



Purpose: To learn how to maneuver the vehicle in smaller spaces without damage to it or to other property

Predicted Practice Time: 20 minutes per repeat

Learning Space: An open space in a little traveled parking lot or large driveway. For this exercise, you will also need a tape measure, some painter's tape and some way to mark limits such as three or four cones or sticks.

Key Concepts

Three things determine whether it is possible to turn around in a limited space:

1. Does the driver have a good awareness of how far the car extends in front and in back and to the sides?
2. Is the space physically larger than half the turning circle of the vehicle *plus two feet*? If so, a three-point turn is possible.
3. Is the driver willing to be patient and to make as many point turns as are necessary? Is the place untraveled enough to allow some time for turning around? Is the space long that the car plus four feet? If so, a multi-point turn is possible.

Advice for Parents

Remind your driver of these things...

- Your goal is to make the turn around without hitting anything or damaging anything.
- No bumping of objects.
- Back up and go forward as many times as you need to.
- When you change direction, you must also rotate the steering wheel in the opposite direction, or you will not make progress.
- One of the most important things to learn about multi-point turns is when not to try them. Never try one unless you are sure you have enough space and never violate traffic laws (like crossing a double yellow line.)



I will stop the learning activity if I believe you become distracted, angry or agitated.

Teaching Tips

Establishing Space –

The first thing to establish is some sense of points of reference. Many modern cars don't allow the driver to clearly see the front and back. Even when you can see the end of the hood, the bumper may stick out up to a foot further.

1. WITH THE ENGINE OFF AND KEY REMOVED and your driver behind the wheel, stand at the back of the car first, then the front. Ask the driver to tell you to walk closer or farther away until they believe you are standing exactly at the end of the car. (You may find that you need to lean over the car.) When they are satisfied that you are standing touching the end of the car, place a piece of tape on the spot. Now repeat the same thing for the front of the car, placing the tape wherever directed by the driver.

Ask the driver to get out of the car so that you may show them how close their estimate was to the back and front of the car. Then ask them to return to the driver's seat and show them the correct distance to the front and back.

Establishing Distance –

Every car requires a different amount of space to turn in a full circle. To establish the minimum distance in which your car can make a three-point turn, for example,

1. WITH THE ENGINE OFF AND KEY REMOVED place a piece of the tape next to the passenger front wheel.
2. Turn the wheels all the way toward the driver's side and travel halfway around a circle.
3. Again, WITH THE ENGINE OFF AND KEY REMOVED, place a piece of tape next to the passenger wheel.
4. Measure the distance between the pieces of tape.

This is your vehicle's "turning distance." To make a three-point turn, you must have half of this around of space *plus two feet*.

Your young driver probably remembers the three-point turn from his or her driving skills test. Making three-point turns is a critical skill. It's what you do when you enter and then leave a parking lot space.

Spend the rest of your time practicing three-point turns into and out of a parking space in your empty lot. Observe whether or not your driver gets into and out of the space without intruding on the spaces on either side or the spaces across the row. It is better to start over than to space-intrude.

If you like, mark off a tighter space and practice multi-space turns. In general, making good three point turns and understanding multi-point turns is sufficient, but some practice can be valuable.

One of the most important skills to master about multi-point turns is when not to try them.

Always advise gently and quietly. Your goal is to improve skills. You shouldn't expect skills to be perfect.



Driving Checklist

Learning Summary

Tasks can be considered accomplished when they are explained properly or done routinely (a minimum of three times without reminder.)

Task	Accomplished	Needs More Practice
• Knows approximately where the front of the car ends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Knows approximately where the back of the car ends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Can explain "turning radius"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Can explain how much space is needed for a 3-point turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Can successfully execute a 3-point turn some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Can successfully execute a 3-point turn most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Starts over instead of space-intruding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Remained calm without distraction, anger or agitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Time spent on activity in minutes: