

Just like sports, or dance, or any skill you want to master, learning to drive takes hours and hours of practice. You play a crucial role in preparing your beginning driver to be a safe and confident driver who understands the rules of the road.



TEACHING YOUR TEEN TO DRIVE

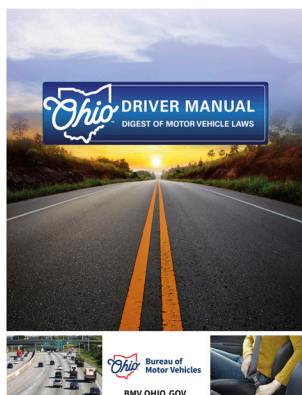
50 Hours of Driving Practice Resource Guide



**Ohio Traffic
Safety Office**

Ohio Driver Training

Before you start this journey,
visit TeachYourTeentoDrive.Ohio.gov
for a free online orientation and resources
to help your beginning driver through
the licensing process.



The Ohio Driver Manual can help
new drivers prepare for the
knowledge test. It provides guidance
on motor vehicle laws and
a summary of safe
driving practices.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand placing a yellow and black sign on the side of a dark-colored car. The sign has the text 'PLEASE BE PATIENT' in yellow on a black background, and 'STUDENT DRIVER' in black on a yellow background. The background of the image is a blurred view of the car and the person's arm.

New drivers under age 21 must log **50 hours of driving, with at least 10 hours of night driving**, with a parent or eligible adult over age 21.

Are You Ready?

Once your beginning driver passes the permit test and they have their permit in hand, it is time to start practicing! Develop a plan on what you want to accomplish before approaching the vehicle. Limit each practice session to no more than an hour, at least until your driver can perform all driving fundamentals. When possible, coordinate your sessions with your beginning driver's driver training program.

You will have to complete a driving log and Fifty-Hour Affidavit verifying completion of the 50 hours of training. You can log your hours using the free RoadReady Ohio phone app or via a paper copy of the [BMV 5791 Fifty-Hour Affidavit](#), available at bmvo.ohio.gov or at any driver license exam station or deputy registrar. If using the RoadReady Ohio app, you can download the Affidavit and driving log once you have completed the required practice hours. You must sign and notarize the Affidavit for verification.

Start with the basics, and don't assume anything.

Practice good driving habits. It's important that you demonstrate safe techniques to the household's newest driver.

Research for a quality driver training school. To find a driver training school, go to DriverTraining.ohio.gov and click on Find a School. It is important to find the best school for your beginning driver. Look at reviews online and places such as the Better Business Bureau for reviews and further information.

Call your insurance company or agent. Some insurers will want your teen driver added to your policy as soon as he or she obtains a temporary permit. Others require teens to be added once they reach the licensing stage.

Get Set...

Your best bet is to locate a vacant parking lot for the first lesson or two. Using an open area enables your new driver to get a feel for the vehicle and how it responds.

Provide simple and accurate instructions in advance so your beginning driver has time to understand and prepare.

Avoid teaching too much, too soon. After all, you have 50 hours.

Build upon experience. Start in no traffic (vacant parking lot), then light traffic, then heavy traffic. Start on two-lane roads at low speeds before hitting multi-lane highways or interstates with higher speeds. This will help your new driver become familiar with the driving experience while you adjust to your role as a driving teacher.

Provide solid cues such as: “Let off the gas and begin to brake,” instead of panic-ridden versions such as: “Slow down! Slow down!”

Stay calm, and try not to laugh at inappropriate times. New drivers are likely to make mistakes and may be sensitive to parental evaluation.

Start and end each session on a positive note. If you need to correct mistakes, take notes and pull over to discuss them without yelling. Reinforce good safety habits with comments such as: “I liked how you slowed down and looked both ways before proceeding at that railroad crossing,” or, “I’m glad you slowed down and stopped at that yellow light instead of trying to speed through it.”



Use the RoadReady Ohio phone app to log required practice hours and for information and details on lessons.





It's Time to Go...

Start with a vehicle check, including a review of the car owner's manual. Before your beginning driver turns on the ignition:

- Check inside the vehicle for objects that may block the driver's view (*i.e., items hanging from rearview mirror and objects in the rear window*).
- Check around the car to make sure there is nothing in the car's path.
- After the seat is properly adjusted, check all mirrors.
- Every few lessons, check the car's tires and fluid levels.
- Know how to work all lights and signals and how to adjust seat belts.
- Adjust the steering wheel column, if necessary.
- Locate the car horn and remind your teen to use it sparingly.
- Review how to work dashboard systems including cruise control, hazard lights, wipers, heat and air conditioning, stereo system, etc.
- Before each session, consider reviewing what your beginning driver is learning in his/her driver training course.

Suggested Lesson Guide

Starting the Engine

Lesson 1: Before You Start the Engine

Teach your beginning driver vehicle basics before actual driving begins! You and your beginning driver should be parked in a safe, quiet parking lot for this lesson.

Lesson 2: Backing Up

Practice driving backwards in a straight line and while turning.

Lesson 3: Moving, Stopping, and Steering

Practice consistently stopping, starting, and turning smoothly while maintaining good control of the vehicle.

Getting Comfortable Behind the Wheel

Lesson 4: Driving on a Quiet Street

Teach your beginning driver to move and stop a vehicle safely on quiet roads. Practice left and right turns while in a lower risk area.

Lesson 5: How Close Are You?

Your new driver should learn how to tell where their vehicle is in relation to other vehicles or objects. Have them practice maintaining the appropriate following distance in different driving environments.

Lesson 6: Looking Ahead

Teach your beginning driver to develop defensive driving techniques and higher-level visual and anticipatory driving skills. Practice looking at least one block ahead to look for potential risks or hazards. For example, brake lights means vehicles are stopped ahead.

Lesson 7: Turning Around

Teach the best ways to turn a vehicle around in various circumstances. This can include 2 point turns, u-turns, and 3 point turns.

Lesson 8: Parking

Practice mastering angle, parallel, and perpendicular parking. This includes pulling into and exiting a parking space.

Lesson 9: Maneuverability

Teach your beginning driver to complete the maneuverability course; pulling forward and to the left or right in a continuous motion, and pulling backward to the left or right in a continuous motion. The lesson should take place in a large, level, mostly empty area, such as a parking lot.

Driving in More Complex Environments

Lesson 10: Multi Lane Roads

Start practicing on multi lane roads and teach how to safely change lanes.

Lesson 11: Urban/City Driving

Practice driving in urban or city environments. Remember to be extra aware of hazards and look ahead in these environments, as decisions need to be made quickly.

Lesson 12: Highway Driving

Practice highway basics and how you to safely enter and exit a highway. This lesson will need lots of practice to maneuver safely on highways.

Lesson 13: Roundabouts

Practice maneuvering safely in and out of roundabouts. Include techniques on approaching, driving inside, and exiting a roundabout.

Lesson 14: Night Driving

Safely maintain vehicle control in nighttime and twilight conditions. Turn on headlights one hour before dusk, one hour after dawn, and anytime windshield wipers are on.

Lesson 15: Inclement Weather Driving

Teach your beginning driver about driving in adverse weather conditions. Discuss snow, rain, icy conditions, and fog and include best practices of increasing following distances, decreasing speed, and using your headlights any time your wipers are on.

