

roadwise:

Parent/Teen Safe Driving Guide



ARRIVE
ALIVE

A lack of behind-the-wheel experience puts new drivers at a higher risk for traffic crashes. The more they practice under supervision, the better they will handle different situations on the road.

It is our hope that acquiring mature driving skills and judgment will be a rewarding and safe experience for both the new driver and their parents. This parent/teen-driving guide provides suggestions for in-car lessons to help you make this step to adulthood more successful for both of you.

Make sure you fully understand the Graduated Driver License (GDL) law located on page 4, then:

- Work through each lesson in order.
- Successfully complete the checklists after each lesson.
- Allow sufficient time for practice with a parent, guardian, grandparent or a certified driving instructor in the front seat.
- Take the parent/teen quiz at the end of the guide.
- Be patient, it takes many years of practice to become an experienced driver.

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Missouri Graduated Driver License Law

Missouri's Graduated Driver License Law requires teen drivers to gain experience on the road and prove they are good drivers before graduating to a full license.

All first-time drivers between 15 and 18 years old must complete a period of driving with a licensed driver (instruction permit) and restricted driving (intermediate license) before getting a full driver license.

The instruction permit phase of GDL requires teens to spend a minimum of 40 hours of driving, including a minimum of 10 hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction that occurs during the nighttime hours falling between sunset and sunrise.

Step One: Instruction Permit

Eligible Age: 15

Cost: \$3.50

Valid for: 0-12 Months

To Obtain:

- You must pass the vision, road sign, and written tests.
- A **qualified person** must accompany you to the license office to sign a permission statement.

Read the Missouri Driver Guide. This booklet is your best resource for understanding driving laws and regulations. Pick one up at any:

- Department of Revenue branch or fee licensing office
- State Highway Patrol Troop Headquarters
- State Highway Patrol Driver Examination Office



Permit Notes:

- Under age 16, you may drive only when accompanied in the front seat by a **parent or guardian, grandparent, or qualified driving instructor**.
- At age 16 or older, you may drive when accompanied in the front seat by a person who is at least 21 years old and has a valid driver license.
- The driver and all passengers must wear safety belts.
- Your test paper alone is not legal for driving. Be sure to carry your permit with you.
- You may renew your instruction permit.

To Graduate to an Intermediate License:

- You must have an instruction permit for a minimum of 182 days (beginning the day after issuance).
- You may not have any alcohol-related convictions in the last 12 months and no traffic convictions within the last 6 months.
- You must have received 40 hours of driving instruction, including a minimum of 10 hours of nighttime driving instruction between sunset and sunrise, with a **qualified person, grandparent, or qualified driving instructor**.

Step Two: Intermediate License

Eligible Age: 16 to 18

Cost: \$7.50

Valid for: 0-2 Years

To Obtain:

- You must hold the instruction permit for at least 182 days (beginning the day after issuance).
- You may not have any alcohol-related offenses in the last 12 months and no traffic convictions in the last 6 months.
- A **qualified person** or **grandparent** must accompany you to the license office to verify (see Log Book in this manual) you have received 40 hours of driving instruction, including a minimum of 10 hours of nighttime driving instruction between sunset and sunrise.



- You must pass the vision, road sign, and written tests if previous results are more than one year old.
- You must pass the driving test.

License Notes:

- Your test paper alone is not legal for driving. Be sure to carry your intermediate license with you.
- The driver and all passengers must wear safety belts.
- Passenger restrictions outlined below may not be applicable to an intermediate license holder who is operating in agricultural work-related activities.

Driving Restrictions:

- During the first 6 months, you may not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is under 19 years old and who is not a member of your **immediate family**.
- After the first 6 months, you may not operate a motor vehicle with more than three passengers who are under 19 years old and who are not members of your **immediate family**.
- You may not drive alone between 1 a.m. – 5 a.m. except to and from a school activity, job, or for an emergency, unless accompanied by a licensed driver 21 years old or older.

To Graduate to an Under-21 Full Driver License:

- Your driving privilege cannot be suspended, revoked, or denied at the time of application.
- You may not have any alcohol-related offenses or traffic convictions within the last 12 months.

Items that must be accessible to you every time you are behind the wheel:

- Instruction Permit (if license has not been obtained)
- Drivers License
- Vehicle registration
- Proof of insurance coverage

Step Three: Under 21 Full Driver License

Eligible Age: 18

Cost: \$10

Valid for: 0-3 Years

To Obtain:

- You must satisfy the requirements for an Intermediate License, including having no alcohol-related offenses or traffic convictions in the last 12 months.
- You must have a valid intermediate license. Your driving privilege cannot be suspended, revoked, or denied when you apply for a full license.
- You must pass the vision and road sign recognition tests. (You are not required to pass the written and driving tests if already completed.)

Definitions

Immediate family shall include parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, and adopted or foster children residing in the driver's household. **Parent** shall include a foster parent, stepparent or adoptive parent. **Grandparent** shall include a foster grandparent, step-grandparent or adoptive grandparent.

Qualified driving instructor is defined as an instructor who has a valid driver education endorsement on a teaching certificate issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or a driver training instructor employed by a private driver education program.

Qualified person is a parent, legal guardian or certified trainer with a federal residential job-training program.

40 Hours in the Car With My Parents?

The 40 hours of driving practice may seem like a lot, but this requirement will provide ample time for you to practice driving in a variety of situations, at different locations and at varying times of the day. This experience will help you become more confident and improve your driving skills so you are prepared when it's time to get a driver's license.

Follow these tips for safe driving:

- Get to know your car.
- Always wear your safety belt and make sure all passengers are wearing safety belts.
- Drive sober and ride only with sober drivers. Missouri enforces the Zero Tolerance law (refer to page 38) for individuals under 21 years of age.
- Drive defensively.
- Avoid distractions — focus on your driving.
- Obey all traffic rules, signs, signals and markings.
- Be alert and anticipate what other drivers might do.
- Be careful at all intersections — think ahead.
- Don't load up your car with more passengers than allowed by law.
- Stay calm.
- Don't exceed the posted speed limit or drive faster than you can handle.
- Don't let friends drive your car.
- Don't use your cell phone while driving (texting while driving is against the law if you are under 22).



40 Hours in the Car With My Teen?

Teaching your teen to drive will take patience and your full attention. Your new driver will make mistakes at first. That's normal. The key is to stay positive for your teen.

Follow these tips to make driving time with your teen positive and productive:

- Set a good example when you drive. Obey all traffic laws and drive courteously. Wear your safety belt and make sure all other passengers are buckled up as well.
- Be enthusiastic. Most teens are excited about getting their driver license. Don't make the learning experience seem like a chore.

- Use positive reinforcement. When your teen is doing well, let him or her know. When the new driver makes a mistake, use it as a chance to teach.
- Be ready to assume control of the vehicle.
 - ♦ Verbal control – give clear, specific directions that allow the new driver plenty of time to react. Don't yell.
 - ♦ Passive control – Be ready to slightly turn the steering wheel to help your new driver avoid a dangerous situation.
 - ♦ Full control – Take control of the steering wheel. You may also need to use one foot to control the brake. Once safe, stay calm and talk to your new driver about what happened.
- Practice in a vehicle that is in good working condition. If possible, use the vehicle your teen will be driving regularly.
- Practice in a safe place before hitting the road.

Lesson 1: Before You Hit the Road

Before doing any actual driving, you should have knowledge of the vehicle. Practice using these controls while the car is running with the transmission in the park/neutral position.

Safety Belts

Adjust the seat so you can see clearly out of the vehicle's windows and windshield. After the seat is adjusted, correctly buckle your safety belt. This means both the lap and shoulder belt without tangles or twists securely across the chest and hips.



Air Bags

Air bags were created to enhance the safety of the safety belts in case of a vehicle accident. Sit at least 10 inches from the air bag compartments.

Mirrors

Adjust all mirrors so that you have the best view of what is happening behind and on all sides of the vehicle. Although the mirrors help, there will still be blind spots that the mirrors do not cover. Be sure to turn your head to the left and right to check these areas.



Fuel Gauge

The fuel gauge does not always give an accurate picture of how much gas is in the vehicle's tank. It is always best to put gas in the tank before the gauge enters the highlighted "empty" area.

Headlights and Warning Lights

You are responsible for using the exterior lights at appropriate times and knowing the laws regarding their use. For instance, if your windshield wipers are on, the headlights must be on also.



Every vehicle has interior warning lights to notify you of problems with the vehicle. Most

have warning lights for temperature, oil and battery issues. Make sure you know what the warning lights mean in the vehicle and to have the car serviced if necessary.



Maintaining the Vehicle

You should have some basic knowledge about vehicle maintenance, particularly with the vehicle you will be driving on a regular basis. Review and practice maintaining the vehicle's following areas:

- Fueling the car
- Tire pressure
- Engine oil (check the dipstick)
- Radiator coolant (check the plastic overflow bottle)
- Battery (check for tight connections)

Parent's Tip: Every car is different. Be sure your teen practices on the car he/she will regularly drive. Locate the vehicle owner manual and review it with your teen.



