

## Stage One

Stage one is about learning how to control the car. Your first job is to learn how to start, stop and steer. Trying this for the first time can be a challenge so its important that you and your supervising driver agree you're able to do all of the stage one goals before moving into traffic.

### Stage One Goals

**At the end of this stage, you and your supervising driver should agree you're able to to the following safely:**

- Adjust your seat, mirrors, steering wheel and other controls
- Start up and shut down the engine
- Move off smoothly
- Slow down and stop smoothly
- Go around corners smoothly and at low speed
- Check mirrors before breaking
- Check your blind spots before changing positions, such as leaving the kerb
- Stop the car on a slight slope and move off again, using the park brake
- Reverse in a straight line and around curved path
- Use gears smoothly, if you're a manual driver

**How to achieve Stage One Goals:**

- Work with your supervising driver to develop your skills in basic car control
- Find quiet ares with no traffic to practise
- Remove distractions from the vehicle, including music/radio, so you can concentrate
- Have your supervising driver be your second pair of eyes to watch the road and help you to make safe driving decisions
- Work together to look for potential hazards
- Have an open and honest conversation with your supervising driver
- Talk with each other about how your're going at the end of each drive to check on your progress.

**Examples of where to practise:**

- Car parks
- Access roads at sporting grounds
- New housing developments
- Industrial areas
- Local streets

## Stage Two

Stage Two is about applying your Stage One & Two skills to more complex situations, such as main roads, busy traffic and difficult conditions.

The key is to always go on drives that match your experience level, so you drive in low-risk to more challenging situations over time. Once you are ready, start to choose routes where you can develop your skills without going beyond your ability.

*It's important early in this stage to talk with your supervising driver about how you're going, so you can move to new tasks when you are ready.*

### Stage Two Goals

**At the end of this stage, you and your supervising driver should agree you're able to do the following tasks well:**

- Move from and stop at the kerb
- Use your mirrors to do head checks
- Check for hazards when moving off
- Drive on straight, quiet, low-speed roads
- Turn at quiet intersections
- Travel through quiet intersections
- Slow down coming up to intersections
- Use roundabouts on quiet, low-speed roads
- Choose a speed that's safe and legal
- Leave a safe space between your vehicle and other vehicles
- Start and stop on hills
- Do three-point turns and parallel parks
- Reverse out of driveays or parking spots
- Use hazard perception to see, think and do on quiet streets
- Obey traffic lights, give way and stop signs

#### How to achieve Stage Two Goals:

- Plan drives in places with quiet, low-speed roads and little traffic
- Plan drives in places with a range of intersections and roundabouts.
- Make the route of your first drive a rectangle with left turns only
- Talk with your supervising driver about potential hazards to look out for before you drive
- Have your supervising driver direct where you're going, so you can focus on obeying signs, managing speed, seeing potential hazards and car control
- Keep practicing the skills you have learned so far, including parking
- Gradually increase the complexity of the drives as you gain experience, when you both agree you're ready
- Talk with your supervising driver about how you're going at the end of each drive to check progress.

## Stage Three

Stage Two is about applying your skills from Stage One and Two to more complex situations, such as main roads, busy traffic and difficult conditions. You'll spend a lot of time in this stage and it will feel more challenging than previous stages.

The key is to always go on drives that match your experience level, so you drive in low-risk to more challenging situations over time. As you progress, new driving situations will gradually become harder, to help you develop safe driving behaviours.

*Always talk with your supervising driver about how you're going, so you only move to new tasks when you are ready.*

### Stage Three Goals

**At the end of this stage, you and your supervising driver should agree you're able to do the following safely:**

- Turn across incoming traffic safely
- Use your hazard perception skills
- Keep a safe distance from other road users in busy traffic
- Drive on roads of all speed limits
- Change and merge lanes
- Choose safe gaps when entering traffic
- Slow down smoothly
- Drive through busy intersections
- Control your speed
- Plan your own drives

#### How to achieve Stage Three Goals:

- Start with simple driving tasks and situations such as on routes that are normally busy at peak times but quieter during the day.
- Gradually plan more challenging drives as you gain experience and when you and your supervising driver agree you're ready, such as roads with higher speeds and traffic.
- Give you more driving responsibility as you gain experience
- Talk with each other about potential hazards to look for
- Choose safe gaps when you turn at intersections and roundabouts
- Work together on when to overtake and merge on multi-lane roads
- Drive at safe and legal speeds
- Start to replace your planned drives with everyday driving tasks, e.g. such as going to the shops or driving to school or work.
- Review your logged hours to make sure you're getting a broad range of experience
- Talk with your supervising driver about how you're going at the end of each drive to check progress.

## Stage Three

### Where to practise in Stage Three

You'll spend a lot of time in this stage and the places you drive in at the start will be very different to the places you drive in near the end.

In Stage Three you will apply safe driving behaviours to complex situations, on main roads, busier traffic and difficult conditions. You'll start this stage driving on lower-speed, busier roads then more complex roads at quieter times.

When you and your supervising driver agree you're ready, gradually progress into more challenging situations such as areas with heavier traffic, complex roads and freeways.

### You can practise in all weather conditions, day or night in:

- Areas with straight and curved roads
- Areas with multi-lane roads, such as highways or freeways
- Busy suburban streets
- Local shopping areas
- Tight-space areas, such as narrow streets or busy carparks
- Heavy traffic areas
- Low quality or dirt roads

## Stage Four

Stage Four is about applying your skills and decision-making from Stage Three to independent driving. During Stage Four, you'll need to take full responsibility for driving decisions when you feel ready. By the end of this stage you should be able to drive comfortably in all situations without help from your supervising driver.

When you and your supervising driver agree, you can think about going for your P's if you meet all the legal requirements. The longer you spend in Stage Four, the better prepared you'll be for solo driving.

### Stage Four Goals

**At the end of this stage, you and your supervising driver should agree you're able to do the following safely:**

- Drive in all traffic conditions
- See, think and respond to hazards
- Leave safe gaps and following distances in traffic
- Choose safe and legal speeds
- Choose a safe gap when turning across traffic
- Choose safe gaps when changing lanes, merging and overtaking
- Drive on a wide range of road types, in varied conditions
- Make safe driving decisions, such as when to drive and when not to
- Handle unexpected situations
- Manage distractions inside the vehicle
- Do complex driving tasks
- Drive to a destination without the help of your supervising driver

**How to practise in Stage Four:**

- Practise in all types of conditions and traffic to prepare you for solo driving