

Beginner's Permit

Survival Guide



Compliments of



123 Drive!

DRIVING ACADEMY

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Please use this study guide to assist you in studying for your written knowledge Beginner's Permit test. It should not be used in lieu of reading the South Carolina Driver's Manual, but used as a helpful tool for increasing your odds of success when you take the test.

Good luck and please consider 123 Drive! Driving Academy for your road test preparation. South Carolina law requires all drivers under the age of 17 to take a minimum of 8 hours classroom training and 6 hours behind-the wheel training with a licensed instructor. At least twice a month, we offer a Teen Course that covers all the requirements and we will take you to the DMV to do your road test when you are ready.

What you will need to take with you to the DMV when you take your Beginner's Permit test:

- You must be at least 15 years old to take the test.
- Original or Certified Copy of your Birth Certificate.
- Social Security Card.
- Proof of Residency (utility bill, student ID, etc).
- Completed/Signed SCDMV Application for S.C. Credential (form 447) – copy attached.
- Pass of Eye Test at the DMV.



With a Beginner's Permit, you may:

- Drive a motor vehicle from 6 a.m. until midnight with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old, has at least one year of driving experience, and is sitting in the front seat with you.
- Drive motorcycles, mopeds or scooters from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 p.m. during daylight savings time).

What you will need in order to take your Road Test at the DMV for your Special Restricted License:

- You must be at least 15 ½ and less than 17 and have had your Beginner's Permit for at least 180 days.
- Your proof of insurance for the vehicle you will be testing in.
- Your Beginner's Permit (must be surrendered to get new license).
- Completed/Signed SCDMV Application for S.C. Credential (form 447) – copy attached.
- Completed SCDMV PDLA form – we will provide at class.
- Pass the Eye Test at the DMV.

With a Special Restricted License, you may:

- Drive during daylight hours (6 a.m.-6 p.m., or 6 a.m.-8 p.m. during daylight savings time)
- Drive after daylight hours and until midnight with a licensed driver that is at least 21 or older
- Drive after midnight if you are accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian
- Have no more than 2 passengers under the age of 21 unless you are accompanied by a licensed adult who is at least 21. The only exception for the transportation of family members or other students to and from school.

NOTE- Once you are 16 years old, if the time limitations are an issue due to a job or after school activities, you may request a waiver but submitting two letters – one from your parent or legal guardian and one from your employer or a school official – stating that it is necessary for you to drive alone after sunset. You would then be allowed to drive until midnight.

Important DMV Rules

- If you change your name or address, you must notify the DMV within 10 days



Speed

- Posted speed limits are the maximum speed you can travel at. It does NOT mean that you HAVE to travel that fast and may even be unsafe to do so under certain conditions such as fog, rain, snow, ice or heavy traffic.
- The maximum un-posted speed limit in an urban district or residential area is 30 mph.
- The maximum un-posted speed limit in a rural area is 55 mph.
- If you are traveling at more than 80 mph, you have almost no chance of living through a crash.
- The probability of a fatality in a crash roughly doubles as speed increases from 45-60 mph and then doubles again as the speed increases from 60-70 mph.
- Driving too slowly can also be dangerous. You must never drive so slowly that it interferes with other traffic moving at a normal speed.
- Always try to maintain the speed of the traffic around you, provided it is within the legal speed limit.
- In fog, slow down and use your low beam lights, never high beams.

Railroad Crossings



- You must stop at all railroad crossings when directed by a flagman, stop sign, flashing red signals or other devices that warn you of a coming train.
- It is NEVER okay and is illegal to go around lowered railroad gates – even if they are stuck, you must find another way to get where you need to go.

School Buses



- You must stop for a stopped school bus with flashing lights that is loading or unloading passengers under all of these conditions:
 1. On any two lane highway
 2. On any four lane or multi lane highway only when traveling behind a school bus
 3. When you are behind the bus, traveling in the same direction as the bus
- You do not have to stop:
 1. When the bus is in a passenger loading zone completely off the road
 2. If you are traveling on the opposite side of the road of a bus stopped on a multi-lane highway consisting of at least four lanes, having at least two lanes in each direction.

Parking

Parking Rules:

- Never double park
- Turn off ignition and remove keys in you park and leave your vehicle
- Follow all parking regulations
- Always park within 18 inches of the curb



- Make sure your vehicle is completely off the road and out of the way of traffic
- Always check around your vehicle for obstacles before leaving a parking spot
- Always check for traffic before exiting your vehicle

Places you should NOT park:

- On an interstate – in case of emergency or mechanical trouble pull way off on the right shoulder
- On a sidewalk
- In front of a driveway
- Within an intersection
- Within 15 ft of a fire hydrant
- On a pedestrian crosswalk
- Within 20 ft of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet of a signal light , stop sign or flashing beacon on the side of a roadway
- Between a safety zone and the opposite curb
- Within 50 ft of a railroad crossing
- Within 20 ft of the entrance to a fire station or within 75 ft of the curb section opposite a fire station
- Alongside or opposite a road that is under construction
- On any bridge, overpass, tunnel or underpass
- Along a curb if its painted yellow or designated as a “no parking” area
- On a hill or curve unless you can see clearly 200 ft in each direction
- Where there is a “no parking” sign...duh☺
- Within 500 ft of a fire vehicle stopped for an emergency

Parallel Parking:

- Vehicle must be no more than 18 inches from the curb.
- Vehicle should be centered in the parking space.
- When leaving the space, you must always signal, check mirrors and look over your shoulder, and yield right of way to traffic.

Parking on Hills:

When parking on hills you should do the following:

1. Headed downhill, with or without a curb: turn wheels to the right
2. Headed uphill with a curb: turn wheels to the center of the street (left) with the back of the front tire against the curb (HINT: Remember UCLA...uphill curb left always. Uphill with a curb is the only one you will turn the wheel to the left for)
3. Headed uphill without a curb: turn the wheel to the right so the vehicle will roll off the road if the brakes fail.

In each case, set your parking brake prior to turning off the vehicle and exiting. When leaving the space, you must always signal, check mirrors and look over your shoulder, and yield right of way to traffic.

Yielding Right of Way

The law does not give anyone the right of way. The term “right of way” refers to who shall wait and who shall yield at intersections or other places where two or more vehicles cannot all proceed at the same time.

Rules of yielding:

1. When you approach an intersection with no traffic signals or signs, you must yield to another driver if they have already entered the intersection.
2. If two vehicles begin to enter an intersection at the same time and there is no traffic signal or signs, the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver on the right.
3. If you have entered an intersection and want to turn left, you must yield to approaching vehicles and any other vehicles already in the intersection.
4. If you stop at traffic light and want to turn left when the light changes to green, you must yield to traffic waiting on the opposite side of the traffic light.
5. You may turn right at a red traffic light unless there is a sign posted that prohibits it. You must first come to complete stop and then yield to any traffic or pedestrians before making your turn.
6. If you are entering a street or highway from a side road in a rural area you must yield to vehicles traveling on that street or highway.
7. You are required to yield to authorized emergency vehicles such as police cars, ambulances and fire trucks when these vehicles have lights or sirens on.
8. You must yield to pedestrians who have properly entered the intersection but have not had time to clear it.
9. You must always yield right of way to children entering or leaving a school bus.

Rules for Passing other Vehicles

- On a two-lane road you must stay in your proper lane. Do not straddle the center line prior to passing as this can be VERY dangerous. In order to pass another vehicle you must have a clear view ahead to see any oncoming vehicles. A solid yellow line in your lane tells you it is dangerous and illegal to pass. Look in your rear view mirror and side mirrors to make sure there are no vehicles attempting to pass you. Check your blind spot. If road is clear, signal with your left blinker, double check mirrors again and then quickly go around the vehicle you are passing.
- On a highway of four or more lanes, its best to stay in the right lane unless you need to pass, then use the left lane. After you have passed a slow moving vehicle and are ready to move back into the right lane, be sure to – signal, check your mirrors and your blind spot before moving over. You should be able to see the entire front of the vehicle you just passed in your rear view mirror before moving back over. Avoid the practice of constantly switching lanes.
- If you need to exceed the posted speed limit to pass, you should NOT pass.
- It is sometimes okay to pass on the right like when the vehicle in front of you is waiting to turn left and there is room on the right to safely go around them. Make sure the space is wide enough and watch for any unexpected traffic or pedestrians.
- When being passed, maintain your speed and position unless the other driver must return to your lane because of an oncoming car. Then slow down if he speeds up or speed up if he slows down, allowing him to get back over safely.