Lesson 1 Checklist:

Do not move on to the next lesson until you understand how each of the items in the list work. Additional items may be added.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety belts | <input type="checkbox"/> Windshield wipers and washer fluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speedometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun visors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Odometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Heater/air conditioner/defroster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Seat adjustments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlights (running lights, low beams and high beams) | <input type="checkbox"/> Steering wheel adjustments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn signals | <input type="checkbox"/> Window controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazard lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dimmer switch | <input type="checkbox"/> Door locks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Check engine oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignition | <input type="checkbox"/> Check radiator coolant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gear shift | <input type="checkbox"/> Check battery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accelerator pedal | <input type="checkbox"/> Check tire pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake pedal | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clutch pedal (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency brake | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Side and rearview mirrors | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Notes:



Lesson 2: Reading the Signs

It is very important that you understand all highway traffic signs and signals. The Department of Revenue's **Missouri Driver Guide** can provide additional information and guidelines on signs, signals and markings.

Traffic Signs

Words, symbols and shapes are used to give information quickly and at a glance. The shape and color of the signs give clues to the type of information provided. Some important sign colors and shapes to recognize:

- Red – Stop, Yield, or Prohibited
- Yellow – Warning
- Black/White – Regulatory
- Orange – Construction
- Octagon – Stop
- Triangle – Yield
- Vertical Rectangle – Regulatory
- Pentagon – School
- Diamond – Warning
- Cross buck or round – railroad



Lesson 2 Activity

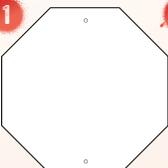
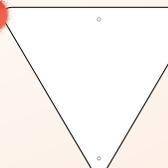
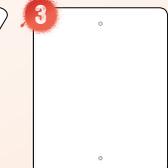
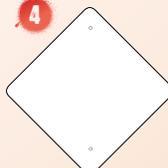
Match the traffic signs below with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Signal ahead | E. Keep right |
| B. School crossing | F. Slippery when wet |
| C. Merge | G. Lane ends/merge left |
| D. No U-Turn | H. Railroad crossing |

1 	2 	3 	4 
_____	_____	_____	_____
5 	6 	7 	8 
_____	_____	_____	_____

Match the sign shapes to the messages below:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| A. Yield | C. Stop |
| B. One way | D. Deer crossing |

1 	2 	3 	4 
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 1.C, 2.B, 3.H, 4.F, 5.E, 6.A, 7.D, 8.G
1.C, 2.A, 3.B, 4.D

Lesson 3: Mastering Driving Skills

You will need plenty of practice handling a moving vehicle. Following are specific driving skills you should practice with your parents in a vehicle.

Parent's Tip: Take your teen to practice in a safe location, such as an empty parking lot, before moving to a roadway. Do not teach shortcuts or improper procedures.

Starting and Stopping

Acceleration should be slow and smooth. This will take practice. Pressure should be applied to the pedal with the ball of the foot instead of the whole foot.

Slowing down and/or stopping should also be steady and smooth. Practice easing the ball of the foot off of the gas pedal and gently applying the brake pedal in the same manner. Smooth, steady deceleration is used during normal driving conditions, however, being able to brake quickly is also important for emergency situations. Firm steady pressure should be used with anti-lock brakes.



Maintaining Steady Speed

Practice keeping the vehicle at an appropriate, steady speed and periodically check the speedometer. Head checks can also be practiced while the vehicle is moving slowly to get a feel for how to safely look away from the driving lane to check for objects on the sides and behind the vehicle.

Turning

The recommended driver hand position is 9 and 3 o'clock. Because the hands are never on the top of the steering wheel, this position allows for more control of the steering wheel. This means less chance of injury to the face by the hands and arms in a frontal crash where the vehicle is equipped with a driver side air bag.



Use both hands in a hand-over-hand motion for turns. Hold onto the wheel and move the hand opposite the direction you're turning toward the other hand. For example, if you're turning to the right, your left hand will hold onto the wheel and move the wheel to the right. When your left hand gets to 3 o'clock, take your other hand and cross it over the one holding onto the wheel. Grab onto the wheel at the position your other hand just left. Continue this motion until the turn is complete. In the case of a right hand turn, your right hand will cross over your left and grab the steering wheel at 3 o'clock.

Practice:

- Using the correct turn signal about 100 feet before the turn or intersection.
- Placing the vehicle in the proper lane.
- Checking traffic in all directions.
- Slowing down or stopping prior to the turn.
- Yielding to other vehicles and pedestrians.

Backing Up

When it is necessary to back the vehicle into a parking space or out of a driveway, always:

- Check for traffic, pedestrians, parked cars and low stationary objects behind you.
- Turn your head to look out the rear window. Don't rely on your mirrors.
- Place your right arm at the back of the passenger seat and look through the rear window. Place your left hand at the top of the steering wheel. When you want to change directions, move your left hand in the direction you want the rear of the car to go.
- Make small corrections to the steering wheel.

- Keep your foot in light contact with the brake while the car is moving backward (ride the brake).
- Glance quickly to the front and sides to check traffic then continue looking through the rear window as you brake smoothly.
- Never back up faster than a walking pace. When you get close to an object, back up inch by inch.

Changing Lanes

When changing lanes, always put the turn signal on prior to repositioning the vehicle to give other drivers plenty of warning. Be sure to check for traffic on all sides, checking for blind spots and motorcycles, before slowly repositioning the vehicle in the lane.

Off-Road Recovery

When a car runs off the road, many drivers initial response is to panic and overcorrect causing the driver to lose control of the car. Do not practice this activity but be aware of the steps that should be taken if the vehicle should travel off the roadway:

- Remain calm; don't panic and overcorrect.
- Keep a firm grip on the wheel.
- Ease off the gas and stay off brake.
- Turn your wheel 1/8 turn to the left.
- When you feel your tires hit pavement again, turn when 1/4 turn to the right.
- Ease back onto the roadway.

Intersections

Intersections can be dangerous places for new drivers. There is a lot of activity and rules to remember when traveling through an intersection. Always slow down, look both ways, and check for oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Be prepared to stop or get your vehicle out of the way.

Right of Way

At a four-way stop, the vehicle arriving first should have the right of way. Come to a complete stop and proceed with caution. If



unsure who has the right of way, use eye contact and communication with the other drivers and proceed with caution when it is safe to do so. At an intersection without a stop sign or traffic signal, yield to vehicles coming from the right.

Always yield to:

- A blind pedestrian crossing the street or highway guided by a dog or carrying a white cane.
- A school bus picking up or dropping off children.
- Any emergency vehicle using sirens and/or flashing lights.
- Railroad crossings. Trains cannot stop in time to avoid hitting a vehicle.

Merging in Traffic

The right of way belongs to the moving traffic. Other drivers are not required to change lanes to allow vehicles to enter. When allowing other vehicles to merge, if it is safe, change lanes to allow the vehicle room to merge. Check mirrors and blind spots, and use the turn signal if it is safe to change lanes. If it is unsafe to change lanes, it may still be possible to accelerate or decelerate to allow others to merge (provided it is safe to do so).



Passing Other Vehicles

Only pass other vehicles when it is absolutely safe to do so. Use extreme caution when passing on a two-lane highway. Do not pass on a hill, curve, no-passing zone or a construction or work zone. Use care when passing a pedestrian or cyclist. Slow down and wait for a safe opportunity. Make sure you can clearly see ahead to determine if there is oncoming traffic before passing. Do not speed up when being passed. Move a little to the right and be prepared to slow down if the passing driver suddenly views a problem ahead while passing.

Parent's Tip: Have your teen practice passing on a multi-lane highway (two lanes going the same direction) before passing on a two-lane highway.

Large Trucks

Never linger alongside a large truck or bus. These types of vehicles have a blind spot or "No-Zone." If you can't see the driver's face in the side-view mirror, the driver does not know that there is a vehicle along side his truck or bus.



Nighttime Driving

After a driver has mastered the basic driving skills during the day, they may begin learning night driving skills. Nighttime driving requires motorists to drive more slowly since the visibility is reduced in all directions. Headlights should be on between sunset and sunrise.



Lesson 3 Checklist

Starting and stopping

- Starts and stops smoothly
- Keeps speed consistent
- Checks blind spots

Turning

- Signals and slows for all turns
- Checks all directions for traffic
- Yields to pedestrians and oncoming traffic if appropriate
- Enters turning lane if available

Backing

- Checks all around vehicle before moving
- Periodically checks behind and in front of vehicle
- Maintains slow speed

Changing lane and passing

- Checks mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes
- Uses turn signal before changing lanes
- Does not tailgate before passing other vehicles
- Before passing, checks mirrors and blind spots

- Rechecks mirrors again
- Uses turn signal before pulling out to pass
- Changes lanes smoothly
- Allows safe distance before returning to the appropriate driving lane
- Does not pass when it is not safe

Merging

- Uses turn signal
- Yields right of way
- Checks mirrors and blind spots
- Enters proper driving lane when it is safe
- Adjusts to a safe distance between other vehicles
- Identifies a merging vehicle
- Changes lanes to allow a vehicle to merge, if safe

Other

- Able to maintain 3-4 seconds behind other vehicles, when possible
- Maintains vehicle position in the center of the lane
- Checks mirrors periodically
- Steers smoothly

Lesson 4: Hitting the Road

Drive defensively.

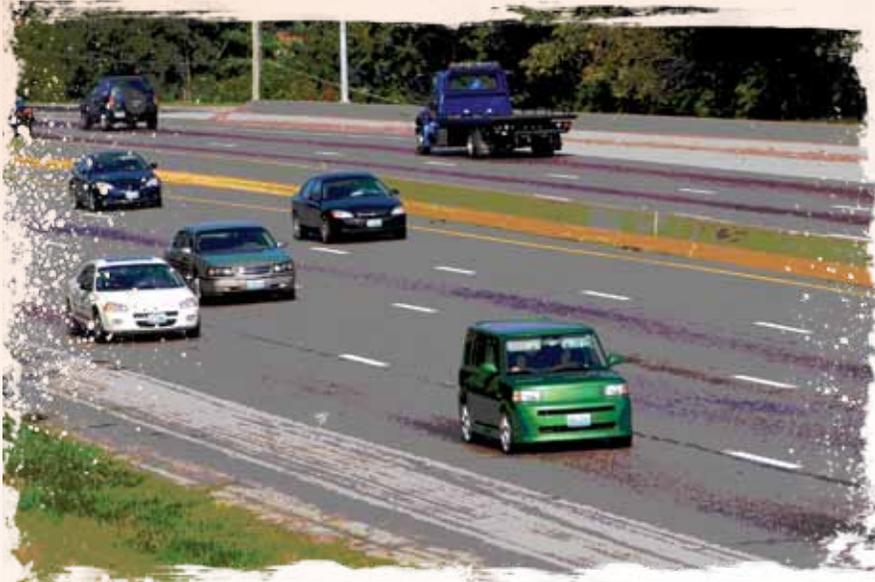
Avoid danger by recognizing danger signs early and communicating with other drivers. Constantly scan the area you are driving so you can anticipate and react to any problems that might arise.

Parent's Tip: Start your teen's driving lessons on less-traveled roadways. Don't take your new driver night driving until he or she has mastered the basic driving skills.

Look Ahead

The path in front of the driver is the most important, but drivers need to be aware of what is happening on all sides of the vehicle. Scanning the highway 20 to 30 seconds ahead gives the driver time to decide what actions may need to be taken. In heavy traffic, the driver should watch for brake lights three or four vehicles





ahead in order to have time to react. Also, don't forget to use the rear-view and side-view mirrors to access situations on all sides of the vehicle.

Keep Your Distance

In normal conditions, the vehicle should stay three to four seconds behind the vehicle in front. When the vehicle in front passes a stationary object, count "one one-thousand, two one-thousand, etc." Your vehicle should not pass the object until the three to four second count is completed.

If it is dark or raining, the distance should be at least four seconds. If there is ice or snow on the ground, stay at least six seconds behind. This will give you plenty of braking distance in hazardous conditions.

Watch Your Speed

The signs posted on the side of the road for the speed limit are there to tell drivers the **maximum**

speed allowed by the law. The limit also informs drivers that some roads are too curvy or dangerous to travel speeds higher than the posted speed limit. In some weather conditions, the speed limit is too fast and the driver should slow down to avoid a hazardous situation. Reaction time is shorter when visual distance is shorter. Driving at the appropriate speed means driving:

- According to traffic and weather conditions.
- Within the posted speed limit for the roadway.
- Within the driver's abilities, if the driver is uncomfortable they should slow down or ask someone else to drive.
- Within the vehicle's capabilities.

Pay Attention to Your Lane Position

Keep your vehicle in the center of the driving lane, not on the edges. Small steering adjustments will need to be made to ensure proper positioning, do not jerk the steering wheel. Both hands should remain on the steering wheel when making a sharp turn.

Don't forget to periodically check all mirrors to keep track of what is happening on all sides of the vehicle and use head checks for blind spots!

Parent's Tip: Remember to lead by example. When you follow the rules of the road, your new driver is likely to do the same.

Wear your safety belt, obey the speed limit, don't drive distracted and never drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Lesson 4 Checklist

- Watches sides and middle of road
- Checks rear view and side mirrors frequently
- Follows at a safe distance
- Drives at an appropriate speed
- Keeps vehicle in center of driving lane
- Checks blind spots



Lesson 5: Parking Practice

Practice parking in different situations. Never park in front of a driveway, within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, in or near intersections or close to crosswalks or stop signs.

Straight and Angle Parking

Entering the space:

- Signal and slow or stop the vehicle
- Drive forward until the whole parking space is visible
- Turn in, trying to keep equal distance on both sides of the vehicle
- Pull forward until the vehicle is completely in the space

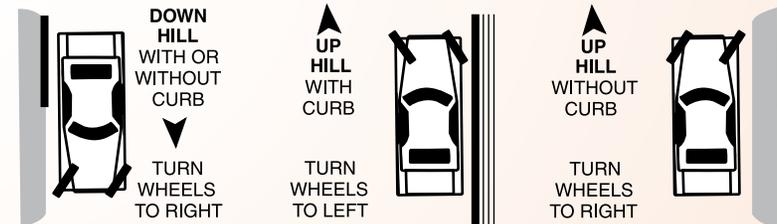
Exiting the space:

- Check behind the vehicle for traffic and pedestrians
- Begin backing out straight, making sure the vehicle clears the other vehicles
- Begin to turn the steering wheel, checking the front of the vehicle to ensure it clears other vehicles
- Continue to check for traffic and pedestrians
- Straighten the vehicle in the proper lane



Parking on hills:

- Park close to the curb or if there is no curb, as far away from traffic as possible
- Turn your wheels in the proper direction (see graphic)
- Turn off the motor, putting the car in proper gear
- Set the emergency/parking brake
- Check your rearview mirror for traffic before stepping out



Reentering traffic:

- Turn on turn signal
- Check for oncoming traffic and pedestrians, including looking in blind spots
- Straighten wheels
- Back slowly, if necessary
- Move forward, turning the steering wheel toward the traffic lane
- Check for oncoming traffic before moving out

Parallel Parking

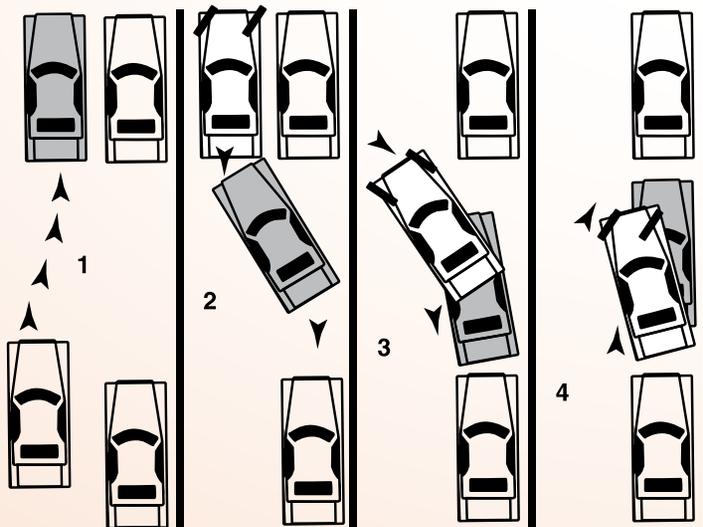
Entering the space:

- Turn on turn signal
- Check mirrors to make sure that traffic is slowing
- Stop when your steering wheel is even with the steering wheel of the vehicle in front of the parking space
- Back up and turn toward the curb until the vehicle is at a 45-degree angle heading into the parking space
- Turn the steering wheel in the opposite direction and continue backing slowly
- Check the vehicle position behind and ahead, making sure the car does not hit any parked vehicles. Watch for pedestrians stepping off the curb
- When the vehicle is about a foot from the vehicle in back, stop. Center your vehicle by pulling forward

Exiting the space:

- Turn on turn signal
- Check for oncoming traffic and pedestrians

PARALLEL PARKING



- Back up until the vehicle is about a foot away from the vehicle behind you
- Check again for traffic and pedestrians; be sure to check blind spots
- Turn the wheel and slowly pull forward into the driving lane
- Be careful not to cross the centerline of the roadway

Lesson 5 Checklist

Parking downhill/uphill

- Uses turn signal
- Checks for traffic and pedestrians
- Parks within about one ft of the curb
- Turns wheels toward the curb
- Puts vehicle in park (first gear for standard transmissions)
- Applies emergency brake

Parallel Parking

- Uses turn signal
- Checks for traffic and pedestrians
- Correctly positions vehicle in preparation for backing
- Correctly backs vehicle into parking space
- Stops before changing direction
- Correctly centers vehicle

Exiting the space/reentering traffic

- Checks available backing distance
- Uses turn signal
- Checks for traffic and pedestrians in front and back of vehicle
- Exits space safely
- Does not cross center lane

Angle and 90-degree parking

- Uses turn signal
- Moves forward until whole space is in view
- Turns safely into parking space
- Pulls entire vehicle into space
- Leaves enough space between other vehicles

Road Responsibility

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people. Please understand that following the advice on this page can mean the difference between life and death. Driving a vehicle is a huge responsibility and should never be taken for granted.

Never Speed

Speeding is a major cause of traffic crashes. Always drive at a safe speed and never drive faster than the posted speed limit. More drivers are convicted of speeding than any other traffic of-

fense. Remember, the speed limit is the maximum speed allowed under normal conditions. The safe speed is the one that allows complete control of the vehicle.

Do Not Respond to Aggressive Drivers

Any reaction from other drivers usually makes the situation worse. Do not respond if confronted with an aggressive driver. If an aggressive driver is causing an unsafe situation for other drivers, stay calm. Stop at a safe place and call the police and /or sheriff to report the incident. If using a cell phone dial *55 or 911 from a landline. Do the same if you think a driver is driving impaired.



