

A Pass 4 U Driving School

Private Practice Guide

You can greatly improve your chances of passing a DVSA practical driving test by getting some practice behind the wheel. Remember that the person helping you practice is doing so to help you so please be respectful.

Before you start to practice there are some important things to remember,

Your legal requirements:

The supervising driver **must**,

- Hold a full UK driving licence for more than 3 years
- Be over 21 years of age
- Be in a fit state to drive i.e. not under the influence of drink or drugs
- Give you their full attention – must not use a mobile device

You must ensure the car is insured for you to drive.

Display “L” plates on the front & rear of the vehicle

You must ensure the vehicle is MOT'd and Taxed

You must hold a current Provisional Driving Licence



How to practice:

Always remember to use the methods you haven't learnt from your driving instructor,

M – Mirrors

S – Signal

P – Position

S – Speed (Slow Down & Change Down)

L – Look

P – Prepare

O – Observe

M – Manoeuvre

L – Look

A – Assess

D – Decide

A - Act

Your driving instructor will be able to advise when the time is right to start private practice and to help it would be a good idea to get your supervising driver to come out with you on a driving lesson.

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Top Tips:

Who to ask? – Ask a family member or a friend that feels at ease helping you, nervous drivers are probably not the best people to ask.

Your Vehicle – Make sure you know the vehicle you are going to be driving e.g. know where the biting point is, where the windscreen wipers are, how to turn on the lights and the signals.

Plan your route – To start plan a route that is well known and make the route a short one. Make your route specific to the things you want to practice e.g. Roundabouts – make sure the route starts with quiet roundabouts and build up to bigger/faster ones. Avoid routes that have things on them that you have not yet covered with your driving instructor.

Use Systems – Remember older drivers may not know the systems you have learnt so make sure they know what you know beforehand e.g. Block Changing Gears – back in the day learners were taught to go gear 1,2,3,4 etc but now its is best to use the brakes and drop from 4 to 1. Use MSPSL, POM & LADA.

Avoiding Distractions – Driving can be stressful with a driving instructor let alone with family or friends so to avoid stress as much as possible only have you and supervising driver in the car, do not fill the car with family especially not children. If you need to talk about something pull over some where safe, legal and convenient so you can discuss things. If you must have the radio on keep the volume very low and turn yours and the supervising drivers phones off or very low.

Dealing with conflict – If you feel yourself getting frustrated, stressed or even angry find somewhere to stop to talk. If necessary, stop the session.

Keep a record – Each time you go out to practice make goals, record what you think went well and what didn't go so well. You may want to use a scoring system with 1 being poor and 10 being perfect but be realistic. Attached is a log you may wish to use and do share this with your driving instructor as they may be able to help with a subject.

Common Faults – Not Checking Mirrors Correctly (always in pairs)

Speed (too slow or too fast for the situation)

Meet Traffic (do not force someone to slow or stop)

***Remember – Lessons are Lessons & Practice is Practice (do not confuse the two)**

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