

Teen Driver Tips for Parents



Lesson 7

*Other Roadway Users:
Trucks, Motorcycles and People*

Purpose: To learn how to recognize, plan for and react to other kinds of road users.

Predicted Practice Time: 30 minutes per repeat

Learning Space: Any road

Key Concepts

There are several other types of users regularly found on our roads. Each is responsible for following the exact same rules of the road as a driver (with the exception of emergency vehicles.) Like a predator, the big ones are more dangerous to you and you are more dangerous to the smaller ones.

Other users include larger road users like trucks, busses, and rescue vehicles and smaller users like motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Each has unique characteristics:

- **Trucks and Buses** have poor visibility in the immediate front and back. They have large, mostly unavoidable blind spots on either side. And they make wide turns often intruding into lanes on either side. They also take longer to go and stop. Buses make frequent stops, often without pulling fully over. School buses require traffic to stop in both directions when its lights are flashing.
- **Emergency Vehicles** (when lights are flashing) require that you pull over **if and when safe** to let them pass. Driver's should always listen for sirens and should be prepared to stop suddenly when they hear one. But they should not automatically make sudden driving alterations. **Unpredictability causes crashes.**
- **Motorcycles** are entitled to a full lane just like a car. They can stop in a very short distance – leave plenty of room when following. They are more vulnerable in crashes. And they are generally less stable unless ridden by expert riders. **Most Drivers find it difficult to judge the distance and speed of narrow vehicles like motorcycles.** Because of this, a car driver – is the second leading cause of motorcycles crashes. If you are turning left, it's good practice to just let the motorcycle go by first, rather than guessing if you have room to turn.
- **Bicycles** are road vehicles too. They are entitled to space on the road if there is no shoulder. Less experienced riders often ignore signals and stop signs. Be prepared.
- **Pedestrians** are the most vulnerable users of roads. While in some cases they may not legally be entitled to the right of way, if it won't cause a crash, it would be best to give it to them. Walkers may be found crossing the road anywhere, not just in crosswalks. If someone is standing on the curb, be sure to evaluate whether they are preparing to step into the road. **While they are responsible for crossing safely, you are responsible for missing them.**

Teaching Tips

In this exercise, simply driving around and discussing the other road users you encounter can prepare your young driver to deal with them. Obviously, you don't want to choose a road (like a highway or country lane) where few other users might be encountered. But your main purpose is to devote some driving time to addressing the topic.

Ask your young driver to notice these other users and to remind you how each one is unique. If your driver alters driving to address one of these alternative users, have them tell you what they chose to do.

Consult your list of differences to remind your driver how to deal with alternative users.

Why not make it fun?

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 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Can explain how trucks are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Can explain how emergency vehicles are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Can explain how busses are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Can explain how motorcycles are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Can explain how bicycles are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Can explain how pedestrians are different | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Sees most other users | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Give a solution to a few hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Give a solution to some hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Give a solution to most hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • If an other-user hazard presents itself, responds successfully according to plan | <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: