

DEXTERITY DRIVING SCHOOL INC



WHERE DRIVING BECOMES AN ART!

Behind the Wheels Curriculum

This curriculum is designed to cover everything a new driver should know in order to properly and safely operate a motor vehicle on public roadways, and to pass the road skills test that is required to obtain a D.C. Driver's License. If you already have appreciable driving experience, you may consider taking an assessment class, which could allow you to skip some of these lessons. The speed of progression from lesson to lesson may vary from student to student – depending on how quickly they absorb the material and the concepts. Each lesson is 2 hours long.

Lesson 1: Introduction

- 1) Introducing a car:
 - a. Dashboard, signals, wipers, windows, doors.
 - b. Pedals
 - c. The emergency brake; the brake light on the dashboard (& what it means)
 - d. Gears
- 2) Starting a car; steps to change the gears; using your brakes.
- 3) Steering/ hand positions: hand-to-hand, hand-over-hand.
- 4) Getting on the road: step-by-step procedures.
- 5) Driving in a straight line; scanning; the forward view; side and rear views.
- 6) Getting familiar with traffic.
- 7) When the student is comfortable and able to control the car in straight line in a given lane, how to make safe turns & how to make safe lane changes in light traffic conditions.
- 8) Introduction: How to make safe turns in heavier traffic conditions.

Lesson 2: Turns and Traffic Signals

- 1) Left turns; right turns.
- 2) Turns at intersections with traffic signs: with no traffic signs; with stop signs; with yield signs; with 2-way stop signs; with 3-way stop signs; with 4-way stop signs.

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- 3) Turns at intersections with traffic lights; left turns at intersections controlled by an arrow; left turns at intersections not controlled by an arrow – but by a traffic light; right turns at intersections controlled by a traffic light; right turns on red. (But never to do it during the road test!)
- 4) Managing your driving during traffic (light, moderate, heavy, and congested traffic). Student is mentally put in situations to improve their capacity to be patient in traffic. The student is taught that “waiting a minute” reduces their chance of being in an accident by over 90%!!!
- 5) Introduction: How to safely change lanes when in appreciable traffic.

Lesson 3: City Driving

- 1) Traffic Management.
- 2) Roundabouts; Traffic Circles.
- 3) Reverse-lane Traffic rules.

Lesson 4: Parking

- 4) Parallel parking.
- 5) Front-in parking.
- 6) Rear-end or reverse parking.

Lesson 5: Expressway driving

- 1) Review: Difference between “regular” highways & roads, versus expressways.
- 2) Entering an expressway.
- 3) Merging onto an expressway.
- 4) Maintaining the speed limit while in the far right lane.
- 5) Maintaining the speed of traffic flow in others lanes.
- 6) Escape routes on expressways.
- 7) Changing lanes while on an expressway.
- 8) Managing your driving while in expressway traffic.
- 9) HOV Lanes.
- 10) How to safely pass trucks that are on an expressway.
- 11) Exiting an expressway.
- 12) Deceleration zones.
- 13) Ramps onto & off of highways and expressways; your speed on the ramp.

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Lesson 6: Night driving

- 1) Practice regular driving in the city.
- 2) Practice in a very dark place (Rock Creek Park) using head lights & low beams.
- 3) Use of high beams.
- 4) Short driving on an expressway.
- 5) Driving at night in a densely populated area.

Lesson 7: Road test practice at the D.C. – DMV’s Brentwood test area

- 1) Getting into the D.C. - DMV Brentwood parking lot.
- 2) Pulling out from the D.C. - DMV Brentwood parking lot.
- 3) Entering and exiting the traffic circle on Brentwood Road.
- 4) Stopping at traffic lights and stop signs.
- 5) How to make proper turns.
- 6) How to make safe lane changes – including how to allow for “the blind spot.”