



**Purpose:** To learn and master the differences faced when driving on various types of roads.

**Predicted Practice Time:** 45 minutes per repeat

**Learning Space:** A pre-planned mix of public roads including two-lane, secondary multi-lane and limited-access highway roads.

## Key Concepts

- Different types of roads present different hazards.
- The major hazards on two-lane roads are intrusions (into the path of travel) at intersections. People and animals are also a hazard and may enter the road at any point without warning, particularly between parked cars.
- On multi-lane roads, the primary hazard is still intrusions at intersections. Left turns from the opposite side can be very dangerous.

When people or animals intrude, they are easier to see in advance but more likely to be running. Animals are more likely to change direction suddenly (even turning completely around) as more traffic leads to more panic.

Additionally, viewing traffic beside or behind you in other lanes can be challenging. Most people don't adjust mirrors correctly and experience huge blind spots.

- Highways are actually the safest place to drive because the flow and direction of traffic is highly controlled. But they tend to be the scariest for new drivers because of the volume of potential hazards.

Again, same direction blind spots present the opportunity for crashing, though most of these lane change bumps don't lead to major wrecks. Most highway crashes, and most fatal crashes, involve hard collisions or running off the road. Plowing into a stopped or slowed vehicle is a major cause of highway fatalities.

Merge ramps leading into highways are one the safest ways to merge slow and fast traffic. But most circular on-ramps turn tighter at the end. The speed at which it feels comfortable to enter a ramp is often too fast to be travelling safely by the end of it.

## Advice for Parents

*Remind your driver of these things...*

- Your job is to alter your driving to properly drive on different kinds of roads.
- Watch out for intersections. Any time other cars are crossing where you are going, they present a hazard.
- Watch out for cars coming the other way that are turning across your lane.
- Watch out for animals and people. Neither of these factors is predictable.

- Watch out for people traveling in your direction and changing into your lane. Chances are good that they might not see you due to a mirror blind spot.
- To be at the right speed at the end of a merge ramp, you need to enter it more slowly than you think.
- Watch out for traffic jams and slowing traffic, even on the highway.
- Make sure to select a large space between you and other cars when following and merging. You should get to a spot at least three seconds after the car in front of you.



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

## Teaching Tips

This task requires a pre-planned, closed route or “loop.” Using a map, plan a route that combines some two-lane road travel, leading to some multi-lane road travel leading to some highway road travel and back to the two-lane road. Plan a route that is approximately three to six miles long.

Once again, it is recommended that you use the technique of Commentary Driving. In this case, your young driver will be driving, but begin providing the commentary yourself, pointing out everything that changes as you navigate the pre-planned route.

Later, change to letting your driver provide the commentary. However, if you believe he or she is just repeating what you’ve said, have him or her turn around and do the loop in reverse.

Remember to coach what’s most critical. Save the small stuff for next time.

## Driving Checklist

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### 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      |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Understands hazard of intersections and drives accordingly             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Aware of places a person or animal might enter path of travel          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Uses signals early and consistently                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Avoids distractions and understands why                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is aware of lane changers and blind spots                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Recognize most hazards   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Offers effective commentary  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Enters on-ramps at the correct speed for the tightest part of the turn | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Picks an appropriate speed for each kind of road at all times          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Signals lane changes and turns   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Leaves a good distance between his or her car and others               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Turned-head look before changing lanes, not just mirrors               | <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: