

Lesson 1: Before You Hit the Road

Before doing any actual driving, you should have knowledge of the vehicle. Practice using these controls while the car is running with the transmission in the park/neutral position.

Safety Belts

Adjust the seat so you can see clearly out of the vehicles windows and windshield. After the seat is adjusted, correctly buckle your safety belt. This means both the lap and shoulder belt without tangles or twists securely across the chest and hips.



Air Bags

Air bags were created to enhance the safety of the safety belts in case of a vehicle accident. Sit at least 10 inches from the air bag compartments.

Mirrors

Adjust all mirrors so that you have the best view of what is happening behind and on all sides of the vehicle. Although the mirrors help, there will still be blind spots that the mirrors do not cover. Be sure to turn your head to the left and right to check these areas.



Fuel Gauge

The fuel gauge does not always give an accurate picture of how much gas is in the vehicle's tank. It is always best to put gas in the tank before the gauge enters the highlighted "empty" area.

Headlights and Warning Lights

You are responsible for using the exterior lights at appropriate times and knowing the laws regarding their use. For instance, if your windshield wipers are on, the headlights must be on also.

Every vehicle has interior warning lights to notify you of problems with the vehicle. Most

have warning lights for temperature, oil and battery issues. Make sure you know what the warning lights mean in the vehicle and to have the car serviced if necessary.



Maintaining the Vehicle

You should have some basic knowledge about vehicle maintenance, particularly with the vehicle you will be driving on a regular basis. Review and practice maintaining the vehicle's following areas:

- Fueling the car
- Tire pressure
- Engine oil (check the dipstick)
- Radiator coolant (check the plastic overflow bottle)
- Battery (check for tight connections)

Parent's Tip: Every car is different. Be sure your teen practices on the car he/she will regularly drive. Locate the vehicle owner manual and review it with your teen.



Lesson 1 Checklist:

Do not move on to the next lesson until you understand how each of the items in the list work. Additional items may be added.

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety belts | <input type="checkbox"/> Windshield wipers and washer fluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speedometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun visors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Odometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Heater/air conditioner/defroster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Seat adjustments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlights (running lights, low beams and high beams) | <input type="checkbox"/> Steering wheel adjustments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn signals | <input type="checkbox"/> Window controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazard lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dimmer switch | <input type="checkbox"/> Door locks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Check engine oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignition | <input type="checkbox"/> Check radiator coolant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gear shift | <input type="checkbox"/> Check battery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accelerator pedal | <input type="checkbox"/> Check tire pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake pedal | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clutch pedal (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency brake | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Side and rearview mirrors | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Notes: