

Car *and Driver*

Becoming a Good Driver
Buying a Car
Maintenance and Repair
Driving and the Law

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PREVIEW | Becoming a Good Driver

■ How much do you already know about the material in this unit? Circle letters or words to correctly complete the sentences. Answers are upside down at the bottom of the page.

1. You could take a driver's education class (from your parent or guardian / at a public school).
2. Driving lessons at a private school are paid for (by the state / by the student).
3. A (parent or guardian / same-age friend) would be a good driving teacher for a 16-year-old.
4. Before you take a written test for a driver's permit, you should (ask a friend what's on the test / study the driver handbook).
5. A driver handbook will tell you (the rules of the road / how much to pay for a car).
6. To pass the test for a driver's license, you must be able to show that you (know your way around town / can drive safely).
7. If you're driving in bad weather, you should
 - a. slow down to a safe speed.
 - b. speed up to hurry home.
 - c. use your fog lights.
8. To drive safely in snow conditions, you need
 - a. a working heater.
 - b. a warm jacket.
 - c. a set of tire chains.
9. If you are driving and need to refer to a city map, you should
 - a. open the map across the steering wheel so you can still watch the road.
 - b. pull over and stop first.
 - c. spread the map out across the passenger seat.
10. Suppose you're looking for Maple Street on a city map. The first place you should check is
 - a. the map itself.
 - b. the compass rose.
 - c. the map index.

Answers: 1. at a public school 2. by the student 3. parent or guardian 4. study the driver handbook 5. the rules of the road 6. can drive safely 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. c

LESSON

1 Learning to Drive

DIEGO'S PLAN

Diego is almost 16 years old. He wants to learn how to drive. In the state where he used to live, he could already have had a license. But in the state where he lives now, the laws are different. Before getting a learner's permit, he must take driver education in a classroom setting.

His school is offering a driver education class. Diego has decided to sign up for it. He will get classroom training for one semester. There, he will learn the rules of the road. He will also get some tips on how to drive safely. The class will prepare him for the written test for a permit.

Once Diego has a permit, he will be able to get some behind-the-wheel training. For that, he will attend a professional driving school. A professional instructor will give Diego four 90-minute lessons of in-car training.

In Diego's state, a minor must have completed 50 hours of supervised driving practice. Ten of those hours must be at night. Diego's mother and father will help him complete the required time behind the wheel before he takes his driving test.

KAYLEE'S PLAN

Kaylee is 18 years old. Like Diego, she wants to get a driver's license. She is no longer a minor, so the rules for her are different than they are for Diego. She does not have to take driver education in the classroom. She does not have to take driver training behind the wheel. But, like Diego, she does have to prove that she can drive.



Kaylee will read the driver handbook to study for the written test. Once she has her permit, she will start getting behind-the-wheel training. Her sister will teach her. By law, Kaylee can practice driving only with a person over age 25. That person must have a valid driver's license. Kaylee will not have to get 50 hours of practice, as Diego does. She can take the driving test as soon as she feels ready.

MEGAN'S PLAN

Megan is 25 years old. She has never had a driver's license, but she wants one now. She knows that she is not required to take driver training behind the wheel. But she thinks that she will be a better driver if she does. So she plans to go to a driver training school. Professional instruction is not cheap, but Megan thinks it will be worth it. She worries that she won't be able to pass the driving test without it.

■ **Thinking It Over**

1. If you take a driver education class, you
 - a. are sure to pass the written test for a permit.
 - b. learn how to drive by practicing in a car.
 - c. are taught in a classroom.
2. If you take driver training, you
 - a. get behind-the-wheel instruction.
 - b. are sure to pass the test for a license.
 - c. don't have to take the driving test.
3. A minor is someone who is younger than
 - a. 25.
 - b. 18.
 - c. 16.
4. The laws about driver's licenses are
 - a. different from state to state.
 - b. the same in every state.
 - c. too complicated for most people to follow.

■ **Everyday Math**

1. Diego needs 50 hours behind the wheel before he can take the driving test. Ten of those hours must be at night. How many hours of daytime practice will he need in all? _____
2. During driver training, Diego has four 90-minute lessons behind the wheel in the daytime. How many hours is that? _____

3. After his driver training course, how many more hours of daytime practice will he need? _____

■ **Key Vocabulary**

1. *Driver education* is _____.
2. *Driver training* is _____.
3. A *minor* is _____.
4. A *driver's permit* allows you to _____.
5. A *driver's license* allows you to _____.

■ **Drawing Conclusions**

The laws regarding driver's licenses are stricter for persons under the age of 18. Why do you think this is so?

■ **On Your Own**

Would you rather learn to drive from a family member or in a driver training school? Why?

LESSON**2 Driver's License**

This checklist is published by the state of California. It is for the parent or guardian of a teenager. It tells what habits the student driver should have acquired before taking the driving test. If the parent can check off each box, it means that the student driver has developed safe driving habits.

Locate the Controls

Your child knows where the following controls are located and how they work:

- Horn
- 4-way flashers
- Heater/defroster
- Windshield wipers
- Emergency and parking brakes
- Headlights

Before Starting the Vehicle

- Adjusts mirrors.
- Fastens safety belt.

Starting the Vehicle

- Vehicle is in "Park" or "Neutral."
- Foot on brake.
- Starts vehicle smoothly.

Moving Forward

- Signals.
- Looks over shoulder before pulling into traffic.
- Uses both hands on opposite sides of steering wheel.

Stopping

- Stops when necessary behind crosswalk or limit line.
- Uses correct foot on brake pedal.

Turns

- Signals and slows for turns.
- Begins and ends turns in correct lane.
- Yields right-of-way when necessary.
- Accepts legal right-of-way when safe.
- Sees and reacts to hazards.

Backing

- Looks back over right shoulder when backing out the car.

- Checks mirrors and glances quickly to side while backing.

Changing Lanes

- Signals.
- Checks mirrors.
- Checks over shoulder.
- Changes lanes safely.

Hill Parking

- Signals.
- Curbs wheel properly.
- Sets parking brake.
- Signals and checks over shoulder before entering traffic.

Parallel Parking

- Signals.
- Looks over shoulder while backing.
- Yields to other vehicles when necessary.

Driving On the Freeway

- Checks traffic flow.
- Signals.
- Times entry onto freeway.
- Checks over shoulder as he or she accelerates into gap in traffic.
- Signals early and slows down on the exit ramp to posted speed limit.
- Adjusts speed to road conditions.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- Checks mirrors frequently and before braking.
- Checks cross streets before entering intersections.
- Checks signal lights and signs.
- Keeps eyes "moving" (watches shoulders (sides) and middle of road).
- Keeps a "space cushion" around the car.
- Follows at a safe distance.

■ **Thinking It Over:** Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false*.

1. ____ You should adjust the mirrors and fasten your safety belt before starting the vehicle.
2. ____ When you are starting the vehicle, you should be in first gear.
3. ____ If you have the legal right-of-way, you should always take it.
4. ____ When changing lanes, you should not only signal but also check over your shoulder.

■ **Everyday Math**

1. Kwan paid \$65 for each of four 90-minute classes of in-car training. Then she paid \$12 to take the test for a driver's permit. So far, how much has she spent to get her license? \$_____
 2. The Martinez family was paying \$1,500 a year for car insurance. Then their two teenage boys got licenses in the same year. Their insurance went up by \$2,100. How much is the Martinez family now paying per year? \$_____
- How much is that per month? \$_____

■ **Key Vocabulary**

1. What is a *crosswalk*?

2. What does the *brake* on a car do?

3. If you *accelerate* while driving, what do you do?

■ **Recalling Details**

1. You should begin and end turns in the
 - a. right lane.
 - b. left lane.
 - c. correct lane.
2. You should yield the right-of-way
 - a. when necessary.
 - b. always.
 - c. when it is safe.
3. When you are driving straight ahead, your hands should be
 - a. on the left side of the steering wheel.
 - b. on opposite sides of the steering wheel.
 - c. on the right side of the steering wheel.

■ **On Your Own**

Write a paragraph to explain how a driver can safely enter the freeway.

LESSON

3 Bad Weather and Other Hazards

Here are some tips for driving in special conditions.

How Well Can You See and Stop?

If something is in your path, you need to see it in time to be able to stop. Assuming you have good tires, good brakes, and dry pavement:

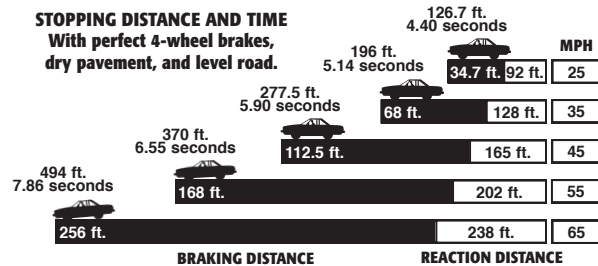
- At 55 mph, it takes about 400 feet to react to something you see and to bring the car to a complete stop.
- At 35 mph, it will take about 210 feet to react and to bring the car to a complete stop.

Adjust your driving to the weather and road conditions (basic speed law). Turn on your lights during the day if it is hard to see. **Don't drive with only your parking lights on.**

Fog: The best advice for driving in the fog is *don't*. Consider postponing your trip until the fog clears. If you must drive, however, slow down and turn on your **low-beam** headlights. The light from high beams will reflect back and cause glare. **Never drive with only your parking or fog lights turned on.**

Increase your “following distance” and be prepared to stop within the space you can see in front of your vehicle. Avoid crossing or passing lanes of traffic unless it's absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic you cannot see. As necessary, use your wipers and defroster for best vision.

If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull **completely** off the



road. Do not continue driving until you can see better. Turn off your lights, or someone may see your taillights and drive into you.

In a snowstorm or a very heavy rain, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you can't see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. You may have to stop from time to time to wipe mud or snow off your windshield, headlights, and taillights.

Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. Many road pavements are most slippery then, because oil and dust have not been washed away.

If you drive in snowy areas, carry tire chains in case you suddenly find yourself in dangerous conditions. Make sure you carry the correct number of chains and that they fit your drive wheels. Learn how to put the chains on before you need to use them.

Hills and Curves: You never know what may be on the other side of a steep hill or a sharp curve. So slow down as you make the approach. That way, you'll have time to stop if a vehicle is stalled just ahead of you.

■ **Thinking It Over**

1. If you are going 55 mph, it will take you at least (210 feet / 400 feet) to stop the car.
2. You need to adjust your driving to the (condition of your car / weather and road conditions).
3. When driving in fog, you should slow down and turn on your (low beams / high beams).
4. In extremely thick fog, you should (drive very slowly / pull completely off the road).
5. In very heavy rain or snow, you should not drive any faster than (55 mph / 30 mph).

■ **Everyday Math**

If he could drive 60 mph, Miles would get to his grandma's house in two hours. Because it is raining hard, he has to drive 30 mph. How long will it take to get to his grandma's house?
_____ hours

■ **Key Vocabulary**

1. What does *react* mean?

2. What does *mph* mean?

3. If you *postpone* a trip, what do you do?

4. If you *increase* your following distance, what do you do?

5. What is *drizzle*?

■ **Cause and Effect**

1. The reason you should go slow on a sharp curve is _____

_____.
2. You should not use high beams in fog because _____

_____.

■ **On Your Own**

Write a safety tip for a road hazard that is *not* mentioned in the reading. Here are some possible hazards to consider:

- driving at night
- driving in extreme heat
- driving near a playground
- driving by a construction zone
- being followed by a tailgater

LESSON

4 Using a City Map

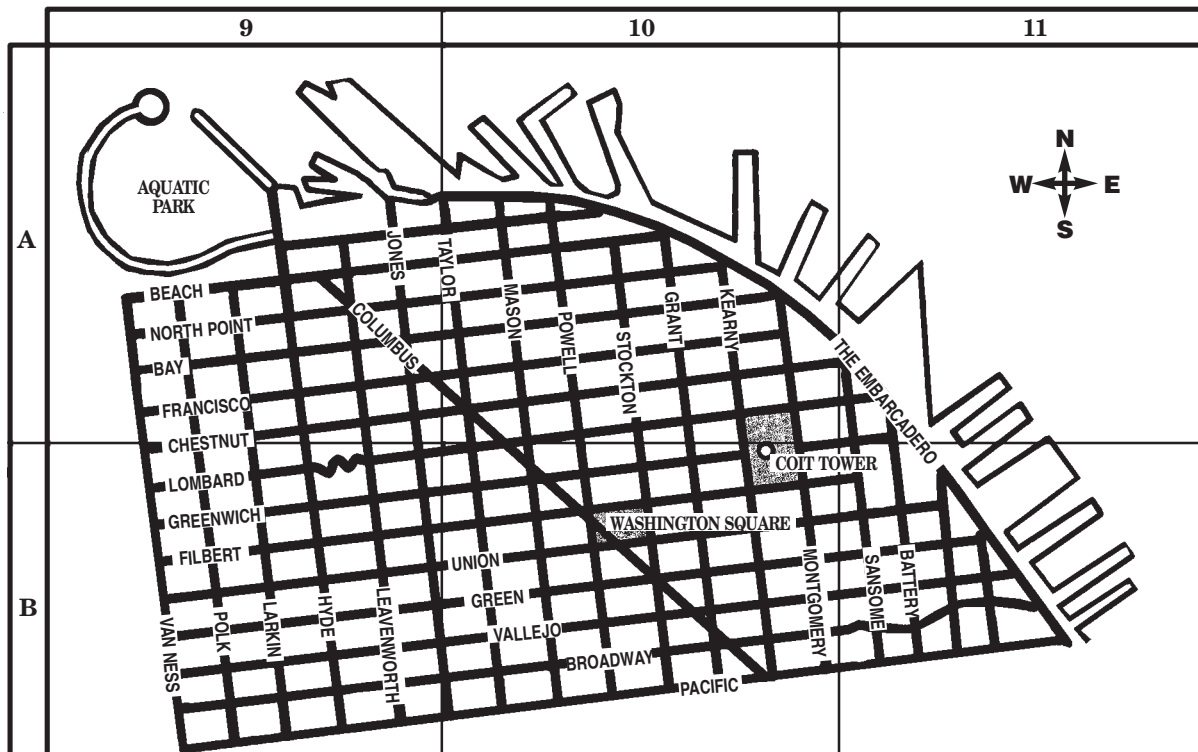
Diane was her first visit to San Francisco. She was on foot and looking for an address in the 800 block of Lombard Street, between Taylor and Jones.

She took out a city map and looked at the street index. She found that Lombard Street was in Sections B-7, 9, and 10 on the map. This part of the map shows Sections A and B-9, 10, and 11. Diane found Lombard Street on the map.

Next, Diane figured out where she was on the map. That showed her which way to go to reach Lombard. She was at the corner of Broadway and Stockton. She could see that there were several

ways to get to Lombard. She checked the compass rose and found that she would have to go north. But she didn't know which way north was. She walked one block and ended up on Pacific. By looking at the map, she could tell she was going the wrong way. So she backtracked, going back to Broadway. She crossed Broadway and walked up Stockton to Washington Square.

"Just three more blocks to Lombard," she said to herself. Finally she got to the corner of Stockton and Lombard. Another check of the map told her that she had to turn left to get to the 800 block and her aunt's apartment.



Global Positioning Systems (GPS), in-vehicle navigation, smartphones, or paper maps can all be helpful. But

make sure to pull over to read any map if you are driving.