

# A guide to the Driving Test



# Introduction

The driving test is an important step in gaining your driver licence. When you pass you will be issued with your provisional licence (P1) and will no longer need to keep a log book or have a supervising driver in the car with you. You will be free to continue learning and gaining valuable experience through driving on your own.



This booklet is a general guide about what is in the test, not a book of road rules. For more detailed information on road rules refer to the *Road Users' Handbook* or the *Australian Road Rules*. Both publications can be found on the RTA website, [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au).

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This guide explains what you need to do before taking a test, what you will be tested on, and what happens afterwards. It does not give information on the road rules – this can be found in the *Road Users' Handbook*.

## THE WAY THE TEST WORKS

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The driving test follows a set course. During the test a testing officer will be in the car with you directing you where to drive, and recording your performance on a score sheet. Your score will be based on your driving performance in a range of situations and your ability to demonstrate low risk behaviours.

Some driving behaviour such as breaking a road rule or following other vehicles too closely is considered to be 'high risk'. If you behave this way during the test your actions will be recorded as FAIL items and you will not pass, regardless of your score.

See Section 5 of this guide for a complete list of fail items.



If you choose to use a professional driving instructor we recommend you select one who has been trained in low risk driving through an RTA instructor workshop.



In all the diagrams in this handbook you are always the blue car.



### BRIBING PEOPLE IS AGAINST THE LAW

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It is illegal to offer, request or accept gifts, rewards, money or other favours in order to get a licence without passing the required tests. Penalties are severe and include fines and imprisonment. All cases of corruption will be investigated and strong action will be taken against all those involved.

The only licence fees and charges you have to pay are set by the RTA. Do not pay any more or offer to pay more to get your licence.

If you know or believe that someone has got or is about to get a NSW licence by offering or responding to a request for a bribe – or if you suspect or know of any other corruption involving an RTA employee – telephone the RTA on 1800 043 642 (free call) or the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on (02) 8281 5999.



To avoid misunderstanding make sure all money and valuables in your vehicle are locked away or out of sight.

### BOOKING A TEST

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When you are ready to take the driving test, you need to make a booking either:

- Online at [www.myRTA.com](http://www.myRTA.com).
- By calling 13 22 13.
- Or going to an RTA motor registry or agency.

Bookings made by phone or online can be paid for by credit card only. Bookings made at a motor registry can be paid for by Eftpos, cash, cheque or credit card.

Should you wish to change or cancel your booking, you may do so. This must be done at least 24 hours prior to the test date or your fee will not be refunded.

### A COMPLETED LOGBOOK

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Before you can take a driving test you must have:

- The required amount of driving experience recorded in your *Learner Driver Log Book*.
- 'The Declaration of Completion' signed by your supervising driver in your *Learner Driver Log Book*.

## TAKING THE TEST

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When you go to the testing centre for the driving test, you must have a person with you who has a full driver licence. If you fail the test you cannot drive away on your own, so you will need a licensed driver to be with you.

Plan to arrive at the testing centre in good time for your appointment. Give your Learner Driver Log Book and booking confirmation slip to the person at the counter. You will be referred to a testing officer.

The testing officer will ask you to sign the score sheet. Remember to ask any questions before you start. The testing officer cannot tell you how to drive or coach you during the test as it is an assessment of your ability to drive on your own.



A monitoring officer may sit in on your test. The monitoring officer's job is to watch the testing officer and make sure that the test is conducted properly. Nobody other than the testing officer and monitoring officer is allowed to be in the vehicle with you during the test.

Try to relax. You will not be expected to drive as skillfully as an experienced driver. Remember, you can try again if you fail.

After the test, the testing officer will review your performance if you wish. Testing officers will provide general comments rather than discuss specific situations or events.

If you fail you will receive a driving test record that shows the areas where you need to improve.

## YOUR CAR MUST BE ROADWORTHY AND READY TO DRIVE

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Before the test starts the testing officer will check to make sure that your car is roadworthy. See the checklist in Section 5 *Test results*.

## WHY A TEST CAN BE CANCELLED

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If there is any suspicion that you have recently taken alcohol or another drug, the test will be cancelled and there will be no refund of the test booking fee. If you offer money or some other bribe to the testing officer, the test will be stopped and you will be taken to a police station to be charged with offering a bribe.

Driving is never risk free, but you should aim to drive 'low risk'. You will be assessed on your low risk driving skills in speed management, road positioning and decision making. The test also assesses your ability to perceive and respond to hazards.

## Observation

Observation is an essential skill for a low risk driver. The testing officer will be assessing your observation techniques throughout the test. You will fail if you have poor observation.



When scanning look:

- In the distance.
- At the road surface.
- To the left and right.
- In your mirrors.
- At the instruments and gauges.

## SCANNING

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Scanning is keeping your eyes moving, checking in one area for a couple of seconds and then moving your eyes to another area.

Low risk drivers constantly scan traffic conditions.

When driving around corners turn your head and look through the corner scanning the road ahead of your vehicle.

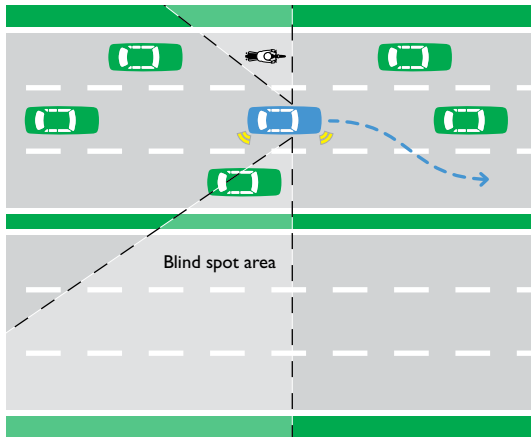
Slow down if vision of the road ahead is limited.

You will be expected to make regular checks in your rear vision mirror so you know what is happening behind you. You must check your rear vision mirror before you slow down or change direction.

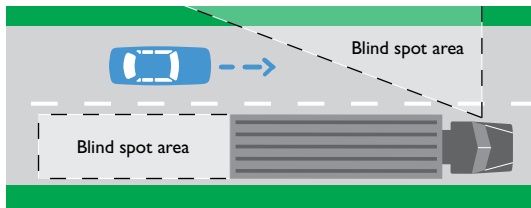
Before proceeding through traffic lights, you must turn your head and check to ensure it is safe.

## CHECKING BLIND SPOTS

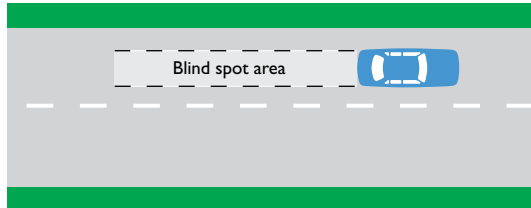
A car, motorcycle or bicycle in an adjacent lane can easily be positioned beyond the area visible in the mirrors. Checking your blind spots is an essential observation skill as many crashes occur because drivers do not turn their head and look over their shoulder before steering. You will fail if you frequently miss head checks.



Check blind spots before changing your road position.



Do not drive in the blind spot of other vehicles.



All vehicles have a large blind spot behind them. Because of this blind spot, extra care must be taken when reversing as small children can be out of view.

You must check your blind spots before:

- Changing lanes.
- Leaving or returning to the kerb.
- Merging or diverging.
- Reversing.
- Turning left – looking for pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles that could be beside you in your blind spot.
- Turning right – looking for vehicles that may be overtaking you.
- Joining the traffic stream.
- Leaving the inside lane of a multi lane roundabout.

When reversing you must turn your head and look over your shoulder to check through the rear window for vehicles and pedestrians that may not be visible in your mirror. All vehicles have blind spots behind.



## Speed management

You must drive at a safe and legal speed, managing your speed to suit traffic, weather and road conditions.

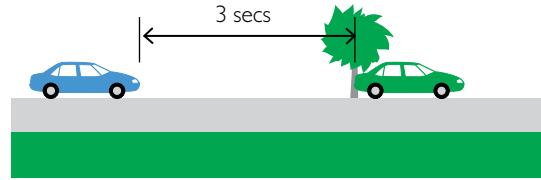
### MAINTAIN SPACE TO THE FRONT

You must adjust your speed to maintain crash avoidance space to the front of your car.

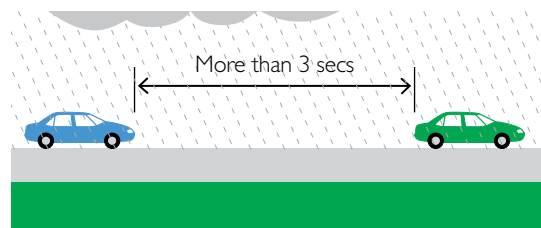
The minimum safe distance needed in front is three seconds, but more is needed in poor conditions or when you are being followed too closely by another vehicle.

When you change lanes or if another vehicle moves into your three-second gap, you will be expected to create a new gap by gradually dropping back.

To calculate a three-second crash avoidance space when following another vehicle use this basic technique. As the rear of the vehicle in front of you passes an object at the side of the road such as a power pole, tree or sign, start a three-second count 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three'.



You must stay at least 3 secs behind the vehicle ahead.

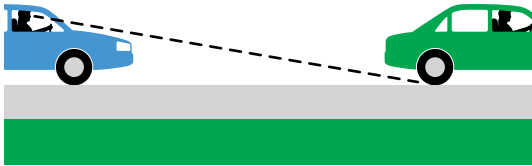


You must increase this distance in poor conditions (rain etc).

If your car passes the object you picked before you finish the three-second count, you are following too closely. Your crash avoidance space is not large enough. Slow down, and repeat the count again until the three-second crash avoidance space is achieved.

## MAINTAIN SPACE WHEN STOPPED

When you are stopped in traffic you must keep some distance from the vehicle in front to reduce the risk of colliding with it if you are hit from behind. As a minimum, you must be able to clearly see where the rear tyres of the car in front are touching the road.



Leave space in front when stopped.

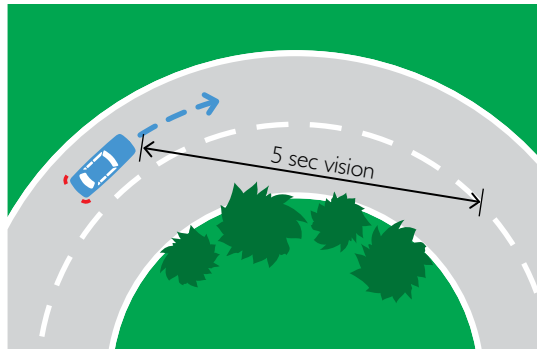
You may move forward once other vehicles are stopped behind you and the risk of being hit from behind is reduced.

