

Young Drivers

Want
the key... **this booklet
could help
you to get
the
knowledge!**



Essex County Council

simple truth...careful drivers live longer!



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**your life...
it's in your hands**

Learning to drive is not that difficult.
Most learners can pick up the basic skills fairly quickly.
But learning to be a driver is far more complicated.



Lets go for a spin!

It takes time to learn how to make judgements and decisions in traffic.

Trying to anticipate what every other road user is going to do is not that easy.

Too many young drivers end up **killing or injuring themselves** because of:

- **lack of experience** - new drivers take longer to spot potential hazards;
- **overconfidence** - new drivers overestimate their driving skills;
- **excessive speed** - new drivers tend to travel too fast for the conditions.



no worries



bring it on





Setting off |



Get road wise

You can start learning to drive as a passenger by looking at what's going on around you.

Look out for traffic signs and markings - do you know what they all mean?

Think about speed and distance - how close is the car in front? Is there enough time for the driver to stop? Check out stopping distances in the Highway Code.

Look out for other road users, especially pedestrians and children - can you tell what they're about to do?

Get instruction

You can be taught to drive by friends or family but most people choose a professional.

Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) are the only people who can charge for driving lessons. Learning to drive can be stressful, so choose a supportive instructor who provides structured lessons. Ask around amongst your friends and family for recommendations. You can also look in your local newspaper, telephone directory or on the internet.

Get the documents

Apply for a provisional licence by completing the application form (D1) available from most post offices.

Send it with the fee and passport-type photograph to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AD.



Check out |

www.rac.co.uk/web/learningtodrive



Getting there

Taking lessons

You can take one or two lessons a week or take an intensive course.

The advantage of planned, regular lessons over an intensive course is that you will get the chance to practice under a range of driving and weather conditions. You can change driving instructors if you don't feel happy with their approach.

Extra practice

Getting extra practice is definitely a good idea, whether it's with someone in your family or a friend who's an experienced driver

It's best to check with the driving instructor when you're ready to do this. Every car is different and may take some getting used to. Remember - only driving school cars have dual controls. Any accompanying driver must be at least 21 years old and have held a full driving licence for at least 3 years. Check that you're insured to drive the vehicle on the owner's insurance.



Check out |

www.dvla.gov.uk
www.dsa.gov.uk
www.ask-what-if.com



Becoming a driver |



Taking the tests

This is only the beginning. Taking the tests does not give you experience; they are just the first steps.

The first steps

Theory - 50 multiple choice questions followed by a test of your hazard perception skills.

Practical - general driving, an eyesight test and special exercises.

Vehicle safety check - basic vehicle safety check questions requiring show and tell answers.



Pass Plus

Going for **Pass Plus** means another step in getting that all-important extra experience and earning an insurance discount.

The six specially designed driver training modules cover driving in town, out of town, in all weathers, at night, on dual carriageways and on motorways. And there is no test to take at the end of it.



P Plates

Probationary plates let other road users know that they might need to give you some more time and space.

They are not compulsory but using **P plates** could make you feel more at ease.



Check out |

www.passplus.org.uk
www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk



Ground rules and... |

...parents

Parents worry; it's part of the job description. So keep them happy (especially if you are using their car) and agree some ground rules...

Like:

- letting them know where you're going and who you'll be with;
- agreeing not to mix driving with drink or drugs;
- agreeing not to break the speed limits;
- agreeing not to use your mobile while you're driving;
- wearing a seatbelt - and making your passengers do the same.





Check out |

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk
www.rospa.com
www.streetmap.co.uk
www.multimap.com
www.theaa.co.uk
www.rac.co.uk



...friends

Young drivers, especially males, are more at risk from being involved in a car crash if their friends are in the car.

So, is the driver trying to prove something (that he or she is a bad driver?) or are the friends making driving difficult? Whatever the reason, the consequences aren't worth it. It might be a good idea to choose your passengers carefully until you have a bit more driving experience.



...planning journeys

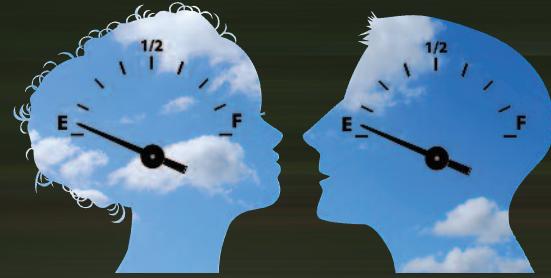
Sounds obvious, but the bad driver seems unable to do this.

It's especially important if you are going somewhere new. Look at a map and try and work out how long it might take you to get there.

Navigating your way along unfamiliar roads can be difficult for any driver.



Difficult situations |



Speed

Driving too fast for the conditions is just bad driving - whether it's above the speed limit or not.

Obvious things like wet weather make it difficult to stop. Skilled drivers also slow down in streets where pedestrians, particularly young children, are about. Even going a few miles per hour slower can make a real difference to the stopping distance.

Remember - The faster the speed the greater the chance of serious injury.

Passengers have rights, too. If you're not happy about the speed the driver is going, say so. A good driver doesn't make the passengers feel uncomfortable.

Seat belts

If you crash or slam on your brakes, your car comes to a sudden stop...

...but you will keep moving until you, too, are stopped - by the windscreen, dashboard or pavement. So wearing a belt makes sense, as well as being a legal requirement for both drivers and passengers.



Distractions

Mobile phone

It is illegal to use a hand held mobile phone at any time when you're driving. That includes when you are stopped at traffic lights or in a traffic jam. You can only use a hands-free device if it is in a fixed cradle – but even these can be a dangerous distraction. If you have an accident when using a hands-free phone you can be prosecuted for careless driving.



Tiredness

Fighting off sleep when you're driving is not good for your health. Danger times are between midnight and 6am. If in doubt, stop and have a rest.



Check out |



Passengers

Keep them under control! Friends should understand if you ask them to stop messing around or keep the noise down as you try and concentrate at a difficult junction.



Music

Make sure any radio stations are pre-tuned so you're not twiddling while driving!

www.dvla.gov.uk
www.dsa.gov.uk
www.drinkaware.co.uk
www.portman-group.co.uk

Difficult situations |



Check out |

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk
www.ukonline.gov.uk
www.highwaycode.gov.uk
www.portman-group.org.uk



think about it



Alcohol and drugs

Even one drink can affect your driving ability. It doesn't take much to get you over the legal limit and a drink driving conviction means a ban of at least 12 months. The conviction stays on your licence for 10 years from the time you get it back.

Don't forget – after a night out drinking, you might still be affected or even be over the legal limit the next morning.

Most people plan ahead for the night out and don't drive if they're going to drink. It's a good idea to let Des drive – anyone can be the Designated driver, as long as they don't drink. If you travel in someone else's car, make sure they stay off alcohol (your life is in their hands!). As a back up, make sure you've got the phone number for a taxi (and the money to pay for it).

Different drugs have different effects and it's impossible to predict how each person will react. What is certain is that drugs and driving don't mix. Anything that distracts drivers and affects concentration is risky – not just for the driver but also for anyone who happens to be using the roads at the same time.



Thinking about |

Riding a moped, scooter or motorcycle?

Here's some important information that you need to know

Completing your Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) before riding on the road is a legal requirement. Courses are conducted by training organisations that have been approved by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).

The CBT course consists of five stages that must be completed in sequence. You will receive a Certificate of Completion of Training (DL196), a legal document that is valid for two years and serves to validate the relevant entitlements on your driving licence.

If you have a full driving licence you can ride a learner machine (up to 125cc) with L-plates and NO pillion passengers or motorway use after completing CBT.



thought about this?

For more details about CBT contact the Driving Standards Agency on 0115 901 2595. Information is also posted on the website on www.dsa.gov.uk

You can also contact your local road safety officer for advice.



think about this



think about this



and this!



nippy and nice
but at what price?



Check out |
www.dsa.gov.uk



What to do when you are involved in...

Accident

Involved in an accident then you must:

- **Stop**
- **Give details** (name and address of the driver, name and address of the owner and registration number)

If there is an injury then insurance details must be exchanged.



If you cannot give details because the driver is not with the vehicle then you must report the accident to a police officer as soon as possible and within 24 hours.



Most importantly stay safe. If there is a danger that the car will be hit, such as on a motorway or busy A road, then get everyone out of the car. Put them on the pavement or verge or behind a barrier even if it is bad weather.

Breakdown

Try to avoid breakdowns by doing safety checks before you start, i.e. Coolant levels, Oil level, Tyres, enough fuel for the journey, not forgetting, of course, all of your lights.

Breakdown cover is not too expensive so consider joining. If your parents belong to one you may be able to get a family membership cheaper and they might even pay for you.

As with accidents, stay safe. If there is a danger that the car you are in will be hit, such as on a motorway or busy "A" road, then get everyone out of the car. Put them on the pavement or verge, or behind the barrier, even if it is bad weather.

If your car is in a dangerous position, such as at a busy junction or an obscured position, tell the police about it.





Use it – don't loose it |

Young drivers

One in five newly qualified drivers will have an accident within their first year on the road.

Basically, young driver accidents are down to bad driving. Improving your decision-making skills and judgement will make you a good driver and protect your passengers. Other road users will appreciate it too.

New drivers make up just 10% of licence holders but are involved in 29% of all road accidents. In Essex young drivers are more likely to have accidents...

- because of poor judgement and inattention;
- because of inappropriate and excessive speed;
- when driving at night.

Keeping your licence and your car

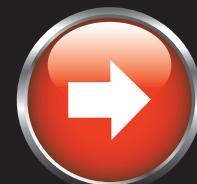
We have already discussed losing your licence if you get 6 points in the first two years of driving, but did you know that the Police can take your car away in some circumstances.

If you decide to drive without a licence or insurance and you are stopped by the Police they can impound your car. Not only that it will cost you a charge (£120 or more plus storage costs at least £10 per day). The only way to get your car back is to pay the charge and ask someone with a full licence and insurance to collect the car for you.

Some drivers like to show off by driving fast or sliding around. This often upset other people. If a Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) sees you doing this they can give you a warning and will take a note of your details. Should you be seen doing it again by any Police Officer they can impound your car and you will have to pay to get it back.

That's not all though. If you don't tax your car the DVLA can seize your car and if don't pay the fine they can crush it!

Seems a dangerous past time - driving. But if you stay legal and take care it can be the freedom you want.



Check out |
www.lawontheweb.co.uk

Penalties

Bad drivers earn licence-losing points!

Get to 6 points in your first 2 years after passing the test and you will lose your licence. Then it's back to being a learner and having to take both tests again. That will affect your job, your social life and make insurance very expensive.

**This document is issued by
Essex County Council, Environment, Sustainability and Highways.**

You can contact us in the following ways:

By telephone:

0845 603 7631

By post:

Essex County Council
Environment, Sustainability and Highways
Road Safety
County Hall, Chelmsford
Essex. CM1 1QH

By email:

roadsafety@essex.gov.uk

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