

A handy guide for new drivers



Congrats on getting your driving license!

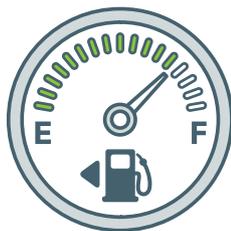
As a newly qualified driver, you need to be aware of any bumps in the road as you roll out with your license. That's why we've put together our new driver tips to help keep your knowledge fresh when you take your next drive.

How do you find a good parking spot?

Start with your phone, there's plenty of handy parking apps. You can try [AppyParking](#), rated five stars by [AutoExpress](#) or [Parkopedia](#) and [RingGo](#), both rated at four stars.

How do you know which side the fuel cap is when in the car?

On your fuel gauge, it points to which side the fuel filler is located. You can also check the filler location, how to open it, and then add a little sticker to the corner of the dash as a reminder.



Where's the locking wheel nut key?

Although not all cars have them, locking wheel nuts prevents would-be thieves removing the wheels from a car without the key. It's not always in the car's handbook and the location isn't always obvious. A few common places to look:

- Glove box
- Boot
- Under the car seats, boot carpet or spare wheel.

If it's not in any of these places, you can call your breakdown cover provider and ask if they can remove the locking wheel nut for you.



How do you safely navigate the motorway as a new driver?

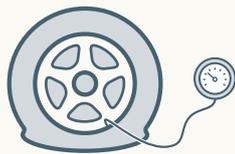
Park up and consider these things below:

- Take someone experienced with you
- Check your car is road-ready
- Match speed of cars when joining a motorway
- Use your mirrors to stay aware of your surroundings
- Take breaks if you're on a long journey
- Stick to the left lane unless you're overtaking slower traffic
- Read up on motorway signals
- Adjust your speed for slip roads
- Use the 2 second spacing rule between you and the car in front
- If you break down, you should drive into the hard shoulder
- Exit the motorway properly and keep an eye out for junction signs.

What do you need to do about sharing insurance details in an accident?

- Stay calm, neutral and don't admit any liability
- Exchange your contact information, insurance company, policy number, driver's license and license plate number
- Take pictures of damage and location.

How do you know what the car's tyre pressure should be?



Look in your car handbook, there should be a section on the correct tyre pressures. If not, check online, and enter the make and model to find out. Details may also be on the inside of your car door.

What do you need to know about changing a tyre?

It's something every driver should know as it can also save money and time contacting your recovery service. You'll need a car jack, wrench, some wheel chocks, a wheel nut key, a torch and your car handbook.



Should you take your friends out?

New drivers shouldn't carry passengers younger than 25 unless supervised as they can be distracting.

What should you know about sticking to speed limits?

- Driving within the speed limit gives road users more time to assess hazards and avoid potential crashes
- Check your speedometer, look for signs avoid distractions and leave early to avoid rushing
- Be careful as if new drivers get six points on their licence within two years of passing the test, they have to take it again.

Where are the car's dimension details for height-restricted car parks?

This information should be in car handbook but if not, check out automobiledimension.com.

When should car headlights be switched on?

Switch your headlights on when visibility drops to below the 100-metre mark. Fog lights can also be switched on, but they must be turned off once visibility on the road improves.

Can you answer the phone if it rings when your car is stationary?

- Even if you're stuck at red traffic lights, or in stationary traffic somewhere, it's illegal to use the phone
- Put your mobile away somewhere, such as in the glovebox, so you're not tempted to use it.

How do car owners keep their engine in good condition?



- Change engine oil at regular intervals
- Keep check on the cooling system
- Let your air filter breathe and clean it regularly
- Look for leaks
- Don't keep going on reserve fuel
- Check your belts for cracks and signs of wear
- Don't ignore the check engine light
- Replace your fuel filter
- Inspect your spark plugs and wires
- Let your engine warm up before you start revving to avoid the sudden temperature change causing unnecessary damage to its components.

What should you do if you know you've made a mistake?

- Don't panic
- Acknowledge that you've made a mistake
- Show you're sorry, and they'll probably forgive you
- Everyone else has been in your shoes at some point – including your parents.

Passing the driving test makes you a competent driver, following the rules and maintaining your vehicle makes you a great one.

