

California

Parent-Teen

T R A I N I N G G U I D E



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State of California

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GETTING STARTED

A NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS*

As you probably know, teen drivers get more tickets and are hurt and killed in greater numbers than other drivers. To decrease these accidents, a special “provisional” type of license and instruction permit is issued to drivers under the age of 18. Minors may keep their license as long as they obey certain “provisions.” They must obey the traffic laws and drive without an accident. They must hold their permit longer (six months) than other drivers and practice the driving skills listed on page 6 of this handbook before they come to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for their driving test. If your teen incorrectly answers nine or more questions (46 total questions) on the law test, he or she must wait one week before retaking the test. If your teen fails his or her driving test, he or she must wait two weeks before taking another test. Teen drivers have new restrictions for the first year after they are licensed. During the **first 12 months**, a teen cannot drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. *and* cannot transport passengers under age 20, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, a licensed driver 25 years of age or older, or a licensed or certified driving instructor.

The 2009 edition of the *California Driver Handbook* contains all of the requirements your teen must meet to qualify for a license. The *Parent-Teen Training Guide* was developed to help you, the parent, in providing your teen with additional driving practice and DOES NOT contain all of the licensing requirements needed at a DMV office to obtain a permit or license.

Those under 18 years of age must complete driver education (classroom training) and driver training (behind-the-wheel) in a public or private high school, or in a state-licensed professional driving school. (The hours required for driver education and driver training classes are defined in *California Education Code* §§51851 and 51852.) Internet, correspondence, or other distance-based driver education training must be the equivalent of approved classroom instruction. If you use the services of a professional driving school, ask to see the instructor’s identification card and confirm that the school is licensed by the DMV. Professional driving schools and instructors in California are licensed by the DMV after meeting qualifying standards. Whoever gives the instruction must sign the statement on your teen’s permit certifying that he or she has completed the supervised training. This statement must be completed and returned to the DMV before the driving test may be taken.

* Please consider the words “parent” or “guardian” interchangeable in this booklet.

Driver training in school is important, but the hours you spend with your teen behind the wheel will give your teen important additional experience. Help your teen driver practice all of the driving skills listed on page 6. These skills are divided into four different levels. Only instruction and hours of practice will make your teen a good driver.

During the summer months, daylight hours sometimes extend until 9:30 p.m. Schedule your practice sessions so your teen driver will have enough experience driving when it is dark and in different types of weather conditions. (At least 10 hours of night driving practice is required before taking a driving test.)

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with everything in the *California Driver Handbook* before you begin the sessions. DMV conducts the driving test based on the handbook.

Remember, as a parent you must be concerned with your teen's safety. If you decide that your teen is driving dangerously or irresponsibly, you may cancel the instruction permit or license at any time by completing a Request for Cancellation or Surrender of a Driver License or Identification Card, form DL 142. It is available from any DMV office or from the forms section of the DMV website (www.dmv.ca.gov).

YOU ARE THE TEACHER'S AIDE, BUT!

What you teach your teen should agree with what is taught by the driving instructor. If you teach something differently than the instructor, your teen will be confused and have a more difficult time learning to drive. If your teen insists that your instructions are different from the instructor's, contact the instructor to be sure you are correct. For your teen's sake, please do not teach shortcuts or improper procedures.

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

1. Please read pages 1 to 7 of this booklet before you begin the driving practice.
2. A suggested lesson plan on page 6 lists the driving skills your teen driver should practice.
3. Read the directions for the skill you wish your teen to practice and log them on the Supervised Driving Log on page 23.
4. Discuss the directions with your teen.
5. Check the directions in the book to be sure the skill is done correctly.
6. Demonstrate correctly to your teen the skill, such as backing up.
7. Have your teen practice the skill.
8. When you decide that your teen performs a certain skill easily and well, double-check the directions and note the driving

skill on the Supervised Driving Log on page 23.

9. A special section near the end of this booklet (pages 16–20) gives advice on special driving problems and emergency situations. Please discuss each section with your teen. Your teen may not remember all the advice given, but may remember enough to avoid an accident.
10. Near the end of this book is a driving checklist. When you decide your young driver is ready to apply for a license, take him or her on a “test” drive. Make sure that your teen performs all the items on this list correctly. Spend more practice time with your teen on any item missed.
11. Before your teen takes the driving test, read “Is Your Teen Ready for a License?” on page 7. You may still have overlooked some important practice your new driver needs.

BE A GOOD MODEL

Children of every age often imitate their parents’ behavior. Set a good example whenever you drive. Obey all traffic laws. Be courteous. Drive safely. Your teen may follow your example. It’s very important for your teen’s safety that you:

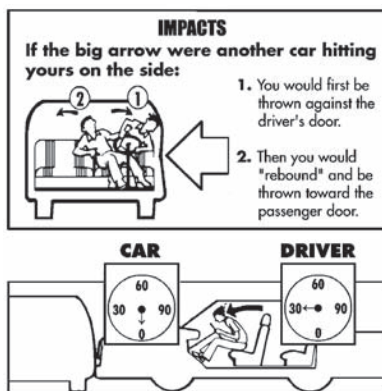
- Do not drive after drinking alcoholic beverages. Young people are more likely to drink and drive if they see their parents do so.
- Use your lap belt or lap and shoulder belts if your vehicle is

equipped with them. Wear both the lap and shoulder belt even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. Teach your teen to fasten the belt before starting the engine.

