

## **Practice hints** (Drivers.com)

Stay alert. Some beginners may give the impression of being confident and in control but may be totally unprepared to deal with any sudden change in conditions and very reliant on you, the co-driver, for guidance and even assistance in control. Anticipate problems and always be ready to react.

Communicate clearly. Give directions well in advance and try to always use the same terms (don't say accelerator one time and gas pedal the next, for example).

Don't hit the beginner with everything at once. A simple right turn, for example, involves several steps-checking mirrors, signaling, checking blind areas, braking, positioning, checking for traffic before the turn, steering, and recovery. To expect a beginner to follow all of these correctly during the early sessions is asking too much.

Don't get excited during practice sessions. This communicates itself quickly to the driver and can make performance difficult.

Don't overload. A big part of being an instructor or co-driver is reminding the driver to check traffic and to signal and to bring attention to potential hazards. But once again, remember that everything you say is also a distraction for the driver. Be sparing in your comments and, above all, try to avoid letting the beginner get into situations he or she can't handle.

Stop and discuss. When your teen makes a mistake, he or she may not be clear as to what went wrong. Explaining and discussing while on the move is not very effective. The beginner is too busy driving! Stop as soon as you can, while the mistake is still fresh in the memory, and sort out the problem. Don't jump on every mistake, however, and make a big thing of it. This will affect the beginner's confidence and concentration on the driving task.

Don't clash with what the professional driving instructor teaches. If you're teen is doing something that you think is incorrect and maintains that the driving instructor teaches this way-talk to the driving instructor. Student drivers often wrongly interpret their instructor's directions.

## TIPS

### Lane Change Steps:

**1)** Glance in rear view mirror for gap (cars coming up from behind) *yes or no?*

*During this step, the student should be able to judge if they have time (space) to be able to move over safely.*

**2)** If it is safe, signal on.

**3)** Check the blind spot to the lane you are moving into  
(*shoulder check for any vehicles / bicycles you may have missed*)

Note: There are areas beside your vehicle that other vehicles can move into and the outside mirrors don't show.

**4)** Glide over smoothly into other lane (maintaining their speed) looking up to where you want to go

**5)** Signal off.

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- Always ask questions of the student, giving them time to think of the correct response. eg- If driver is going too fast - **ask** - "what is the speed limit?" "What do you see ahead" "what's behind you" "will you make the lights" "what kind of light is up ahead" etc., then ask how they will respond to what they have seen (if one is required). E.g. *Foot of gas? / cover brake? / slow down? / Lane change? / choose a point of no return? /other?*
- Practice on one main skill at a time. e.g. Lane Changes / turns / parking
- Choose a suitable area to practice in and if parking – a quiet lot.
- Make sure the student checks their rear view mirror often (most drivers don't)
- Try to be understanding of the student, they are nervous and don't want to make mistakes but if they do, go back and work on the problem.