

Stage 1: Controlling the car

Your first job is learning how to make the car start, stop and steer.

If you've never been in the driver's seat, this can be a challenge. Even if you've been driving, your supervising driver needs to see you can do everything listed here before you move into traffic.

You'll be ready to move on from Stage 1 when you can show your supervising driver you can do the following in quiet locations, away from traffic.

In quiet locations, away from traffic:

Stage 1 goals

- Adjust the seat, mirrors and other controls ready to drive
- Know where the controls are
- Start the car
- Move off smoothly
- Slow down and stop smoothly at a chosen location
- Corner smoothly at low speed
- Stop the car on a slight slope and move off again using the handbrake
- Use the gears smoothly and efficiently in low speed driving (for manual cars)
- Reverse in a straight line and around a curved path



In fine weather, in the rain and at night:

Stage 2 goals

☀ Dry daytime driving ◻ Wet weather driving ↻ Night time driving

- | | |
|---|--|
| Move from the kerb safely and stop at the kerb safely. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Turn right at quiet intersections safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Use your mirrors correctly and do head checks (look over your shoulder and through the rear side windows when necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Drive within the speed limit and at a safe speed for the conditions <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Observe potential hazards when moving off <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Leave a safe space between your car and other cars, and the kerb <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drive on straight, quiet, low speed roads safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Start and stop on hills <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drive around curves on quiet, low speed roads safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Complete a three point turn and parallel park smoothly <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Turn left at intersections safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Reverse out of a driveway or out of a parking spot safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negotiate roundabouts (in quiet, residential streets) safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Detect and respond to potential hazards in quiet streets (such as parked cars, other traffic, cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians, children or pets) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Smoothly slow down when approaching intersections <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Obey give way, stop signs and traffic lights <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Travel through quiet intersections safely <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | |



In fine weather, in the rain and at night:

| Stage 3 goals | | ☀ Dry daytime driving | ☔ Wet weather driving | 🌙 Night time driving |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Enter busy traffic safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive on straight and curved main roads safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Keep in your own lane and change lanes safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Negotiate and turn at traffic lights safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Smoothly slow down and choose a suitable speed when approaching intersections and curves | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Handle busy roundabouts safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Cope with busy intersections safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Turn across oncoming traffic safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive on lower quality roads safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Plan your own driving routes for normal driving trips | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Overtake others safely on divided multi-lane roads | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Detect and avoid potential hazards | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive within the speed limit and at a safe speed in busy traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Select safe gaps when entering or crossing traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Keep a safe following distance in busy traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive on high speed roads safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |

In fine weather, in the rain and at night:

| Stage 4 goals | | ☀ Dry daytime driving | ☔ Wet weather driving | 🌙 Night time driving |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Drive safely in light and heavy traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Detect and respond to hazards | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Keep a safe distance from other traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Choose safe and legal speeds | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Leave a safe gap when turning across other traffic | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive safely on a variety of road types and in different conditions | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Choose your own driving routes to get from your starting point to your destination | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Drive safely making the range of decisions expected of a solo driver | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Make safe decisions about driving – such as when to drive and when not to, and taking safe routes | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Handle unexpected situations safely | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Understand how to use a car safely as part of normal everyday transport | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Manage moderate levels of distraction in the car, such as passengers and music, and know when and how to reduce distractions to stay safe | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |
| Handle complex tasks such as merging on a freeway, reversing from a driveway, parallel parking and changing lanes in busy areas, hook turns and busy intersections | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 | ☀ ☔ 🌙 |