Avoid Distractions

All of a driver's attention needs to be on driving. Distracted drivers react slower creating a dangerous situation for themselves and others. Not only do the driver's eyes and ears need to be focused on the road, but their mind needs to be focused on the driving task, too. Some common distractions are:

- Cell phone use/texting
- Eating or drinking
- Adjusting the radio, CD or MP3 player, temperature or other controls
- Listening to loud music or wearing headphones
- Passengers



Missouri law prohibits drivers 21 years of age or younger from sending, reading, or writing an electronic message while driving. The fine for texting while driving under Missouri's law is \$200.

Stay Alert While Driving

Watch out for other drivers who are not obeying the rules of the road or are driving irresponsibly. Watch for those who:

- Take wide turns or cut corners
- Straddle the center line
- Pass objects or vehicles too closely
- Drive too fast or too slow
- Hug the edge of the road
- Weave or zigzag
- Stop and start in a jerky manner
- Follow other vehicles too closely

If anyone is driving unsafely, please pull over to a safe location and call *55 from a cell phone or 1-800-525-5555 and report the behavior and license plate number or description of the vehicle to the Highway Patrol.

Don't Drive When Tired

Tired drivers are impaired drivers. When a tired driver is behind the wheel, they have a tendency to drive off the roadway, cross the centerline, brake frequently, tailgate or drive considerably under the speed limit. These are all unsafe actions of a driver. If you feel your eyelids get heavy, and blinking becomes slow and lethargic, or your head feels heavy and begins to nod, pull over and rest or ask someone else to drive.

Yield to Emergency Vehicles

Both drivers and pedestrians must yield the right of way to law-enforcement vehicles, fire engines, and other emergency vehicles using sirens and/or flashing lights. Slow down and pull to the right side of the road, if possible. Bring the vehicle to a stop, but be sure not to block intersections.

Slow Down in Rain, Fog, Snow and Ice

Slow down in these conditions and keep at least twice the normal stopping distance. A wet road can cause skidding or hydroplaning.

Driving Laws

All drivers have legal responsibilities they must follow. Refer to the Missouri Driver Guide for additional information about driving laws.

Windshield Wipers and Headlights

While driving on Missouri's roadways, headlights are required to be on when using the windshield wipers and during periods of fog. Rain and fog result in reduced visibility. It's better to be seen than to be in a traffic crash.

Work Zone Safety

Be patient when approaching road construction areas. These crews work very hard to improve the roadways for motorists. Speed limits may be lowered in these areas for your safety and the safety of the work crew. The number one cause of traffic crashes in work zones is driving too fast. Missouri's penalty for speeding in work zones is very expensive. Slow down and pay attention in work zones.



Steer Clear

If a crash should occur, call the police and move the vehicle off the roadway if possible. Vehicles left in the roadway could cause additional crashes to occur. Turn on your flashers and use reflectors or flashlights to warn approaching traffic.

- Help anyone who is hurt, avoiding direct contact with blood. Do NOT try to move an injured person unless their safety is at risk. Make sure someone calls an ambulance if one is needed.

- Exchange the following information with those involved in the crash:
 - ♦ Names and addresses
 - ♦ License plate numbers and vehicle identification numbers
 - ♦ Insurance company names and policy numbers
- Do not leave the scene until a law-enforcement officer says you can.

Law Enforcement Stops

Pull off to the right, as far as possible, at the first safe location and turn on your emergency flashers and engine. Turn the interior lights on at night. Leave your seat belt on and sit calmly. Place hands on top of the steering wheel so the officer knows you are not a threat and follow the officer's instructions.

Impaired Driving

Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal in Missouri. And, driving while impaired, whether by drugs or alcohol, by anyone, anytime, is illegal. It's very dangerous and sometimes fatal.



A law enforcement officer has the right to measure the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of any driver who appears to be intoxicated. BAC is the percentage of alcohol in the body. It can be measured by testing blood, breath or urine.

Even one drink can raise BAC over the zero tolerance level and impair the ability to drive safely. Zero tolerance in Missouri means anyone under 21 driving with a BAC of .02% or higher will have his or her license suspended for 30 days, followed by 60 days of restricted driving. If convicted, he or she will also pay a fine and be required to complete a substance abuse program for traffic offenders.

Any driver under 21 convicted of an alcohol-related offense within the last 12 months will not be eligible for a full drivers license until the offense/conviction date is 12 months old or until you turn 21 (whichever comes first).



Overview Checklist

Now that you've completed all the lessons in this guide, keep track of what you are doing well and where more practice is needed.