## REDUCE SPEED

You must slow down if you do not have a clear view of the road ahead. Situations where your vision may be reduced include: blind corners, blocked intersections, crests and poor weather conditions.

Slow down if you cannot see five seconds ahead.

To calculate five-second vision in a curve, pick a fixed point in the oncoming lane that has just come into view and start a count 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two... one thousand and five'. If you reach the point before five seconds you are driving too fast for the available vision.



Slow down if you cannot see 5 secs ahead.



You must also slow down in situations where space to the side of your vehicle is limited.

## Road positioning

During the test you will be expected to maintain a safe, legal position on the road. This includes during manoeuvres such as a three-point turn and reverse parking.

### BUFFERING

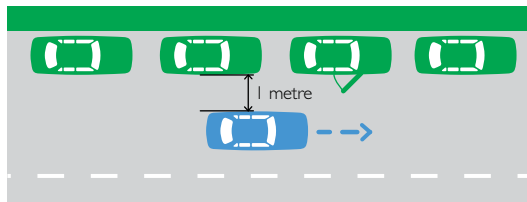
Buffering is keeping as much space to the sides of your vehicle as practical in any situation. You should have at least one metre from other vehicles and hazards.

Where you are not able to keep space from other vehicles and hazards you must slow down.

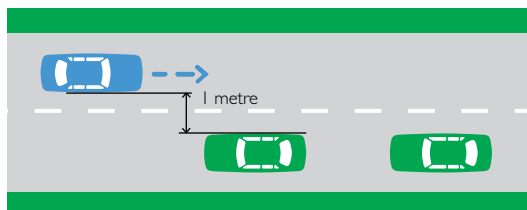
You are also expected to change your position on the road to create space from hazards. On crests and curves, slow down and move away from oncoming traffic.

In multi-laned traffic, avoid driving in the high risk area beside other vehicles.

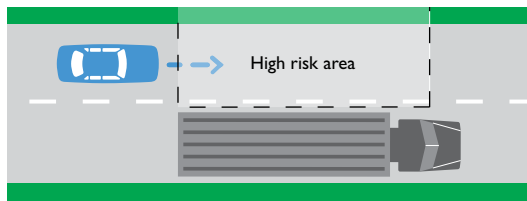
If you unnecessarily drive on the wrong side of the road, or unnecessarily cross any edge lines or lane markings, you will fail.



You must allow space for parked cars to open doors.



You must allow clearance from oncoming traffic.



Avoid driving in the high risk area beside other vehicles.

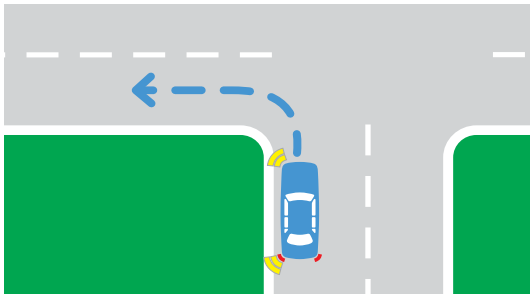


To reduce the risk of head-on crashes on multi-lane roads, only drive in the right lane when overtaking or planning to turn right.

## URNS AT INTERSECTIONS

Your position in making turns is important to ensure a smooth and safe flow of traffic.

When turning left you must approach in the left lane or any marked left turn lanes on laned roads, or as far left as you can when on unmarked roads.

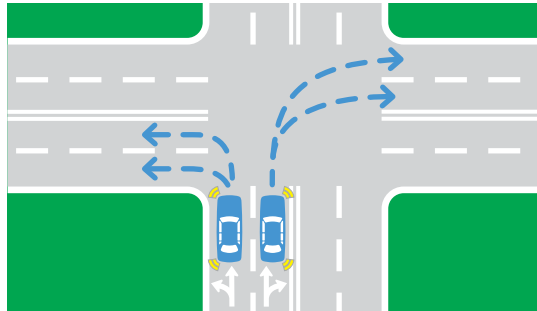


Approach left turns as far left as you can.

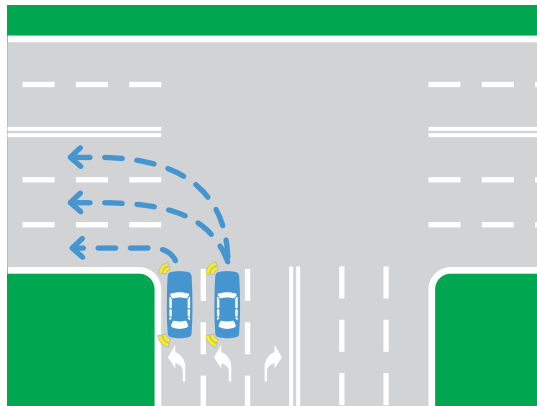
As you finish a left turn, exit into the lane or part of the road that is best for the traffic conditions. Your choice will depend on where you are going next, whether cars are parked in the left lane or whether outside lanes must be left clear for overtaking.

However, when there are multiple turning lanes, you must finish in a permissible lane.

You will fail if you exit in an incorrect lane.

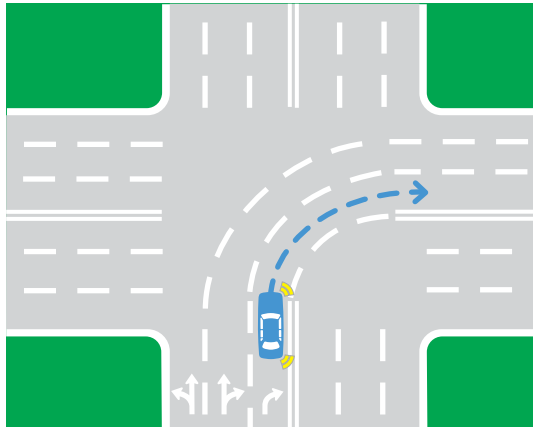


You can turn into either lane, depending on traffic.



When there are multiple turning lanes, you must finish in a permissible lane.

When turning right you must approach in the right lane or any marked right turn lanes on laned roads, or by keeping to the right of, but as close as practical to, the centre of the road on unmarked roads.

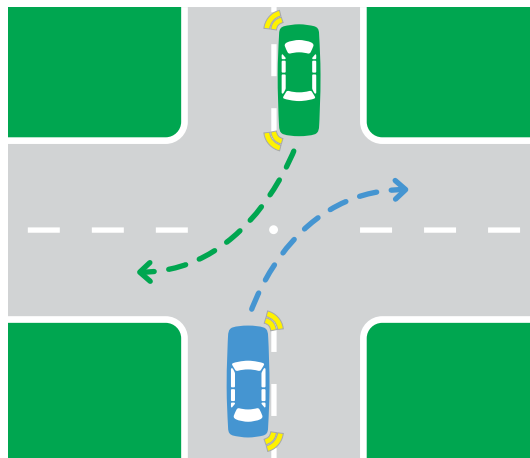


In marked lanes stay in the same lane.

In marked lanes you must stay in the same lane as you go from one road to another.



To protect you from being pushed into the oncoming traffic if hit from behind, you must keep your steering straight while waiting to turn right.



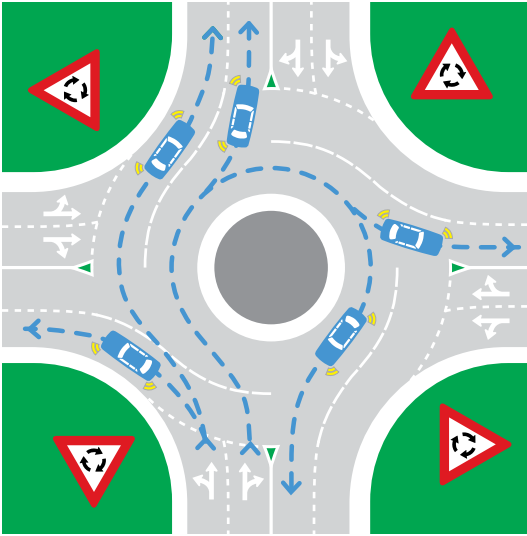
Turning vehicles pass in front of each other.

When turning right, steer to the right of an imaginary centre of the intersection. This allows vehicles opposite you to also turn right. As you exit you must keep to the left of the centre of the road.

When turning right into a one-way street, approach and exit as close as possible to the right side of the road.



When you come to a stop sign you must stop completely before reaching the stop line, and as close as possible to the line.



Indicate left when leaving the roundabout.

On multi-laned roundabouts position your vehicle in accordance with the road markings for the direction you intend to travel. You must exit in a permissible lane.



You must check your blind spot before crossing lanes within a roundabout.

## MANOEUVRES

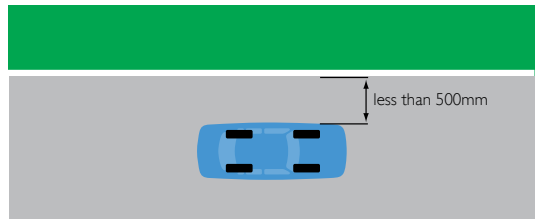
The driving test includes a number of manoeuvres including:

- Kerb side stop.
- Hill start.
- Three-point turn.
- Parking, reverse parallel, 90 degree or 45 degree, front or rear to kerb (type depending on local availability).

During the manoeuvres you will be assessed on your ability to position your vehicle legally, safely and accurately:

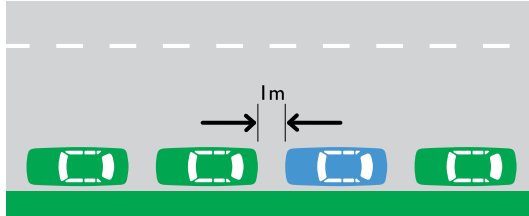
You must:

- Park close and as near as practical to the kerb. (The test requires you to be less than 500 millimeters from the kerb.)



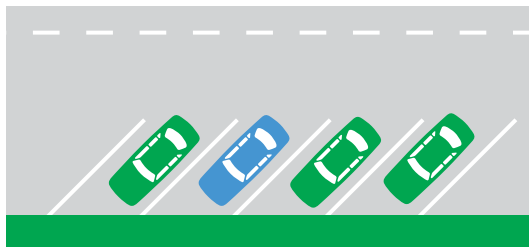
The vehicle should be parallel and closer than 500mm to the kerb. The wheels must not touch the kerb.

- Stay at least one metre away from other vehicles. (The test requires you to be no more than two metres from other vehicles when you park.)

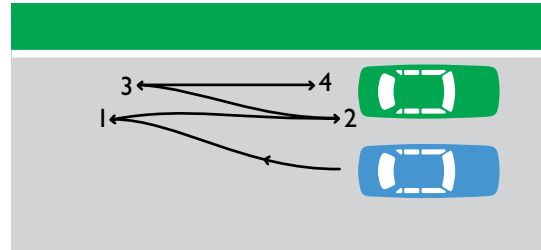


You must make sure the vehicle is at least 1m from other vehicles.

- Reverse only as far as you need (if you reverse more than seven metres during the reverse park manoeuvre, you will fail).
- Where possible, finish as close as practical to the angle required for that parking area and within any marked lines.

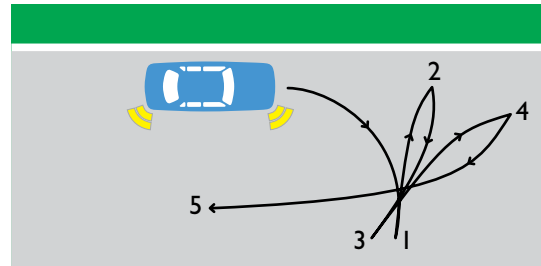


Park at required angle and within any marked lines.



Park using a maximum of 4 direction changes.

- Use effective steering. (The test allows a maximum of four direction changes for all parking manoeuvres.)



Turn around using a maximum of 5 direction changes.

- During the three-point turn you must check left and right for traffic before each forward movement.



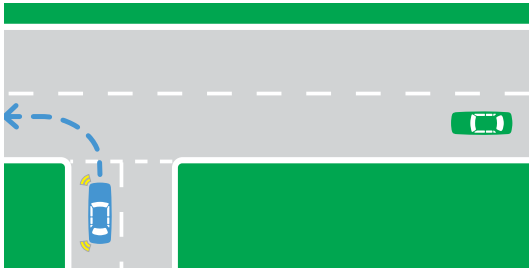
Mounting the kerb at anytime during the test will result in a fail.

## Decision making

A critical decision must be made whenever you enter traffic, change lanes, cross or turn at an intersection.

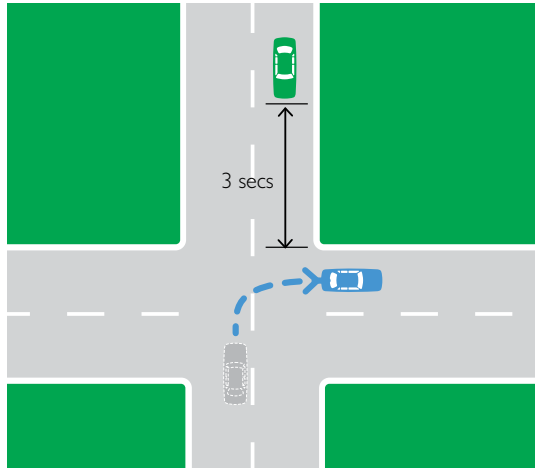
### AFFECTING THE CRASH AVOIDANCE SPACE OF OTHERS

The testing officer will be checking that you go only when there is a safe gap in the traffic and that you are not affecting the crash avoidance space of other drivers.



Choose a safe gap so other vehicles are not forced to change speed.

A safe gap ensures that other vehicles do not need to change their speed or position. When turning across traffic make sure your vehicle is clear of the intersection by at least three seconds before the approaching vehicles arrive. When joining a traffic stream select a gap that allows you to reach the traffic speed before the approaching vehicles are within three seconds of your car.



Be clear of the intersection for 3 secs before other vehicles arrive.

When approaching traffic lights that are green, check your mirrors and be prepared to stop.



You must stop at a yellow light, unless sudden braking might cause a crash.



You must signal for at least five seconds before leaving the kerb or a parked position.



## Hazard and response

Your hazard perception skills are essential to low risk driving. During the test you will be assessed on your ability to recognise hazards and choose an appropriate response.

### RESPONDING TO HAZARDS

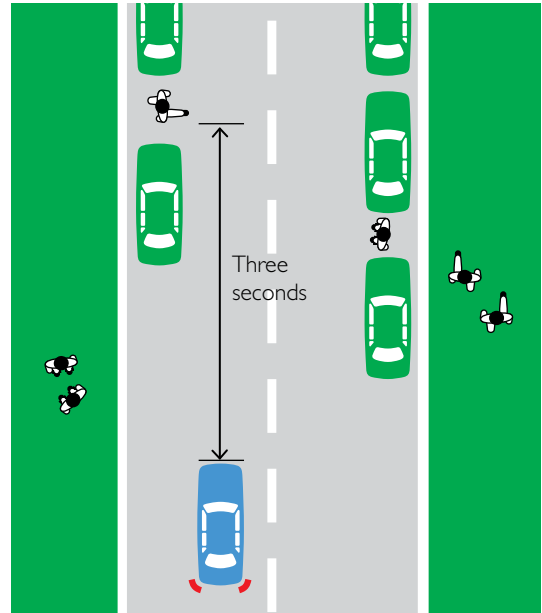
During your test you must respond appropriately to hazards.

As you scan the traffic environment you should be asking yourself whether the things you see could possibly enter your crash avoidance space.

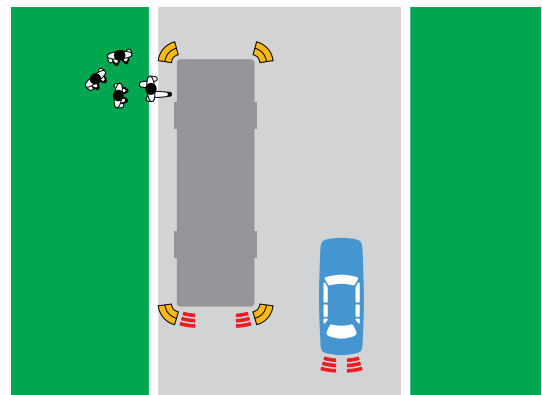
If the answer is yes and something could block your path your response should be to protect your crash avoidance space by:

- 'Setting up' or covering the brakes.
- Easing off the accelerator.
- Reducing speed.
- Creating a 'buffer' from the hazard by changing your position on the road or changing lanes.

Your ability to respond means that you are better able to deal with any dangerous situation that might occur.

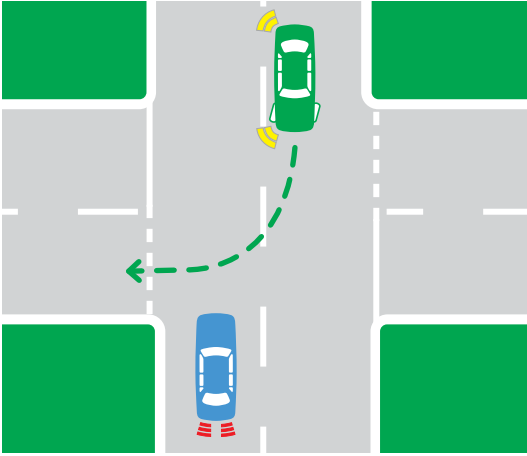


Respond before reaching the hazard.

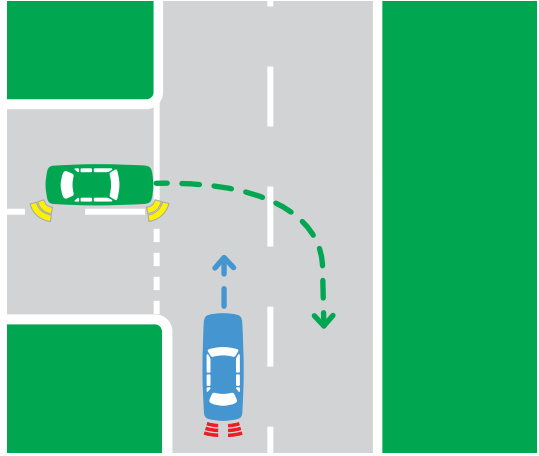


Respond when something can enter your crash avoidance space.

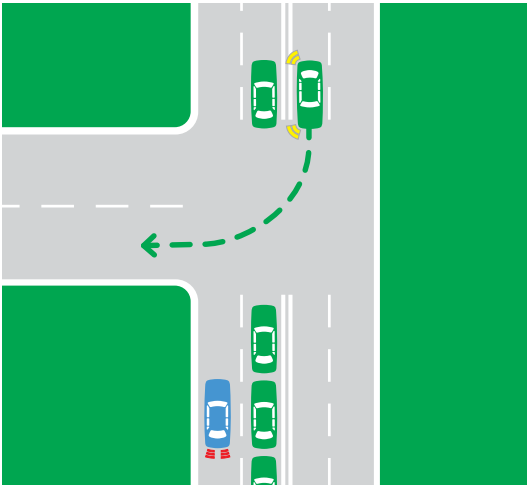
## EXAMPLES OF SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE A RESPONSE



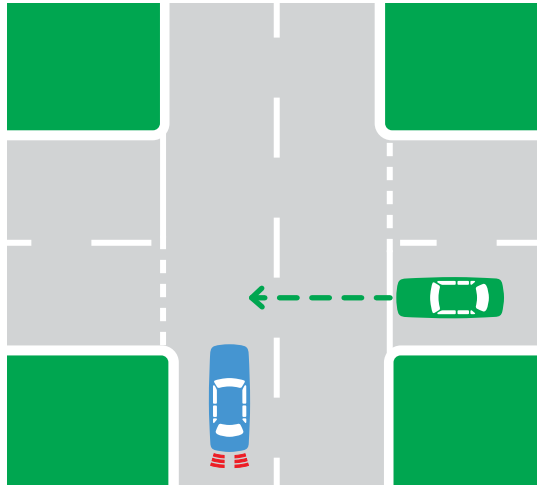
A vehicle waiting to turn in front of your path.



A vehicle waiting to pull out from the left side.



Stopped traffic obscuring vision at an intersection.



A vehicle waiting to pull out from the right side.

Your ability to control the vehicle is assessed by the way you handle the tasks involved.

### **OPERATING THE CONTROLS**

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Some of the driving tasks that the testing officer will observe and record are listed here:

- Adjust driver's seat posture and steering column (if adjustable) to ensure you have good control of the vehicle.
- Operate accelerator and brakes effectively.
- Coordinate clutch and gear lever to make smooth gear changes.
- Select appropriate gear for the situation including when coming to a stop and parking the car.
- Driver's seat belt is correctly fastened, fitted and adjusted (low, flat and firm).
- Apply a brake when starting the vehicle.
- Prevent rolling back when starting on hills.
- Use park brake correctly when preparing to secure the vehicle and ensure it is fully released when driving.
- Steer with both hands on the steering wheel (except when using another control), using either 'hand-over-hand' or 'push-pull' method with hands on the outside of the steering wheel.
- Use other controls such as indicators, windscreen wipers and demisters.

You must be confident in your use of all controls and be able to operate them without being distracted.

## DRIVING POSTURE



The steering wheel should be adjusted low, facing the driver's chest rather than the face.

Adjust the head restraint for your height. See owner's manual.

Keep your arms bent; thumbs should be on the rim of the steering wheel.

Keep your knees slightly bent.

Have the seat fairly upright to fully support your back and shoulders.

Sit deep in the seat.

Brace your body using your left foot.



## WHY YOU MIGHT FAIL

This guide shows examples of what you must do to drive safely and pass the test. However, some actions and behaviours are classed as fail items. If you do something that gets a fail, your test will continue so that you can be given a full assessment of your driving ability but you will not pass the test.

Here is a list of all the fail items along with some examples of how they may happen on a driving test.

Remember that this is only a guide and if you have any more questions you should consult the Road Users' Handbook available from your local motor registry. Alternatively, the Road Users' Handbook as well as the Australian Road Rules can be downloaded from the RTA website [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au).

### Disobeying traffic signs, signals or road markings

Be sure you have a thorough understanding of the meaning of regulatory signs, traffic signals and road markings. They tell you what road rules apply in any specific situation. Examples of this fail item include:

- Not stopping at a red traffic light.  
This means that all of your vehicle must be behind the stop line.
- Not stopping at a yellow traffic light when it is safe to do so. You must stop at a yellow light unless sudden braking might cause a crash.
- Not stopping correctly at a stop sign. Your final stopped position must be within one metre of the stop line and with no part of your car over the line.
- Crossing a continuous centre line, lane line or edge line unnecessarily.
- Disobeying lane markings (transit lane, turn arrows etc).
- Not obeying regulatory signs such as One Way, No Entry, No U-Turn and Keep Left.



### FINAL POSITION AT A STOP LINE

If initially you stop more than one metre from the line you must move up and stop at the correct position before proceeding. After you have stopped in the correct position you may then move forward if you need a better view.

### Failing to give way when necessary

Examples of this fail item include:

- Not giving way to any vehicle that has priority over you at an intersection.
- Not giving way to pedestrians at marked crossings and intersections.
- Not giving way if required when entering a traffic stream, merging or lane changing.

### Colliding with a vehicle, pedestrian or object

This includes mounting or straddling (one wheel either side of) a traffic dome and mounting the kerb or roundabout.

You will not fail if you touch the kerb face with your wheels.

### Performing an illegal act or manoeuvre

An illegal act or manoeuvre is anything contrary to the Road Rules where a regulatory traffic sign, signal or road marking is not present. Examples of this fail item include:

- Unnecessarily driving on the wrong side of the road on unmarked roads.
- Turning from the wrong lane. For example, starting a left turn from the right lane.
- When turning left or right in an arrowed lane, you do not exit to a permissible lane.

- Stopping on a pedestrian crossing or stop line when giving way to pedestrians.
- Not driving in the left lane when required to do so.
- Making an unlawful U-Turn.
- Not using the correct lane to turn at a roundabout.
- Overtaking or passing a stationary vehicle at a pedestrian crossing.
- Entering a level crossing when unsafe to do so.
- Not wearing a seatbelt.
- Answering a mobile phone.

### Exceeding the speed limit

The speed limit is the maximum allowable speed for that section of road under normal conditions. Exceeding the speed limit is dangerous and illegal. You will fail if you exceed the speed limit at any time including:

- The 40 kilometre per hour limit at school zones during the hours of operation.
- The 40 kilometre per hour limit when passing a bus with flashing lights.
- The learner driver speed limit.
- Temporary speed limits at road works.

### Action requiring testing officer intervention

At this stage of your driving experience you should be able to drive without any help. If the testing officer has to give you verbal or physical assistance, including using the dual controls in an instructor's vehicle, you will fail.

### Causing a dangerous situation

This fail item covers any unsafe act or behaviour that puts you or others at risk, such as overtaking in an unsafe manner, or giving way unnecessarily.

Failing to maintain proper control of the vehicle

This fail item applies to anything that could, or does, result in you losing control of the vehicle such as:

- Allowing the vehicle to roll back too far when moving off.
- Skidding or spinning the drive wheels.
- Clutch coasting (allowing the vehicle to roll along with your foot on the clutch) or coasting in neutral.
- Not maintaining effective control of the steering wheel.

### Failing to exercise due care to avoid an accident

You must be ready at all times to respond to hazards. If a situation occurs requiring your response and you are not prepared, you will fail.

### Failing to give way to an emergency vehicle

You will fail if you do not move out of the way of an emergency vehicle.

### Disobeying directions from a person controlling traffic

This item includes failure to obey police, emergency service or armed forces personnel, traffic controllers (eg flag persons at road works) and pilot vehicles etc.

### Frequently not signalling intention

You will fail if you repeatedly do not signal when legally required to do so. You must signal:

- To give sufficient warning to other road users of your intentions when turning left or right.
- For at least five seconds before leaving the kerb.
- For at least five seconds before leaving a parking space.
- When changing lanes, diverging or pulling over to the kerb.
- When exiting a roundabout.

### Refusing to attempt any part of the test

You are required to complete the whole test to get a pass. You can be failed for refusing to do any part of the test.

### **Repeated or deliberate failure to follow directions**

You must follow all reasonable directions given to you by the testing officer during the test.

### **Unreasonably obstructing other vehicles or pedestrians**

You will fail if you unreasonably obstruct other vehicles or pedestrians during the test. This includes if you:

- Enter an intersection without enough space on the other side due to traffic, blocking the intersection as a result.
- Drive significantly below the speed limit when prevailing conditions do not require it.

### **Receiving external advice or instruction during the test**

You will fail if you receive any external advice from a third party at any time during the test. This includes the time from when you sign the score sheet to getting into your vehicle.

### **Not parking to the required standard**

During the manoeuvres you will fail if:

- The final position of your car is more than one metre from the kerb or obstructing traffic.
- Your wheels are on or over marked parking lines.
- You reverse more than seven metres from the vehicle in front during the reverse park section of the test.

### **Failing to maintain a safe following distance**

You will fail if you follow too closely to the vehicle in front.

### **Frequently not performing observation checks**

You will incur this fail item if you do not perform observation checks repeatedly. Specifically this fail item applies to checking your blind spots when you:

- Leave or return to the kerb.
- Merge, diverge or change lanes.
- Are about to reverse, such as in a reverse parallel park.
- Cross lanes within a roundabout.

You must turn your head and check it is safe to proceed when moving off after being stopped at traffic lights.



## IMMEDIATE FAIL

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In most circumstances, even if you commit a fail item, your test will continue and you will be given a full assessment of your performance. In some circumstances the testing officer may record an IMMEDIATE FAIL. You will not be permitted to finish the test and the testing officer may drive you back to the motor registry.

An immediate fail may occur if:

- You do anything which is unsafe or dangerous and there is an obvious danger to the public.
- You refuse to cooperate with the testing officer and so cannot be given a proper test.

## TEST TERMINATION

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While IMMEDIATE FAIL criteria applies to issues concerning driving ability, Termination criteria applies to situations not concerned with the applicant's driving performance.

Your test will be terminated if:

- I. The testing vehicle is not roadworthy. Use this checklist to make sure your car is roadworthy:
  - Indicators and brake lights work.
  - Vehicle is registered with current registration label attached.
  - Tyres are correctly inflated and have acceptable tread depth.
  - Wheel rims are undamaged.
  - Windscreen is clean and undamaged.
  - An approved lap/sash seatbelt is fitted for the testing officer.
  - There is no significant body damage or sharp edges.
  - Mirrors are in good order.
  - Front passenger door and window operate.
  - Speedometer operates.
  - Head restraints must be fitted to vehicles that were manufactured after 1 January 1972.
  - Functioning dual controls must be fitted if you are taking the test in an instructor's vehicle and the dual accelerator must be rendered inoperable during the test.

2. The testing vehicle is unsuitable for the class of licence test.
3. The testing vehicle is not suitable for the type of disability.
4. The testing vehicle breaks down during the test, or a large number of assessments are missed while off course.
5. A bribe or inducement is offered, or any other form of corrupt conduct is suggested.
6. The driver is, or is suspected to be, under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. A crash occurs during the test, regardless of who is at fault.
8. The applicant is ill, to the extent that they may not be able to drive safely.
9. Weather conditions are bad and make the driving task too demanding.

If the test is terminated the test fee may not be refunded.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TEST?

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When you return to the motor registry the testing officer will ask you to wait inside while your result is calculated. Your testing officer will call you to the counter to tell you your result.

If you do not pass you will be given a test report that shows your score and where you need to improve. Your testing officer will discuss this briefly with you. Testing officers will only provide general comments and are not permitted to discuss specific situations or events. Remember, testing officers are not driving instructors and it is not their job to give you a driving lesson.

The RTA tries to make sure that your test will be conducted fairly and courteously. If you are genuinely not satisfied with the way the test was conducted after you get the results, please contact the manager at the registry where you took the test. The manager will look into your complaint and discuss the matter with you.

So if you passed, congratulations and safe driving! Now you will need to pay for your PI Licence.

If you did not pass, try again when you are ready.



Regardless of whether you pass or fail the driving test, it is best to allow your supervising driver to take over the driving when you leave the registry. This is because after taking the test many learners find it hard to concentrate on driving because they are either elated or disappointed by the result.

The crash rate of learner drivers is actually very low, partly due to the guidance provided by the supervising driver. However, as a newly licensed provisional driver driving without this supervision, the risk of crashing is significantly greater.

By imposing your own constraints and gaining support when needed you can reduce some of the risks involved.

## **NIGHT DRIVING**

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Crash data shows that the risk of provisional drivers crashing is greater at night, particularly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Avoid driving at these times if at all possible.

## **PASSENGER INFLUENCES**

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A relative or trusted friend can be very helpful in new and challenging driving situations. However, some passengers can distract you and make it harder to focus on driving. For the first 12 months of provisional driving limit yourself to a maximum of one passenger.



From July 2007, all provisional P1 drivers under 25 have a passenger limit between 11pm and 5am.

## **DRIVING DISTRACTIONS**

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Distractions like adjusting a CD player or radio can divide your concentration and result in a crash. If you have a passenger; get them to do the task. If you are by yourself, wait until you are stopped before you divert your attention to these activities. If you wish to use a mobile phone you must pull over to the side of the road and turn the engine off.



As a provisional driver you are still limited to zero alcohol. If you have had any drink or food containing alcohol you cannot drive.



## NOTES

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