

Practice Driving Tips

Be a good role model. Teens learn from watching their parents.

- Always buckle your safety belt.
- Obey traffic laws.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't drive aggressively.

Use "commentary driving"

Ask the new driver to comment on what s/he sees — speed limits, road signs, traffic signals, road conditions, potential hazards — and what driver response is needed. This process works best if the adult driver demonstrates it first for the teen.

Helpful guidelines

- Select the route in advance and make a practice run without your teen.
- Make sure your teen understands the objectives of each session before you begin driving.
- Practice in an empty parking lot before moving to streets.
- Practice in light traffic (residential streets) before attempting heavy traffic (multi-lane highways and freeways).
- Monitor traffic (ahead, around, behind).
- Give directions to turn at least one block in advance.
- Use "right" to mean a direction only, not to confirm that something is correct.
- Be specific.
- Use a calm voice and be patient. Remember that mistakes will happen in any learning process.
- Praise your teen's driving accomplishments.

Include these in your practice

- **Driving preparation:** dress appropriately (proper shoes, sunglasses); adjust seat and mirrors; use safety belts; start the engine; check gas gauge; check for traffic, signal and move when safe
- **Basic maneuvers:** moving forward; steering; turning; stopping; backing
- **Interacting with other vehicles:** turn signals; changing lanes; blind spots; using mirrors; maintaining a safe following distance; monitoring traffic in all directions
- **Light traffic:** looking ahead; entering/exiting traffic; choosing the proper lane; accepting and yielding right-of-way
- **Heavy traffic:** adjusting speed and position; using turn lanes; left turn yields
- **Parking and turning:** angle, hill, parallel parking; U-turns; 3-point turns
- **Rail crossings:** obey lights and crossing gates; crossing tracks safely
- **Freeways:** using on- and off-ramps; merging; lane and speed choice
- **Driving in darkness:** using lights; appropriate speed
- **Adverse weather:** adjusting speed for rain, fog, wind, dust, snow; using lights
- **Handling hazards:** obstacles on the road; using flashers; using antilock brakes



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6-08

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Teen Drivers

A Guide To California's

Graduated Driver License

Graduated
Driver License

All teens under age 18 are subject to a graduated driver licensing system to obtain a driver permit and license in California.

What is graduated driver licensing?

Graduated driver licensing eases beginning drivers into traffic by limiting their exposure to driving situations proven to be particularly dangerous. Teens begin driving with certain conditions, which are gradually relaxed as drivers mature and develop greater driving skills.

The Solution: A Graduated

California's graduated driver licensing system deals with the biggest problems facing teen drivers:

Because teens are so highly over-represented in traffic crashes, the law requires young drivers to spend more time behind the wheel to gain the experience needed for safe driving. Teens must hold an instruction permit for six months before applying for a provisional license. During this time, they must log 50 hours of adult-supervised driving practice.

This information is being provided to help introduce California's graduated licensing program. The DMV is the final authority on driver licensing provisions and exceptions to those provisions. See www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm

Data sources:

- California Highway Patrol
- California Department of Motor Vehicles
- California Office of Traffic Safety
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

to the Road

Teen Drivers

A Guide To California's New Graduated Driver License

▲ FOLD, DETACH, AND KEEP IN A CONVENIENT PLACE TO EASILY RECORD YOUR PRACTICE SESSIONS! ▲

Supervised Driving Log

Use this log to record supervised driving. Minimum practice time is **50 hours**, with **10 of these hours at night**.

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