

Teen Driver Tips for Parents



Lesson 4

Making Turns at Intersections

Purpose: To learn the steps in making proper Left, Right and U-turns in intersections

Predicted Practice Time: 45 minutes to 1 hour per repeat

Learning Space: Slower, smaller roads with a variety of intersections, including unregulated (neighborhood,) stop signs, four-way stop signs, stoplight, and stoplight with turn light.

Key Concepts

Turning at intersections combines many important skills: reading hazards, signals and information; evaluating choices; indicating intent; motor skills for steering; throttle and brakes; and position awareness.

One important thing to remember is the simple rule, “You go where you look.” If your driver is looking to the roadside at the outside of the turn, the vehicle will steer wide. If your driver is looking to the inside of the turn lane, the vehicle will steer more tightly than intended. If speed is too fast, the vehicle will also steer to the outside of the turn. Correcting this too quickly might cause a rear end skid.

Skills Strategies and Best Driving Practices

Remind your driver of these things...

- Slow, as you approach the intersection
- Look and plan your turn
- Signal early
- Turn only if your turn is allowed
- Follow signals, signs and arrows
- Keep scanning for road and vehicle hazards including people, animals, junk, and other vehicles
- Never assume other cars will do what they are supposed to do
- At the beginning of the turn, look to the end of the turn
- Try to make turns in one continuous arc whenever possible
- Start straightening just after the middle of your turn
- Be safe at all times



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

Teaching Tips

Remember, as you leave your driveway or parking place, you have entered the first intersection. Use this as an opportunity to remind your driver about the important things to remember and to ask them to list which ones they did.

As your driver negotiates intersections, be sure to avoid giving feedback during the turn. Use the Learning Summary on the next page to guide your feedback.

One learning technique to use in this module is called Commentary Driving. Ask the driver to say out loud the things they are thinking and doing.

After each dozen or so intersections, ask your driver to pull over to a safe place and to explain what they have learned during the practice. At this time you may want to check off the skills you have observed as properly done and share your assessment with the driver.

As always, remember to give positive feedback for the things that were done well and gentle explanation of the skills that need more work.

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
• Slow, as you approach the intersection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Look and plan your turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Signal early	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Turn only if your turn is allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Follow signals, signs, and arrows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Keep scanning for road and vehicle hazards including people, animals, junk, and other vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Never assume other cars will do what they are supposed to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• At the beginning of the turn, look to the end of the turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Start straightening just after the middle of your turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Be safe at all times	<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: