

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR

BEGINNERS

If you're supervising the private practice of a learner driver with just a few hours' driving experience, this guide is for you.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

If your child has had just a few hours of professional instruction, they're probably still getting to grips with co-ordinating the controls of the car. At this stage they'll be trying to master their clutch control and they'll probably be taking their eyes off the road every time they change gear. As a result you need to keep

things simple for them, which means staying away from busy roads and keeping the speed down. Be on the look out for hazards that they may not have spotted, avoid practising in poor weather and stay away from roads with lots of things going on, such as junctions, traffic lights, roundabouts, filter lanes and so forth.

KEEP IT LEGAL

WHEN SUPERVISING A LEARNER DRIVER YOU MUST BE OVER 21 AND HAVE HELD A FULL DRIVING LICENCE FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. THE SAME RULES APPLY TO YOU AS TO YOUR CHILD WHEN THEY'RE DRIVING:

- ✓ Don't use your mobile phone
- ✓ Always wear a seatbelt
- ✓ Not to drink at all
- ✓ Wear glasses if you need to
- ✓ Stay awake and alert at all times



COCKPIT DRILL

AT THIS STAGE OF LEARNING, YOU SHOULD GO THROUGH THE COCKPIT DRILL CHECKLIST EVERY TIME YOU GET INTO THE CAR. SHOULD YOUR CHILD GIVE YOU ANY HASSLE ABOUT IT BEING BASIC, REMIND THEM THAT PILOTS DO THIS BEFORE EVERY-TAKE OFF, REGARDLESS OF THEIR EXPERIENCE!

- Are all of the doors fully closed?
.....
- Is your seat positioned properly?
.....
- Is your head rest set up correctly?
.....
- Is the steering wheel adjusted?
.....
- Are all of the mirrors adjusted?
.....
- Is everyone wearing their seatbelt?
.....
- Are any dash warning lights lit up?
.....
- Is there enough fuel for your journey?

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Because your child has so little experience of driving you need to ensure they're under as little pressure as possible. Here are some suggestions for tasks that should be suitable for a learner at this early stage. In no particular order, ask your learner to attempt them and put a tick in one of the circles each time they do it successfully. When you've got **three ticks** against each task, they may be ready to move onto the next level.

Run through the cockpit drill, ensuring everything is set up correctly.



Move off slowly in first gear, having ensured it's safe to set off.



Pick a safe place to pull over and slow gently to a stop.



Take a right turn at a quiet roundabout.



Keep the speeds low and focus on keeping your distance from parked cars.



Give a driving commentary for 60 seconds, identifying as many hazards as possible.



Build up the speed gradually, while focusing on your position in the road.



Try a hill start. Be ready with the handbrake!



Keep looking well ahead while also keeping an eye on the speedometer.



Make a turn in the road on a very quiet street.



Take a right turn at a quiet crossroads that's controlled by traffic lights.



Ask 5 random questions from the official theory test revision book, even if they've passed the test already!



PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR

INTERMEDIATE

This guide is for parents who are supervising the private practice of a learner drive with at least five hours of driving experience.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Once your child has a few hours' driving experience under their belt they should be comfortable with the basics, such as using the car's controls, setting off and pulling in, and using the mirrors as they drive. As a result you can afford to tackle some more challenging roads, but be careful not to overdo it.

HIGHWAY CODE

It's easy to focus only on the 'skill' parts of learning to drive, because they are new and fun. But dedicate at least 20% of the time you spend on the road to helping your learner understand the theory and they'll become a well-rounded driver with a good knowledge foundation.

Some of the key items you need to focus on include:

- ✓ Rules for drivers
- ✓ Using the road
- ✓ Road signs
- ✓ Road markings
- ✓ Vehicle markings

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"REMEMBER TO KEEP DOING THE COCKPIT DRILL, EVERY TIME!"



COCKPIT DRILL

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PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INTERMEDIATE

Find some roads that aren't too busy but which have a reasonable number of hazards to negotiate. Things such as junctions, pedestrian crossings and traffic lights. Keep your distance at all times, keep the speed down and give your child plenty of time and space to negotiate all of these hazards. It's crucial that when your child is driving they're constantly aware of what's going on all around them. They need to spot hazards early, so they have plenty of time to position themselves correctly, adjust their speed, choose the correct gear and negotiate the hazard. Here are some suggestions for tasks that should be suitable for a learner at the intermediate stage. In no particular order, ask your learner to attempt them and **put a tick** in one of the circles each time they do it successfully. When you've **got three ticks** against each task, they may be ready to move onto the next level.

Run through the cockpit drill, ensuring everything is set up correctly.



When driving, focus on road positioning and choosing an appropriate speed.



Try driving on a slightly faster stretch of road such as 50mph.



Give a commentary drive for at least three minutes. Pointing out all hazards.



With no notice and if safe, cover the rear-view mirror and ask what's behind.



On an empty section of 30mph road, try an emergency stop, having ensured it's safe.



Find an incline that's challenging and try to do a hill start on it.



Find an empty parking bay in a car park, and try to reverse into or out of it.



If you have one, set up a sat-nav unit and try to follow it for 10-15 minutes.



Run through a show me, tell me question; they're listed at tinyurl.com/nz4v2q2



Try to negotiate a bus lane or bus stop when it's being used.



Have a session on the Highway Code. Ask at least 20 random questions.



PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR

EXPERIENCED

This guide is for parents who are supervising the private practice of a learner driver who has already undertaken a significant amount of professional driving instruction (typically at least 20 hours). As such they're possibly thinking about applying for their driving test before long, so they should be confident and competent behind the wheel.

**"REMEMBER TO
KEEP DOING THE
COCKPIT DRILL,
EVERY TIME!"**



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Assuming your child has been practising with you for a while now, and has had plenty of time with an approved driving instructor, they should be able to cope with busy roads, lots of hazards, higher speeds and multi-lane roads (dual-carriageways). At this stage they're polishing their driving, building up their experience, but they should already have good clutch control and co-ordination while they should also not be fazed by other road users around them. Your child will have to cope

with lots of hazards going on around them when they take their test - and afterwards, when they drive solo. Your task is to help them get as much driving experience as possible, while remembering not to go beyond the level they've reached with their instructor. In the past you've probably had to help out quite a bit, in terms of being an extra pair of eyes to help your child. You still need to remain aware of what's happening all around, but now it's more for your own peace of mind rather than to offer assistance.

KEEP IT LEGAL

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COCKPIT DRILL

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PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EXPERIENCED

We've assumed that your child has already done the things below with their ADI. If they haven't, hold off going this far for now as it'll probably just lead to flared tempers, stress and your child's confidence taking a hit. Here are some suggestions for tasks that should be suitable for a learner at the pre-test stage. In no particular order, ask your learner to attempt them and put a tick in one of the circles each time they do it successfully. When you've got **three ticks** against each task, they may be ready to move onto the next level.

Drive at busier periods, such as rush hour, to test your child's clutch control.



Do more urban driving on busy roads, where there are lots more hazards.



Go out for some practice after dark, taking in urban and rural roads.



Drive near to pedestrian crossings to test your child's hazard perception.



Get out of town and increase the speed to 60mph on a single-carriageway road.



Take in some dual carriageways with a 70mph limit - at 60mph if necessary.



Drive on rural roads, as these can be the most dangerous for new drivers.



Undertake some practice in wet weather, on rural and urban roads.



Set a route in your sat nav and follow it for 10 minutes.



On the dual carriageway, get comfy with overtaking slower-moving traffic.



Try some of the reversing manoeuvres shown on the separate guide.



Find a steep hill and do a hill start, pulling away cleanly with just one attempt.



Do another Highway Code Q&A. Ask at least 30 random questions.



Undertake a 5 minute commentary drive, identifying all hazards.



Find a quiet street and when safe, conduct an emergency stop.