- For the best protection, the lap belt or lap and shoulder belts should be adjusted to be size appropriate.

NOTE: A seat belt is required for each person who is age six or older and weighs 60 pounds or more. Any child under the age of six and weighing less than 60 pounds must be secured in a federally approved child passenger restraint system and ride in the back seat of a vehicle.

The pictures below illustrate what can happen in an accident.



Your car stops, but you keep going at the same speed you were traveling until you hit the dashboard or windshield. At 30 miles per hour (mph), this is like falling to the ground from the top of a three-story building. If you were struck from the side, the

impact could push you back and forth across the seat. Wearing safety belts can keep you in a position to control the car.

NOTE: The use of a shoulder harness with the lap belt helps protect you from serious or fatal injuries in the event of a crash. Lap-only belts increase the chance of spinal column and abdominal injuries—especially in children. The use of a seat belt reduces the chance of being thrown from a vehicle in case of an accident.

DRIVING DISTRACTIONS

Talking on a cell phone while driving can disrupt a driver's attention and it is illegal for a minor. Minors (under 18 years of age) **are prohibited** from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone (including a hands-free device) and/or a mobile service device (pager, texting device, laptop, etc).

Exceptions

- Emergency calls may be made to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency services.
- Calls may be made while driving on private property.

Fines are \$20 for the first offense plus administrative court fees and \$50 for the second or subsequent offense plus administrative court fees.

Talk to your teen about the dangers of driving while searching for music, reading, eating, having in-

tense conversations, etc. **Driving distractions are dangerous and increase the risk of a collision for everyone.**

ABOUT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Driving gives most teens a feeling of freedom and independence. At a time when they are gaining independence, they may have their first encounter with alcohol and/or drugs. The mixing of alcohol and/or drugs with driving increases the risk of accidents and death. This is especially true at night. Sometimes, after drinking, teens imitate a friend's bad driving habits. They speed or attempt daredevil stunts. Often young people cannot afford to keep a car in safe mechanical condition, even though driving an unsafe car is illegal. Bald tires and poor brakes add to the problems of drinking and driving.

Talk to your teen about drinking and driving. Let your teen know how you feel about drinking or using drugs and what you expect from him or her. A nationwide survey found:

- Young drivers expect and want their parents to talk to them about drinking and driving.
- Teens said drinking occurred in a variety of places, most frequently at a friend's home. Drinking also occurred at parks, beaches, or bars. Drinking was even done in their own home.

Every family handles issues like alcohol and drugs in its own way.

Discuss with your teen what you think he or she should do in the following situations:

- Being driven home from a party by a friend who arrived sober, but who now appears under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- A date becomes intoxicated at a party and insists he or she is sober enough to drive.
- Riding in a car with older teens when one of them is using drugs and offers them to your teen.
- You have forbidden your teen to use alcohol, but he or she has gone to a party where wine was served, and is now feeling a little “strange.” It’s getting late. Your teen is afraid to drive home, but does not know if you should be called.

WHEN YOU AND YOUR TEEN START PRACTICING

- Review your teen’s instruction permit. It may contain additional instructions.
- Take this handbook along.
- Practice only during the day and in a quiet area during the first lesson or two.
- Be familiar with the practice area and any hazards, signs, or signals.
- Be patient, sympathetic, and understanding.
- Keep your voice calm.
- Do not hold initial practice sessions in bad weather.

- Sit in a position where you can grab the steering wheel or step on the brake, if necessary.
- Before starting the engine, have your teen:
 - Consult your owner’s manual to determine whether your vehicle has an antilock brake system (ABS) on all four wheels or ABS just on the rear wheels. (ABS prevents wheels on a motor vehicle from locking while braking.) If in doubt, contact the dealer.
 - Adjust the seat, if necessary.
 - Adjust the mirrors.
 - Fasten the safety belt.
 - Show you the location of the following controls: 4-way flashers, emergency brake, heater/defroster, horn, headlights, and windshield wipers.
 - Explain how each control works.
- Show your teen how to properly start the engine and what to do to start driving.
- Stop practicing when your teen becomes tired or upset and show him or her how to turn off the engine when safe.
- If you see a bad traffic situation ahead (one your teen cannot handle), pull over and stop.

Until your teen has learned the traffic rules and how to control the car, practice in a vehicle with an au-

tomatic transmission, if possible, because it is easier to drive.

GIVING DIRECTIONS DURING PRACTICE

Give directions in a clear, calm voice well in advance. Allow your teen enough time to follow them.

1. Tell your new driver where you want something done **before** you say what you want done. For example, you should say, “At the next corner, turn right.” If you say, “turn right at the corner” your teen may react before you have completed your instructions.
2. When answering questions, use the word “correct,” rather than “right,” which may be mistaken as a direction for a turn rather than an answer to a question.
3. Avoid using only the word “Stop” because it often panics a beginning driver. Instead say “bring your car to a stop.”

LESSON PLAN FOR PRACTICE SESSIONS

Level I

Your teen should practice controlling the car during the first lessons. No time plan is given here. Your teen must complete 50 hours of supervised practice (10 hours at night). You will be asked to certify to this training before your teen is licensed. These driving sessions should give your teen practice in the basic skills listed below. Next to some of the skills is a page reference for more

information about that skill.

- Starting and Stopping the Car
- Driving a “Stick” (page 8)
- Lane Control
- Backing Up the Car (page 8)
- Right Turns (page 9)
- Left Turns (page 9)

Level II

Only after your teen can shift gears (if necessary, in your car), backup, and turn easily and safely should you begin practicing the skills listed below:

- Intersections (page 10)
- Lane Changes (page 12)
- Keeping Space Around the Car (page 12)
- Practicing in Traffic (page 13)

Level III

After the Level I and Level II skills are mastered, the skills listed below can be practiced:

- Parking on Hills (page 13)
- Parallel Parking (page 14)
- U-Turn (page 15)

Level IV

Only after your teen has mastered control of the car and the skills in Levels I, II, and III, should he or she practice night driving and freeway driving.

- Freeway Driving (page 15)
- Night Driving (page 16)
- Special Problems and Emergencies (pages 16–20)

Take a Check Ride

When your teen has finished practicing the skills in Level IV, look at the Safe Driver Checklist on page 20. Read the directions. Make sure you and your teen go on the “test ride” described. This test ride should show you if your new driver needs more practice.

IS YOUR TEEN READY FOR A LICENSE?

When your teen drives well enough to pass the DMV driving test for a provisional license, ask yourself the questions below to confirm that you have not overlooked some necessary driving practice or knowledge.

1. Have we discussed alcohol, drugs, and driving? (See pages 4–5.)
2. Does my teen know what to do if he or she has been drinking and feels it is unsafe to drive?
3. Have we practiced in heavy city traffic?
4. Have we practiced on one-way streets and at intersections with three-way signals?
5. Have we practiced using a center left turn lane?
6. Have we practiced on small country roads, on gravel roads with potholes, and on hills?
7. Have we practiced in bad weather?
8. Have we practiced at night?
9. Have we practiced entering, exiting, and driving on a freeway?

10. Have we discussed what to do if an emergency occurs? (See pages 16–20.)
11. Have we discussed what to do if an accident occurs?
12. Does my teen know I can cancel his or her license at any time and for any reason? Does my young driver know I **will** cancel the license if he or she drives irresponsibly or violates traffic laws?

When you are sure your teen is ready for a license, confirm that the required hours are logged on the “Supervised Driving Log” on page 23. Then, sign the certifying line of his or her instruction permit. Your teen is then ready to take a driving test with a DMV examiner if he or she has held the permit for six months from the day it was issued. (The waiting period is mandatory even though your teen may have already practiced the driving skills listed on page 6.) Your teen must not drive to the DMV office alone.

DRIVING SKILLS

SIGNALING TO OTHER DRIVERS

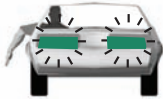
Teach your teen how to signal for left and right turns, slow down, and stop. Have your teen demonstrate arm signals and electric turn signals as shown in the diagram. During the driving test, your teen must use the vehicle’s turn signal during the last 100 feet before turning. At highway speeds, it is best to signal at least five seconds before changing lanes.



LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



SLOW OR STOP

DRIVING A “STICK”

A car with an automatic transmission is recommended because it is easier to operate. If your teen has problems shifting, practice the steps below without releasing the parking brake. With the ignition off, have your teen:

1. Depress clutch pedal to the floor. Hold it there.
2. Practice shifting through all the gears.
3. Practice until shifting is automatic.
4. Practice pressing down the clutch pedal and shifting to a gear you have chosen. After shifting becomes easy, have your teen practice shifting in and out of first gear when stopping and starting.

Shifting into First Gear

1. Place gearshift in neutral.
2. With clutch firmly depressed and foot on brake pedal, start engine.
3. Release the parking brake.

4. Move the gearshift lever from neutral to first.
5. Let the clutch come up very slowly until it reaches the point at which the engine takes hold and begins to pull the car forward.
6. Move foot from the brake to the gas pedal and press down gently.
7. Slowly let the clutch pedal come up all the way.

NOTE: Do not allow your teen to push in the clutch and coast to a stop.

BACKING UP THE CAR

Practice on a wide residential street with little or no traffic, or in a parking lot with no obstacles or vehicles. If your teen seems to have problems backing, have him or her follow the steps below:

1. Put left hand at top of the steering wheel.
2. Place foot on brake.
3. Shift to reverse.
4. Check in all directions for traffic.
5. Release parking brake.
6. Place right hand on the back of the seat and look over right shoulder through the rear window.
7. Release the foot brake slowly. Apply accelerator if needed and be ready to brake to control the speed of the car.
8. Occasionally look quickly to your left.

9. Move slowly and avoid sudden movement of the steering wheel.
10. Turn wheel to the right if you wish to back to the right. Turn wheel to the left if you wish to back to the left.
11. Press brake gently to stop.
12. Shift to park.

PRACTICING TURNS

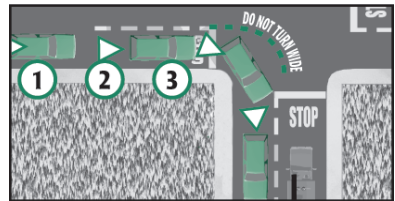
Practice turning in a large, open parking lot, or other area without traffic or pedestrians. The first few times, give directions on steering throughout the turn. Be ready to grab the wheel. Practice right turns first.

RIGHT TURNS

Give the instruction to turn at least 200 feet (more than one-half city block) before turning. This will allow the teen enough time to signal, check traffic, and start the turn. Approach the turn in the right lane, turn into the right lane, and remain in that lane until the turn is completed. If your teen has difficulty learning to turn right, try the following step-by-step instructions.

1. Slow down as you approach the turn.
2. Give right turn signal.
3. Check traffic ahead, behind, and to the sides. At the intersection, look left, right, and left again. If you are merging into a bike lane, look over your right shoulder before merging.

4. Obey all the signs and/or traffic signals.
5. Yield to pedestrians.
6. If possible, place the front of your car two or three feet from the curb before beginning the turn.
7. Steer hand-over-hand to the right when the front bumper enters the intersection.
8. End the turn in the lane closest to the curb.
9. Unwind the steering wheel as the front end of the car enters the proper lane, and then straighten the car in the lane.



- (1) About 100 feet from corner:
 - Begin signaling.
 - Reduce speed.
- (2) STOP BEHIND LIMIT LINE:
 - Look over right shoulder
 - When safe, move as close to the right curb as possible. Enter bicycle lane when it is safe.
 - Look both ways.
- (3) If safe, turn into right lane.

LEFT TURNS

After your teen can make a right turn well, practice left turns. If your teen has difficulty making left turns correctly, follow the steps below:

1. Slow down when approaching the turn.
2. Obey the signs and/or traffic signals.
3. Check traffic to the left, right, front, and rear.

4. Yield to pedestrians.
5. Give a left signal as soon as possible without confusing other drivers.
6. Glance over your left shoulder.
7. Steer the car into the left turn lane, the left part of the lane, or the left turn center lane.
8. Slow to a safe speed.
9. Glance left, ahead, right, and left again.
10. Never turn the wheel until you are ready to make your left turn.
11. Glance left and turn wheel to the left to enter the new street.



- (1) *About 100 feet from corner:*
 - *Begin signaling.*
 - *Reduce speed.*
- (2) *STOP BEHIND LIMIT LINE:*
 - *Look left, then right, then left again.*
 - *If safe, make turn.*
12. Glance right. Place your foot over the brake pedal (without pressing down) while turning, even if you can make the left turn without stopping first.
13. Press the gas pedal as you allow the wheel to straighten in the new street.
14. End the turn in the inside lane.

INTERSECTIONS

When you decide your teen is ready to begin driving through intersections, discuss the following step-by-step directions for signal-controlled

intersections and for uncontrolled or “blind” intersections.

Directions for Signal Controlled Intersections

1. When approaching an intersection with a signal light, even if the light is green, be ready to brake and keep plenty of room between your car and the car ahead. Do not enter an intersection, even when the light is green, unless there is enough space to completely cross before the light turns red. If heavy traffic causes you to block cross traffic, you can be cited.
2. Signal if you plan to turn.
3. Look left, right, and left again for cars on the cross street before entering the intersection.
4. Check for pedestrians and yield to any pedestrian crossing at a corner or other crosswalk.
5. Watch oncoming traffic for any cars making illegal left turns.

When the Light Turns Yellow

Teach your teen how to decide when it is safe to stop on a yellow light. As your teen approaches the green light, have him or her tell you, at regular intervals, whether it would be safe to proceed if the light were to turn yellow. Continue until your teen reaches the point at which he or she feels unable to safely stop for a yellow light. You should make certain that your teen consistently identifies the point at which a safe stop could be made.

Directions for Uncontrolled (No Signs or Signals) and Blind Intersections

When you approach an intersection and cannot see traffic on the cross street for at least 100 feet in each direction during the last 100 feet before crossing (because a building or other object blocks your view), slow to 15 miles per hour. This is a blind intersection.

1. Slow to a speed which will let you stop safely.
2. Look for pedestrians and cross traffic.
3. Look for approaching cars on side streets.
4. Look left, right and left again for traffic on the cross street before entering the intersection.
5. When entering the intersection, look right, and ahead, for approaching traffic.
6. If the road is clear, cross the intersection.

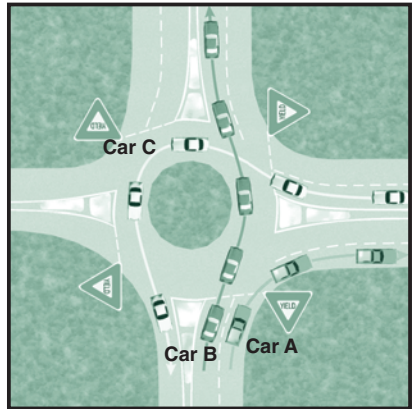
Roundabouts

A roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a counterclockwise direction. Vehicles entering or exiting the roundabout must yield to vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

1. Slow down as you approach the intersection.
2. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the roadway.
3. Watch for signs and pavement markings that guide you or prohibit certain movements.

4. Enter the roundabout when there is a big enough gap in traffic.
5. Drive in a counterclockwise direction. Do not stop or pass other vehicles.
6. Use your turn signals when you change lanes or exit the roundabout.
7. If you miss your exit, continue around until you return to your exit.

If the roundabout has multiple lanes, choose your entry or exit lane based on your destination. For example:



1. To turn right at the intersection, choose the right-hand lane and exit in the right-hand lane (Car A).
2. To go straight through the intersection, choose either lane and exit in that lane (Car B).
3. To turn left, choose the left lane, continue around, and then exit (Car C).

LANE CHANGES

You may discover your teen has difficulty changing lanes in a smooth, continuous movement. Follow the steps below to make sure that a lane change is made safely.

1. Check the traffic ahead.
2. Glance in mirrors for breaks in the traffic.
3. Check the blind spot by looking over your shoulder into the lane you wish to occupy.
4. Signal. Check the mirror and look over shoulder again to make sure the space is empty.
5. Change lanes by moving into a break in traffic flow.
6. Steer to center the car in the new lane.
7. Turn off signal.

Problems to Watch for:

1. Failing to check rear view mirror.
2. Failing to look over your shoulder.
3. Checking over shoulder too long while the car drifts from its path or gets dangerously close to vehicles ahead.
4. Not knowing if there is enough room to change lanes. At first, you should make the judgment for your teen. When your teen is able to look over his or her shoulder and still stay in the lane, have your teen tell you when it is safe to change lanes. Do this until you agree (okay), or disagree (no), with his or her decision.

KEEPING SPACE AROUND THE CAR

Most drivers do not see “the big picture” as well as they should because they follow too closely, and the car ahead blocks their view of the road.

Good drivers maintain a safe “space cushion” to see more of what is happening in traffic. The more space they allow between their car and the car ahead, the more time they will have to see a hazard or accident down the road. They will have more time to stop, or to avoid the problem.

Encourage your teen to keep enough space between his or her car and the car ahead, to the sides, and to the rear. Your teen will then have a “bigger picture” of his or her driving environment. Steering will be easier and the car can travel in the center of the lane instead of hugging one side of the lane or the other.

Teach your new driver how to keep at least a **three-second “cushion”** of space when following other vehicles. When the vehicle ahead passes a signpost or other object near the road, count “one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three.” If you pass the same object before completing this count, you are too close. Allow more space.

When crowded by a tailgater, your teen should allow extra room between his or her car and the car ahead. Allowing more following distance gives him or her and the

tailgater more time to react in an emergency. When the way is clear, your teen can slow to let the tailgater pass. Discuss with your teen how to change lanes, “flash” (turn off and on multiple times) the brake lights, or pull off the road when safe.

When you follow too closely and another driver “cuts” in front of you, the normal reaction is to slam on your brakes and swerve out of the way. Swerving out of the way most often results in cutting someone else off or possibly driving off the roadway. It might also result in the car behind you crashing into you or other cars around you.

If another driver “cuts” in front of you, it is better if you just take your foot off the gas. This will give you space between your car and the other driver without swerving into another lane. Do **not** overreact if you are cut off. Plan your emergency escape route before the emergency happens.

Tell your teen to avoid driving in the blind spot of other drivers. The other driver may not see your teen’s car and could change lanes, causing a collision.



PRACTICING IN TRAFFIC

1. Make sure your teen driver signals when necessary. Discuss why it is important for other

drivers to know what your teen intends to do.

2. See that your teen driver slows down or speeds up when necessary.
3. Encourage your teen driver to keep a “cushion” of empty space around the car. Discuss the importance of staying a safe distance behind the car ahead.
4. Describe how to be a courteous driver, yielding space to drivers trying to change lanes, etc.
5. When you first begin practicing in traffic, point out hazards and warn your teen until he or she becomes comfortable in the new situation.
6. Make sure all traffic lights and stop signs are obeyed. Warn your teen if the car is not slowing down when it should.

PARKING ON HILLS

Practice parking on hills with little or no traffic. At first, park in areas without other parked cars. If you are unable to practice parking on hills in your area, discuss the procedures. Make sure that your teen driver will be able to safely park on a hill, if needed.

Parking Downhill (If there is no hill, practice on a flat road anyway.)

1. Stop your car about six to eight inches from the curb.
2. Shift to neutral and allow the car to roll forward slowly, controlling speed with the brake.

3. As the car moves, quickly turn the steering wheel toward the curb.
4. Stop when the front right wheel touches the curb, or when the wheel is four to six inches on the shoulder.
5. Set the parking brake, shift to park, and release the foot brake.
6. Shut off the engine.

Parking Uphill With a Curb

(If there is no hill, practice on a flat road anyway.)

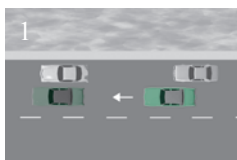
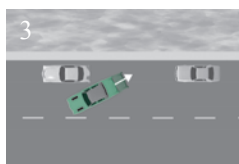
1. Stop the car about six to eight inches from the curb.
2. Shift to neutral and let up a little on the brake. At the same time, turn the steering wheel away from the curb. Allow the car to roll backward slowly, controlling speed with the brake.
3. Stop when the back part of the front right tire touches the curb.
4. Set the parking brake, shift to park, and release the foot brake.
5. Shut off the engine.

PARALLEL PARKING (STREET WITH TWO-WAY TRAFFIC)

At first, practice parallel parking in a large, open parking lot. Later practice on a quiet, residential street until your teen is capable of practicing in normal traffic.

1. Check traffic and give signal. Pull up about two feet away from, and parallel to, the car ahead of the space in which you wish to park (back bumpers must be even).
2. Check traffic and shift to reverse. Turn steering wheel sharply to the right while backing.
3. As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead, quickly straighten the wheels and continue to back straight.
4. When clear of the car ahead, turn wheels sharply to the left and back slowly toward the car behind.
5. Shift to drive. Turn wheels sharply to the right and pull toward center of the parking space. The wheels should be within 18 inches of the curb.

