

# Lesson 1

## DRIVER PREP & READINESS- Instruction Guide



This in-car lesson coincides with your student's Module 2 & 3 classroom lessons.

### In-Car Progress Assessment:

Progress assessment tool to evaluate  
& improve behind-the-wheel skill level.  
(Mastery equals 35 points or above.)

## DRIVER PREPARATION & READINESS

### MODULES 2 & 3

PARENT  
OBSERVATION  
1 HOUR

SUPERVISED  
DRIVE TIME  
1 HOUR

"BEFORE YOU BEGIN"  
INFORMATION ON  
NEXT PAGE

### TOTAL TASK SCORE



### M2: BASIC VEHICLE CONTROL

(30 min observation/30 min supervised driving)

Seating position, mirrors,  
and safety devices \_ \_ \_

Possess valid  
permit/licensing \_ \_ \_

Steering/Controlled  
forward driving \_ \_ \_

Starting/stopping  
smoothly \_ \_ \_

### M3: SLOW-SPEED MANEUVERS

(30 min observation/30 min supervised driving)

Controlled straight line  
driving. (forward & backing) \_ \_ \_

Controlled  
braking \_ \_ \_

Reference points, lane positions,  
line of sight & path of travel \_ \_ \_

Tight  
turns \_ \_ \_

Stopping intervals  
& distance \_ \_ \_

communication devices \_ \_ \_

ACCEPTABLE = 5

GOOD = 4

FAIR = 3

UNACCEPTABLE = 2

Add each task  
score to find  
total score.





## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

**Absolutely No Alcohol or Drugs** - Teen drivers (ages 15-20) are at a far greater risk of death in crashes where alcohol is present than other drivers, even though they cannot legally purchase or possess alcohol. (This includes your teen and others they may ride with.)

### **During ALL Practice Hours Your Teen Should:**

- Possesses a valid learner's license or driver license.
- Be mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared to drive.
- Not drive fatigued, aggressively, or distracted.
- Complete pre-drive checks.
- Use and require passengers to use safety belts / teenager safety restraints.
- Perform proper starting tasks.
- Identify and properly respond to alerts and warning lights on the instrument panel.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Be watchful and attentive to the traffic scene by looking ahead and to the sides and checking mirrors to the sides and rear.
- Search from the vehicle to at least 15 seconds ahead when driving in residential/city traffic and 20 to 30 seconds ahead during freeway/expressway driving.
- Check blind spots prior to changing lanes or making a lateral maneuver.
- Understand that a green light means one must scan the intersection before proceeding.
- Search/scan to continuously identify hazards.
- Use a space management system (safe space around the vehicle) to establish and maintain proper vehicle operating space and lane position.
- Perform speed & position changes in response to traffic flow & volume.

## **During ALL Practice Hours Your Teen Should (Continued)**

- Accelerate smoothly, steadily increasing to safe speed within posted limit and maintain appropriate speed.
- Use accelerator and brake pedals properly to manage vehicle balance.
- Identify and respond appropriately to all traffic signals, signs, and roadway markings.
- Give or accept the right-of-way properly and safely.
- Recognize where the front, sides, corners, and rear of the vehicle are in relation to the roadway.
- Share the road with and yield appropriately to other roadway users including identify bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcycles, work zone and construction workers, trucks, and school buses, etc.
- Yield properly to emergency vehicles.
- Turn from and into proper lanes and properly use turning lanes.
- Make speed adjustments accordingly by performing speed and position changes in response to traffic flow and traffic volume.
- Anticipate the actions of other roadway users.
- Be courteous to other roadway users who may be trying to pass or change lanes.
- Drive to conserve fuel and protect the environment while driving (such as not littering).
- Use headlights (including bright lights), windshield wipers, defroster, and other vehicle devices appropriately.
- Avoid other roadway users who are not mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared to drive including fatigued drivers, aggressive drivers, and distracted drivers.
- Avoid driving in another vehicle's blindspot, especially around and behind large trucks.
- Recognize adverse conditions and apply countermeasures to drive safely including increased following distance.
- Perform post-drive tasks properly including ensuring all passengers and animals are safely out of vehicle before locking.

# **Sharing the Road Safely with Commercial Motor Vehicles and Large Trucks**

## **Procedures:**

- Learn to read the language of trucks
- Weight (loaded or unloaded) will cause the truck to act differently
- Weather conditions may result in less reaction time
- Spray coming off the truck's wheels can reduce your visibility
- Trucks may not be able to stop on snow or ice
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- Use turn signals and brake lights to communicate your intention sooner than you would in normal traffic
- Stay visible in the truck drivers' mirrors
- Know the truck driver can't see directly in front of the tractor's hood
- Be alert to trucks turning right, they need space to make wide right turns

## **Common Mistakes:**

- Following too closely
- Pacing alongside a truck on multiple lane highways
- Not reading a truck's need for room to maneuver
- Failing to merge smoothly onto a freeway with trucks
- Cutting across several lanes to exit a roadway, creating high risk for everyone
- Hanging out in the No Zone ([www.nozone.org](http://www.nozone.org))

## Top Driving Errors

Before you begin instruction, make sure you know common young driver driving error and ways you can help your young driver be a safer driver.

- Not attending to the path of travel.
- Driving five or more miles per hour too fast for conditions.
- Driving too fast through a curve.
- Inadequate search at an intersection and failing to yield to cross traffic.
- Lack of attention at an intersection and being struck by another driver.
- Improper evasive action – quick turn not executed properly
- Failure to maintain visual lead.
- Failure to see action developing at side of the roadway.
- Following too closely.
- Willfully taking right-of-way.
- Distracted (including cell phones and texting)



**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE AS THE PARENT/INSTRUCTOR TO VERIFY THE STUDENT HAS LEARNED, UNDERSTOOD AND EXECUTED PROPERLY ALL OF THE ABOVE BY THE TIME HE/SHE GOES TO RECEIVE THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE.**