- Completes basic pre-operation checks (tires, area around vehicle, warning lights)
- Adjusts seat and steering wheel for comfort and control
- Buckles safety belt correctly
- Adjusts mirrors to maximize visibility and minimize blind spots
- Starts engine
- Applies appropriate pressure to gas pedal for smooth acceleration and proper speed
- Brakes and stops on a hill smoothly
- Turns right safely
- Turns left safely
- Able to angle park
- Able to park at a 90 degree angle
- Able to parallel park
- Able to park uphill
- Able to park downhill
- Observes and obeys the speed limit
- Adjusts the speed for driving conditions
- Understands and uses the appropriate "seconds" rule for following vehicles
- Maintains proper lane position
- Changes lanes properly
- Passes vehicles safely
- Merges safely
- Communicates with other drivers properly

Test Your Knowledge

Parent Quiz

1. Traffic crashes are the third-leading cause of death among young people ages 15-20.
True False
2. Missouri's GDL program requires parents to spend 40 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night, with their teenagers behind the wheel.
True False
3. Under the age of 16, a teen may drive only when accompanied in the front seat by a qualified person, grandparent, or qualified driving instructor.
True False
4. Your teen must not have any alcohol-related offenses or traffic convictions within the last 12 months to graduate through the licensing phase of the GDL program.
True False
5. The fine for driving while texting for drivers 21 and under is \$25.
True False
6. More drivers are convicted of speeding than any other traffic offense.
True False
7. During the first six months of an intermediate license, your teen may not drive with more than one passenger who is under 19 years old and who is not a member of your family.
True False

8. You should teach your teen to apply pressure to the pedal with their whole foot.
True False
9. Correct steering wheel hand position is 9 and 3 o'clock.
True False
10. Drivers under age 18 are subject to nighttime driving restrictions between 1 and 5 a.m.
True False



Parent Quiz Answers:

1. *False – Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among young people ages 15-20.*
2. *True*
3. *True*
4. *True*
5. *False – the fine for texting while driving under Missouri law is \$200.*
6. *True*
7. *True*
8. *False – Pressure should be applied to the pedals with the ball of the foot, not the whole foot.*
9. *True*
10. *True*

Teen Quiz

1. Cell phone use while driving is against the law for drivers under 22.

True False

2. A teen driver is only allowed one traffic conviction within the last 6 months in order to move to the next phase.

True False

3. Safety belts must be worn in the vehicle at all times by everyone.

True False

4. Drivers under age 21 caught driving with alcohol in their system will lose their driver's license.

True False

5. Correct hand positioning on the steering wheel should be at 8 and 5 o'clock.

True False

6. When making a left turn, the right of way belongs to the oncoming traffic.

True False

7. Headlights are required to be on when wipers are on.

True False

8. Your vehicle should stay to the right-hand side of the driving lane.

True False

9. If you're parking downhill, wheels should be turned toward the road edge or curb.

True False

10. During the first six months of an intermediate license, you may not drive with more than one passenger who is under 19 years old and who is not a member of your family.

True False



Teen Quiz Answers:

1. True
2. False – you may not have any traffic convictions
3. True
4. True
5. False – Hands should be positioned on the steering wheel at 9 and 3 o'clock.
6. True
7. True
8. False – Keep your vehicle in the center of the lane, not on the edges.
9. True
10. True

Other driver education resources

The following resources provide additional driving information and help you understand the importance of safe driving habits. Remember to use the **Missouri Driver Guide** to supplement this workbook.

Missouri Department of Transportation

Highway Safety Division
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
800-800-BELT (2358)
www.saveMOLives.com

Missouri Driver's Guide

Missouri Department of Revenue
Available at branch and fee licensing offices and Missouri State Highway Patrol Driver Examination offices throughout the state.
www.dor.mo.gov

Missouri Safety Center

University of Central Missouri
Humphreys 200
Warrensburg, MO 64093
800-801-3588
www.safetycenter.ucmo.edu

Federal Highway Administration

www.fhwa.dot.gov

AAA Missouri

12901 North Forty Drive
St. Louis, MO 63141
800-222-7623 ext. 6300
www.ouraaa.com

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

1005 North Glebe Road, Ste. 800
Arlington, VA 22201
703-247-1500
www.iihs.org



Anatomy of a Crash

Unfortunately, most drivers are in a crash at some point in their lifetime. But protecting yourself and your passengers is the most important part of being a responsible driver. The illustration below describes the effects of a crash on a person's body. Without a safety belt, the damage the human body will experience during a car crash can be devastating even at low speed crashes. After the car stops, the body and internal organs continue to fly forward crashing into whatever stops them, typically the dashboard, windshield or steering wheel. After the body stops the internal organs continue to crash against the body, this part of the crash can cause many internal injuries. These injuries caused by a crash can be avoided by wearing a safety belt.



DRIVER SURVIVED -
wearing safety belt



DRIVER KILLED - not wearing safety belt

To order additional copies

www.modot.mo.gov/safety
- Order Highway Safety Publications

(800) 800-2358



Missouri Coalition
for Roadway Safety