STEPS IN PARALLEL PARKING



6. Shift into park, shut off engine and release the foot brake.
7. Set parking brake.

U-TURN

1. Practice U-turns on a wide, residential street with little or no traffic. Do not make a U-turn in heavy traffic.
2. During the first practice session, act as your teen's eyes while he or she concentrates on making the turn.
3. When your teen can make the turn easily, encourage him or her to look in all directions for traffic before turning and while making the turn. (If you are near an intersection, a car can come around the corner in just a few seconds.)

FREEWAY DRIVING

When your teen is ready for freeway driving, try to choose long on-ramps and off-ramps to practice entering and exiting the freeway. Below are directions for freeway driving:

Entering the Freeway

1. Be in the proper lane for the on-ramp you want.
2. While still on the ramp, check your mirror. Watch traffic in the lane you will be entering. Also, watch for cars to the rear and sides if there is more than one lane merging. Remember—you do not have the right of way.
3. Turn on your signal.

4. Look for a gap in the traffic. Adjust your speed to match that of cars on the freeway.
5. Do not slow or stop unless necessary.
6. When you reach the freeway, look over your shoulder before moving into a gap in the first lane.
7. Do not cross over any solid line while merging.

On the Freeway

1. Keep up with traffic as much as possible without exceeding the speed limit. Yield to faster traffic. Stay to the right, as much as possible.
2. Maintain a proper “space cushion.” Use the three-second rule described on page 12 for following distance and adjust your lane position as needed for traffic conditions.
3. Watch for merging traffic at on-ramps.
4. Signal and look over your shoulder before changing lanes.
5. If you see traffic slowing ahead, “tap” your brake pedal several times to warn drivers behind you. Do this even though you do not need to brake yet. This “tapping” will warn drivers behind you to slow down.

Leaving the Freeway

1. Move into the proper exit lane at least one-half mile before the exit. Do not wait until the last minute. You may cause an ac-

cident if you change lanes in a hurry.

2. Signal four or five seconds before the off-ramp.
3. After entering the off-ramp, slow to the posted speed limit.
4. Do not cross over any solid line when exiting.

DRIVING AT NIGHT

Do not start night driving until your teen has mastered all driving skills during the daylight hours. Begin night driving in a familiar, low traffic area. Below are the directions for driving at night.

1. Turn the headlights on when darkness makes it harder to see (no later than one-half hour after sunset). It is illegal to use parking lights rather than headlights.
2. Drive more slowly. Your teen should be able to stop the car within the distance that he or she can see ahead.
3. Increase the space cushion to the front and rear of your vehicle.
4. Signal well in advance of every move.
5. Avoid looking into the headlights of an oncoming car. Look to the right edge of the road. Your teen must learn to maintain the car's direction of travel when the headlights of oncoming traffic make it hard to see. If your teen has difficulty doing this, perhaps an eye examination is needed.

6. Practice all of the skills described for a minimum of 10 hours of night driving.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND EMERGENCIES

WHAT TO DO IF AN ACCIDENT OCCURS

Talk to your teen about what to do in the event of an accident. What to do as a witness or as someone involved in an accident is noted in the *California Driver Handbook*. Make sure your teen knows what to do if an accident happens.

WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN



PULL OVER AND STOP FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

When a fire truck, ambulance, police car, or other emergency vehicle approaches from behind with its siren on, pull over as far as practical to the right side of the road. Stop until the emergency vehicle passes. However, never stop in an intersection. Continue through the intersection and then pull to the right as soon as you can. Failure to pull over may result in a violation citation. Sometimes, the driver of an emergency vehicle will use a loudspeaker to direct a driver blocking the road.

WHEN YOU SEE A SCHOOL BUS

When you see flashing red lights on a school bus, stop at a safe distance away from the school bus, and remain stopped until the red lights stop flashing. Traffic in both directions must stop. School buses are now required to flash the red lights at all stops.

Be cautious around stopped school buses, even if the red lights have stopped flashing. Assume a child might dart out in front of you. **Suggestion:** Treat school buses as school zones. Drive 25 mph or less when children are present.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

When you drive close to a railroad crossing, look and listen for trains in both directions. Be ready to stop, if necessary. You should expect a train on a track at any time, day or night. Never stop on a railroad track. Usually by the time a train sees you, it will be too late for it to stop. When traffic is heavy, wait off the tracks until you are sure you can drive over them without stopping.

WHEN YOU CANNOT SEE BECAUSE OF FOG, RAIN, OR SNOW

The best advice for driving in the fog is “DON’T.” Do not use your high-beam headlights in the fog because they create glare and reduce visibility. Consider postponing your trip until the fog clears. If you must drive, then slow down and turn on your low-beam headlights. Never

drive with just your parking or fog lights. Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the space you can see in front of your vehicle. Avoid crossing or passing lanes of traffic unless absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic you cannot see. Use your wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision. If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull completely off the road. Do not continue driving until you can see better. Turn off your lights or someone may see your taillights and drive into you.

In a very heavy rain or snowstorm, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you cannot see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. You may have to stop from time to time to wipe mud or snow off your windshield, headlights, and taillights.

