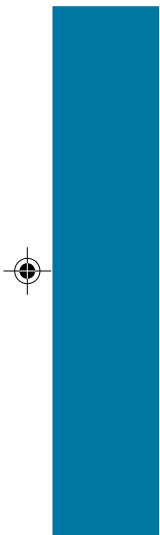


Proper Method Of Braking

Although it may seem that applying the brakes of a vehicle is a simple thing, it is not. The most common mistake that a person learning to drive makes is braking too hard, causing the vehicle to jerk to a stop. The task is to learn to apply the brakes gently with increasing pressure until the vehicle comes to a gradual and smooth stop.

Braking, like all other practical tasks in the art of driving, improves with patience and serious practice. Once the skill is learned, you will be able to stop your vehicle as quickly or as gradually as you choose when driving at a proper speed. Use your right foot for both braking and accelerating your vehicle.





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