When NOT to pass:

- On a hill or curve or anywhere that you can see far enough ahead to pass safely.
- At a street crossing or highway intersection.
- At any railroad crossing.
- When meeting another vehicle close enough to constitute a hazard.
- Where a sign tells you not to pass.
- When a vehicle in front of you has stopped to let a pedestrian cross.
- In a construction or road work area.

- When a solid yellow line is in your lane.
- Within 100 ft of a bridge or tunnel.



Emergency Vehicles and Scenes

When an emergency vehicle with flashing lights or sirens is in the area where you are driving, you must make every effort to give them a clear path to travel. If possible, pull your vehicle to the side of the road and stop to give them a clear path. **DO NOT STOP** in the road where they cannot get around you.

If you approach an emergency scene, you **MUST** follow instructions of officers or emergency personnel and make every effort to ensure their safety by slowing down and giving them as much space as possible when passing the scene.

If you are pulled over by the police, turn on your hazard flashers and pull over to the right side of the roadway and stop your vehicle as far away from traffic as possible to ensure safety for both of you.

Driving at Night

Your speed at night needs to be lower than during daylight driving because the distance you can see is limited by your headlight beams.

Rules of night driving:

- Your headlights must be on at night and from half hour after sunset to half hour after sunrise, and at any other time when you have to use your windshield wipers.
- When you meet a car at night, you must dim your bright lights at least 500 ft from the approaching vehicle
- When you are behind another vehicle at night, you must dim your bright lights when you are within 200 feet from the vehicle in front of you
- You should drive with low-beam lights when you are driving on well lit or heavily traveled roads
- You should not look directly into the lights of oncoming traffic. Instead, look toward the right edge of the road.
- You should slow down when faced with the glare from approaching headlights and you should never wear sunglasses while driving at night (yes, it actually says this in the book 😊)
- You should never turn on your bright lights in response to another driver not dimming their bright lights. Just look to the right of the road until they pass so you are not blinded.
- You should scan the road constantly for pedestrians, bicyclists and animals along the roadside.

Seatbelts

- Seats belts are required by law for all drivers and passengers in a motor vehicle. Buckle up!
- Children under the age of 6 may **NOT** sit in the front seat of a vehicle, unless the car has no backseat.

Sharing the Road



We must share our roads with cyclists. Here are some key rules to remember:

- When attempting to pass a bicyclist, you must treat the bicycle as you would a car that you would pass. Wait until traffic is clear in the opposite lane, signal and then change lanes to pass them.
- Give the bicyclist as much room between you as possible in case they make a mistake or have an accident.
- Leave room when turning right after passing a cyclist or they are not cut off when you turn.

Steering your Vehicle

- Always turn the steering wheel in the same that you want the vehicle to move, whether moving forward or in reverse.
- Both hands should be placed on the steering wheel on opposite sides. Your grip should be firm, but gentle.
- Think of your steering wheel as if it's the face of a clock. Your left hand should be somewhere between the 7 to 9 o'clock position and your right hand should be at the 3 to 5 o'clock position.
- Both hands should remain on the steering wheel at all times unless performing another function of driving, like using turn signals or turning on wipers. One hand may also be used when backing up.
- If you are driving an automatic vehicle, you should only be using your right foot to control the gas and the brake pedals. Rest your left foot off to the side.

Turning your Vehicle



- Try not to make last minute turns
- The law requires you to signal at least 100 ft before making any kind of turn.
- Signal first and then move into the proper lane.

Right turns:

- Move to the right lane.
- Signal at least 100 ft ahead of turn and approach the corner slowly, staying close to the right curb or edge of the roadway. Watch for people getting out of cars or opening doors.
- Look both ways before starting turn.
- Remain close to the right so that you will be in the right lane when your turn is completed.

Left turns:

- A left turn takes more preparation than a right turn. You must think ahead and get in the lane closest to the center on your side of the road.
- Signal at least 100 ft ahead.
- Before turning, check traffic behind and in front of you and make sure no one is trying to pass you.
- Yield to any oncoming traffic and always look both ways before starting your turn.
- When turning left onto a four lane road, you should end up in the left lane when your turn is completed.

Left turns at non-intersections:

- A solid yellow line in your lane prohibits passing, but may be crossed to enter driveways.

- When turning left through a median area, you must only turn at paved sections and never cut through the raised or grass parts of a median.

U-turns:

- You must never make a u-turn while on a curve or hill. Your vehicle must be able to be seen by approaching drivers from either direction for at least 500 ft.
- You may not make a u-turn if there is a posted sign saying “No U-Turn” ...duh

Signals for Stops, Lane Changes and Turns

You must always signal properly for any change in direction or lane, or for stopping – by either mechanical or hand signals. You must signal at least 100 ft ahead of your actual turn or lane change.

When to signal:

- Whenever you change lanes, right or left
- Whenever you are merging into traffic
- When you are parking
- When you are passing another vehicle or cyclist
- When entering or exiting a highway
- When you are braking – properly working brake lights will come on automatically when you press on brake

If your blinkers or brake lights malfunction, you must substitute those signals with hand signals. They are as follows:



Left turn – Left hand and arm extended straight out of driver’s side window

Stop or decreased speed – Left hand and arm extended downward

Right turn – Left hand and arm extended upward

Stopping



When you MUST stop your vehicle:

- At a stop sign...duh
- When a traffic officer orders you to stop.
- When you approach a yield sign and it is not yet clear for you to merge into the flow of traffic
- When coming from an alley, driveway or building, before driving across the sidewalk.
- At a red traffic light, even if turning right.
- At a flashing red light (treat it like a stop sign)
- At a bridge span that is about to open for boat traffic
- When a pedestrian using a white cane is trying to cross the road
- When an approaching emergency vehicle has its lights or sirens on- but make sure you pull as far to the right as possible.

Four-way stops:

You must yield to another driver if they reach the intersection first. If you arrive at the same time, the driver on the left should yield to the driver on the right. Or, if traveling on the same street, a driver turning left should yield to the driver from the opposite direction.

When you stop behind another vehicle, do not stop too close. You should be able to see the entire back of their car plus a couple feet of pavement in front of you.

Following other Cars

Rear end crashes are very common but mostly avoidable. When following another vehicle use a three to four second rule to assure you stay at a safe distance. Watch as the vehicle in front of you passes a stationary object (tree, sign, etc.) and then count the seconds it takes you to reach the same point. If it's less than three to four seconds, you are too close. Add an extra second for bad weather conditions such as rain or fog.

Interstate Driving

Entering an interstate:

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the interstate. Once on the ramp, you should begin accelerating while checking traffic on the interstate to look for an opening. Use your side mirror and rear view mirror as well as quickly checking over your shoulder to check your blind spot. If there is a vehicle on the ramp in front of you, watch to make sure they do not stop or suddenly slow down while on the ramp. Often there is a short acceleration lane on the interstate where you must quickly pace your speed to the speed of the interstate traffic. When there is a large enough gap between vehicles, smoothly merge in. You should never come to a full stop on the ramp or in the acceleration lane.

Leaving a highway:

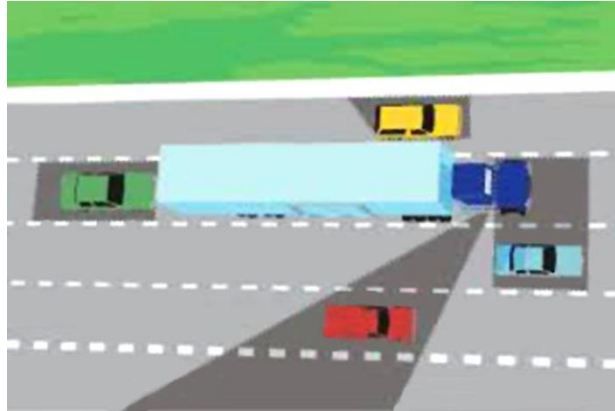
Get into the right lane. Signal your intention to exit. Do not brake until you are in the deceleration lane, then slow down gradually so you are at the exit ramp's posted speed limit when you reach the ramp. If you mistakenly drive past your exit, you should NOT stop or back up. Go to the next exit and come back to the exit you missed.

Car Trouble:

If you must stop your car on the interstate due to mechanical problems, pull your vehicle off to the right shoulder as far as possible and put on your hazard lights. Raising your hood can also tell other motorists that you are having trouble. It's always a good idea to carry a flashlight in your car for these occasions.

Trucks

Large trucks cannot maneuver like a car. It takes them longer to stop and to accelerate and they need more room to turn. They have much larger and more blind spots than cars do. Those blind spots are called the No-Zone:



Traffic Signs and Signals

Meanings of Shapes and Colors:

- Regulatory signs: red or white background – can be octagonal (stop sign), three sided (yield), square or rectangular. Post the rules you are to follow while driving – stop, yield, speed limits.
- Warning signs: yellow or orange – can be diamond shaped, five sided or rectangular. Tell you to be careful of certain situations or conditions (traffic light ahead, pedestrians crossing, etc.)
- Guide signs : Orange or green – large and rectangular – informational signs like exit signs, detour signs, etc.
- Route markers: Can vary by state, but typically interstate signs are red, white and blue. State road signs are black and white and the hurricane evacuation route sign is blue and white.
- Pavement markings:
 1. Broken yellow line – indicates you are on a two lane road and can expect oncoming traffic in the lane to the left of the line. Passing is permitted when it can be done safely.
 2. Double yellow line – It is illegal to cross the marking from either direction in order to pass another vehicle.
 3. Solid yellow line and broken yellow line – If the broken yellow line is in your lane is on your side of the road, it is okay to pass. If it is solid on your side, it is illegal for you to pass.
 4. Broken white line – Used to divide lanes of traffic going in the same direction. This type of line is used on multi-lane roads and highways.
- Directional arrows: White arrows painted on the road tell you the direction intended for a specific lane. A straight arrow means that lane only goes straight. An arrow pointing left means you are in a left turn only lane. An arrow pointing right means you are in a right turn only lane. Sometimes a lane can have two arrows, one pointing straight and the other pointing either left or right. This type of arrow indicates you can do either from that lane.



Stop



Yield



Do Not Enter



Wrong Way



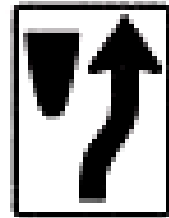
No U-Turn



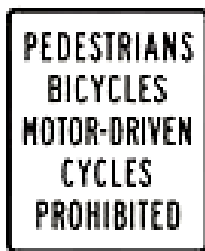
No Left Turn



No Right Turn



Divided Highway or
Traffic Island



Pedestrians Prohibited



Minimum Speed



No Passing



Left Turn Only



Go Left or Straight



No Turn on Red



Slow Traffic Stay Right



Max Speed Allowed



Traffic Signal Ahead



Two Way Traffic



Slippery When Wet



Approaching a Hill



Traffic Merging from Right



Divided Hwy Ending



Divided Highway



Max Height Clearance



Approaching School



School Crosswalk



Pedestrian Crosswalk



Watch for Deer



Flagman Ahead



Construction Warning



Branch Intersection



4-Way Intersection



Road Curves to Left



Sharp Right Turn



Max Speed for Turn



Max Speed for Exit



Approaching Railroad



Road Crosses RR Track



RR Crossing



Low Clearance



Detour



Distance to Exit



Distances to Exits



Exit Number



Interstate Exit



Mile Marker



Interstate Sign



U.S. Highway



State Route Marker



State Route Marker



Route By-Passes Businesses



Route goes thru Business District



State Secondary Rte



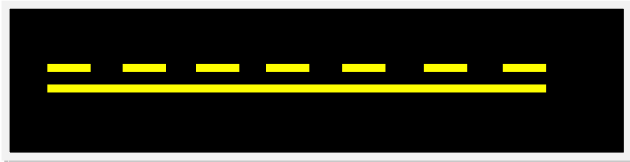
Hurricane Evacuation



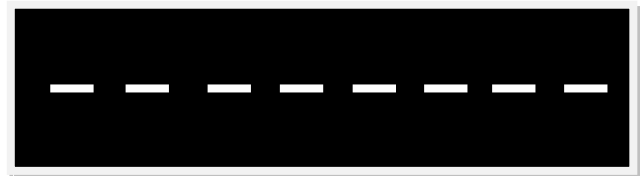
Two-Lane Road



Illegal to Cross Either Direction



Passing Allowed on Dotted Side Only



Dividing Traffic/Lanes in Same Direction