When you drive in snowy areas, carry chains in case you find yourself in conditions where you cannot drive without them. Make sure you carry the correct number of chains and that they will fit your drive wheels. Learn how to put the chains on before you need to use them.

Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. This is when many road pavements are most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away.

Turn on your lights when visibility is poor—even in the daylight hours.

NOTE: You must turn on your headlights if snow, rain, fog, or low visibility (1,000 feet or less) require the continuous use of windshield wipers.

DRIVING ON SLIPPERY ROADS

When you drive on wet, icy, gravel, or dirt roads you should:

1. Drive more slowly and stay further behind the car ahead.
2. Slow down as you approach curves and intersections.
3. Avoid quick stops. “Pump” the brakes to slow or stop.
4. Avoid fast turns.
5. Shift to low gear before going down a steep hill.
6. If brakes get wet, dry them by pressing the gas pedal and brake pedal at the same time so that the car drives against the pressure of the brakes.
7. Avoid especially slippery areas, such as ice patches, wet leaves, oil, and deep puddles.

DRIVING IN WIND

Drive slower than normal when it is very windy. Lighter cars, vans, and trucks with broad, high sides are sometimes blown out of their lane. House trailers are in special danger of shifting. If possible, avoid driving next to other vehicles. Grasp the steering wheel firmly. Be prepared to correct steering as wind force changes. Keep the windows closed.

QUICK STOPS AND SKIDS

Avoid sudden stops. If your vehicle has four-wheel ABS, apply firm pressure on the brake pedal.

NOTE: To determine if a vehicle has ABS, review your owner’s manual. There may also be an illuminated ABS symbol on your dashboard immediately after starting the engine.

If your vehicle has just rear-wheel ABS (common in light trucks), ease up on the brake pedal with just enough pressure to allow the front wheels to roll again so you can steer.

If your vehicle does **not** have ABS, “pump” the brakes.

To pump the brakes, you should:

- Push the brake pedal hard.
- As the car begins to skid, quickly let up on the brake. Push it down again quickly.
- Use this quick, pumping action until the car is stopped.

If the vehicle has rear-wheel drive and goes into a skid, stop braking and turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid.

If your vehicle has front-wheel drive, steer where you want to go and carefully accelerate to keep the vehicle moving.

IF YOUR BRAKES FAIL

You should:

1. Downshift to low gear.
2. If your vehicle:
 - Has four-wheel ABS, apply firm pressure on the brake pedal.
 - Has just rear-wheel ABS (common in light trucks), ease up on the brake pedal with just enough pressure to allow the front wheels to roll again.
 - Does not have an antilock brake system, pump the brake pedal.
3. Apply the parking brake, but be ready to release it if the car begins to skid.
4. Remember you can still steer and swerve. You could steer into bushes or something soft.
5. Sound your horn and flash your lights to warn other drivers.
6. When you no longer need to change direction and have stopped, turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles.)

DRIVING IN EXTREME HEAT

- Watch the temperature gauge for overheating.
- Avoid driving at high speeds for long periods.
- Use low gear in “creeping” traffic.
- Turn off the air conditioner, if the engine is overheating.

HYDROPLANING

If water on the road is deeper than the tread of the tires, a fast moving vehicle may glide over the water and not touch the road surface. This condition is called hydroplaning. If you can see reflections on the pavement, or the car ahead leaves no tracks on the water, your car could hydroplane. To avoid hydroplaning:

- Drive slowly.
- Have good tire tread.
- Have tires properly inflated.
- If possible, steer around water.
- If you hear a slushing sound from the tires, especially when changing directions, slow down.

DRIVING IN EXTREME COLD

If you have not added antifreeze, the water in the radiator may be freezing. Your engine will overheat if this happens. After starting the engine, watch the temperature gauge for signs of overheating. Use the defroster or slightly opened windows to keep them from “fogging up.”

TIRE BLOWOUT

Teach your teen to always keep both hands on the wheel. If a tire goes suddenly flat, you need both hands to control the car. If you have a sudden tire blowout, you should:

1. Hold the steering wheel tightly and steer straight ahead.
2. Slow down gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal slowly, but do not hit the brakes.

3. Let the car slow to a stop, completely off the road.
4. Apply the brakes when the car is almost stopped.

WHEN YOU ARE STUCK IN SNOW OR MUD

1. Shift to low gear and keep the front wheels straight.
2. Gently step on the gas pedal.
3. Avoid spinning the wheels. Drive forward as far as possible.
4. Shift to reverse and slowly back up as far as possible. Do not spin the wheels.
5. Shift to low again and drive forward.
6. Repeat a forward-backward motion until the car rolls free.
7. In deep mud or snow, put boards, tree branches, etc., under the tires. Never do this when the tires are spinning.

You may avoid getting stuck if you always carry chains in your vehicle. Put them on the tires before driving in snow or mud.

STUCK ACCELERATOR

If your accelerator becomes stuck, you should:

1. Shift to neutral.
2. Apply the brakes.
3. Keep your eyes on the road.
4. Look for a way out.
5. Warn other drivers by honking and flashing your emergency lights.

6. Try to drive the car safely off the road.
7. When you no longer need to change direction and have stopped, turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles.)

SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST

Use the checklist on the next page when your teen has finished practicing all the driving skills discussed in this book. Take your teen on a long “test” ride. As you ride, check your teen’s driving against the checklist. Be sure that your teen is following the safe driving habits listed. Check (✓) each item you see your teen doing correctly. This list should tell you where your teen driver still needs practice or help. Your teen should, as a habit, do all of the things listed before taking the driving test at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Locate the Controls

Your teen locates the following controls and explains how they work:

- 4-way flashers.
- Emergency and parking brakes.
- Headlights.
- Heater/defroster.
- Horn.
- Windshield wipers.

Before Starting the Vehicle

- Adjusts mirrors.
- Fastens safety belt.

Starting the Vehicle

- 1. Vehicle is in “Park” or “Neutral.”
- 2. Foot is on the brake.
- 3. Starts vehicle smoothly.

Moving Forward

- 1. Signals.
- 2. Looks over shoulder before pulling into traffic.
- 3. Uses both hands on opposite sides of steering wheel.

Stopping

- 1. Stops when necessary behind crosswalk or limit line.
- 2. Uses correct foot on brake pedal.

Turns

- 1. Signals and slows for turns.
- 2. Begins and ends turns in correct lane.
- 3. Yields right-of-way when necessary.
- 4. Accepts legal right-of-way when safe.
- 5. Sees and reacts to hazards.

Backing

- 1. Looks back over right shoulder when backing.
- 2. Checks mirrors and glances quickly to side while backing.

Changing Lanes

- 1. Signals.
- 2. Checks mirrors.
- 3. Checks over shoulder.
- 4. Changes lanes safely.

Parking on Hills

- 1. Signals.
- 2. Curbs wheels properly.
- 3. Sets parking brake.
- 4. Signals and checks over shoulder before entering traffic.

Parallel Parking

- 1. Signals.
- 2. Looks over shoulder while backing.
- 3. Yields to other vehicles when necessary.

Entering the Freeway

- 1. Checks traffic flow.
- 2. Signals.
- 3. Times entry into freeway.
- 4. Checks over shoulder as he or she accelerates into gap in traffic.
- 5. Signals early and slows down on the exit ramp to posted speed limit.
- 6. Adjusts speed to road conditions.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- 1. Checks mirrors frequently and before braking.
- 2. Checks cross streets before entering intersections.
- 3. Checks signal lights and signs.
- 4. Keeps eyes “moving” (watches sides and middle of road).
- 5. Keeps a “space cushion” around the car.
- 6. Follows at a safe distance.

TIPS FOR YOUR TEEN ABOUT DMV'S TESTS

Vision Test

- Make a morning appointment, if possible.
- Be rested after a good night's sleep.
- Bring your new glasses, if you have recently had your prescription changed.
- Be sure the lenses are clean.
- Do not be nervous.

Law Test

- Make a morning appointment, if possible.
- Take a couple of days to study the information in the *California Driver Handbook*.
- Read the test questions carefully. Do not read anything extra into the question. There will be one correct answer. The other two answer choices will be either obviously wrong or not appropriate for the question asked.
- All the questions are taken from the handbook. If you miss a question, the field office employee can show you on which page of the current handbook to find the correct answer.
- You are allowed to take three tests before a new application fee must be paid.
- If you fail the law test, you must wait one week before taking the test again.

Practice First

- You must have practiced for 50 hours, including 10 hours of night driving, *before* going to the DMV for the driving test.
- Practice making left and right turns at busy intersections, as well as, in residential neighborhoods.
- Remember to look over your right shoulder for a right lane change and over your left shoulder for a left lane change.
- Use your turn signals for all lane changes and turns.

Driving Test

- Make a morning appointment, if possible.
- Be sure your car is properly registered and bring proof of financial responsibility (insurance).
- Make sure your parent has signed your permit verifying the 50 hours of training.
- Be sure you are thoroughly familiar with the car you use for the driving test. You must know where all the controls are located and how to use them. Do not borrow a car for the driving test, unless necessary. It will be one more thing to make you nervous.
- Relax!
- If you fail the driving test, you must wait two weeks before taking the test again.

SUPERVISED DRIVING LOG

A parent, guardian, spouse, or an adult 25 years of age or older, who has a valid California driver license may use this log to track the required 50 hours of supervised driving practice (10 hours must be night driving) for teens. The supervised driving practice is in addition to the driver training requirements. The use of this log is optional and is provided for your convenience. If needed, photocopy this driving log before use.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Driving Skills Practiced</i>	<i>Driving Time Hours/Minutes 30 min, 1hr, etc.</i>		<i>Skills needing more practice (use abbrev.)</i>	<i>Adult Initials</i>
		DAY	NIGHT		
<i>1/11</i>	<i>Sample - SS, LC, BC, RT, LT</i>	<i>1 hr.</i>	<i>30 min.</i>	<i>BC, LC</i>	<i>Mom</i>
TOTAL PRACTICE TIME					

DRIVING SKILLS TO PRACTICE

All skills in each level should be mastered before attempting the next level. See page 6 for more information. The abbreviations listed below can be used to identify the driving skills practiced and those that need more practice.

Level I

- Backing the Car (BC)
- Lane Control (LC)
- Right Turn, Left Turn (RT/LT)
- Start and Stop Car (SS)

Level II

- Intersections (INT)
- Keeping Space Around the Car (SP)
- Lane Changes (RLC), (LLC)

Level III

- Hill Parking (HP)
- Parallel Parking (PP)
- U-Turn (UT)

Level IV

- Night and Freeway Driving (NGT/FWY)