

## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **Defensive Driving and Driving Tips**.



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from top left of screen for a better, full screen experience.

## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips



Let's take a closer look at  
**Defensive Driving and Driving Tips.**

### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

#### Defensive Driving

Through this course, we will be teaching you the rules and regulations related to driving, and how to be a good driver.

But to remain safe, there is more to it. **Defensive driving** is a philosophy that requires you to watch other road users to ensure your safety should these **other drivers** break the rules.

We'll first have a look at how you can prepare for any journey to ensure it is a safe one.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Side Mirrors.** It is important for general driving that your side car mirrors are adjusted properly.

In your side mirrors, you should be able to see a small amount of the side of your car, and plenty of the road, lane or driveway behind you.

This allows you at a glance to see the cars around you.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Checking Lights and Tires.** We cover this in the general car maintenance section, but every now and then you need to walk around the car to ensure that your tires are fine and pumped up, and all lights and indicators work correctly.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Checking Yourself.** You know this already - but ensure you are not under the effects of alcohol or drugs (even if it is the next morning), and are not fatigued.

If you need glasses, don't forget them.

Sunglasses also make driving a more pleasant experience, and by filtering out some light can make your driving vision better.

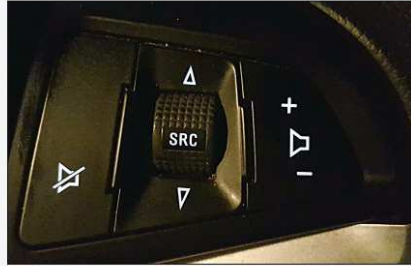


### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Familiarize Yourself.** If you are driving a new or unfamiliar car, you need to familiarize yourself with a few things before you take off:

- Where the indicators are.
- Where the lights are.
- Where the windscreen wiper controls are.

The position of these items can change from car to car - and these are the controls you may need in a hurry. For your own comfort and pleasure, find out how the air conditioner and stereo work so you don't have to take your eyes off the road to work them out.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Should You Trust Indicators?** Other road users will use their indicators to let you know what they are going to do. Change lanes, turn, exit, etc.

The issue is - what if that indicator was left on by accident? Or put on by accident? Assume that every blinker you see is not there - will there be an accident if you pull out in front of that car?





### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Holding the Steering Wheel.** Grab your steering wheel in a relaxed but firm manner with your hands on the outside of the opposite sides of the wheel. Your thumbs should point upwards.

Do not hold the steering wheel from the inside.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

Place your hands on the steering wheel as you can see here - at about quarter to three when compared to a clock. Both hands, and aim the thumbs up the steering wheel.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Avoid Road Rage Incidents.** If you are a victim of road rage, relax, and don't take your eyes off the road. Don't get involved. If you are pulled over by an angry driver, close your windows and call the police if necessary. Don't get out of your car.

Don't make gestures out the window at other drivers, and don't use the horn unless it is absolutely necessary to avoid an accident.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Avoid Road Rage Incidents.** Here's a few more hints if you feel you may be threatened by a road rage incident:

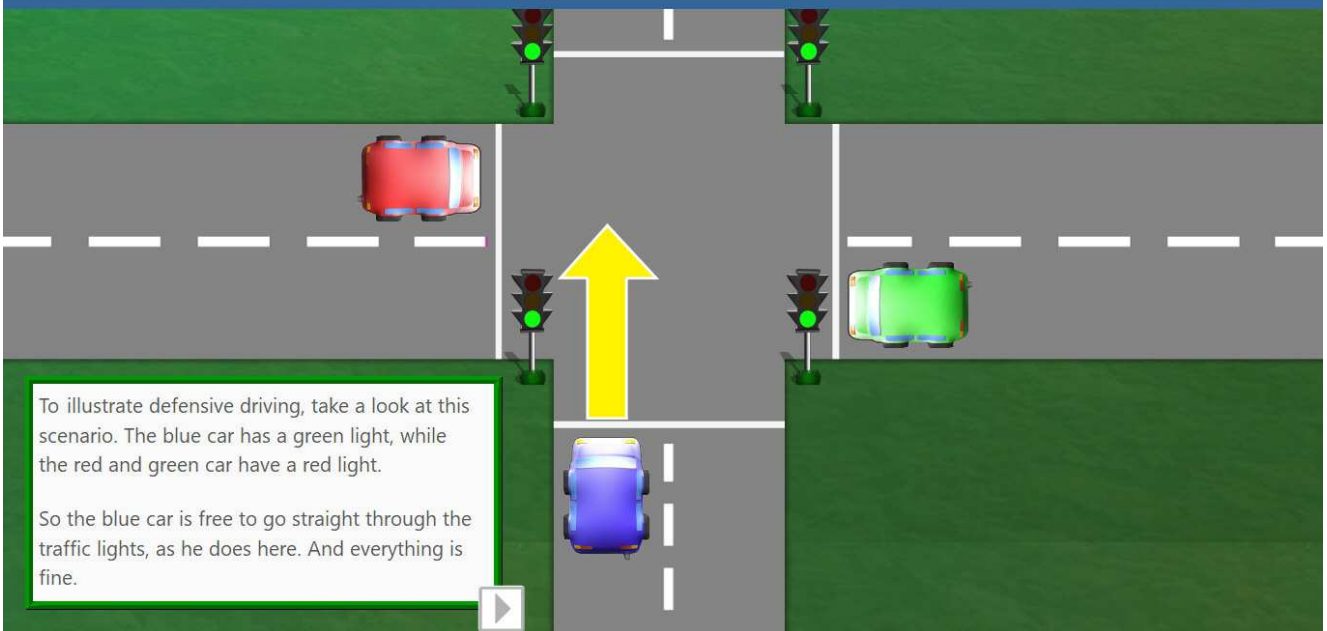
- Most road rage is often caused by impatience. Let the rude or impatient driver in if need be. Don't annoy them further.
- Avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver.
- Don't do anything to provoke frustration and road rage. Be courteous and obey the road rules.
- Don't get distracted - this makes you a more dangerous driver. Concentrate on the road and your destination.
- If necessary, you may wish to pull over if you feel you need to. Do so in a way that will allow you to leave quickly if an angry driver gets out of their car to confront you.
- If being seriously harassed, don't drive home. You can always drive to a police station.
- If you feel physically threatened, stay in your car, wind up the windows, beep the horn, and/or call the police. Just putting the phone to your ear may make an attacker go away.
- If threatened or attacked, and if possible, note the car type and color of the attacker, and the number plate just in case the police need to become involved.

Defensive Driving and Driving Tips



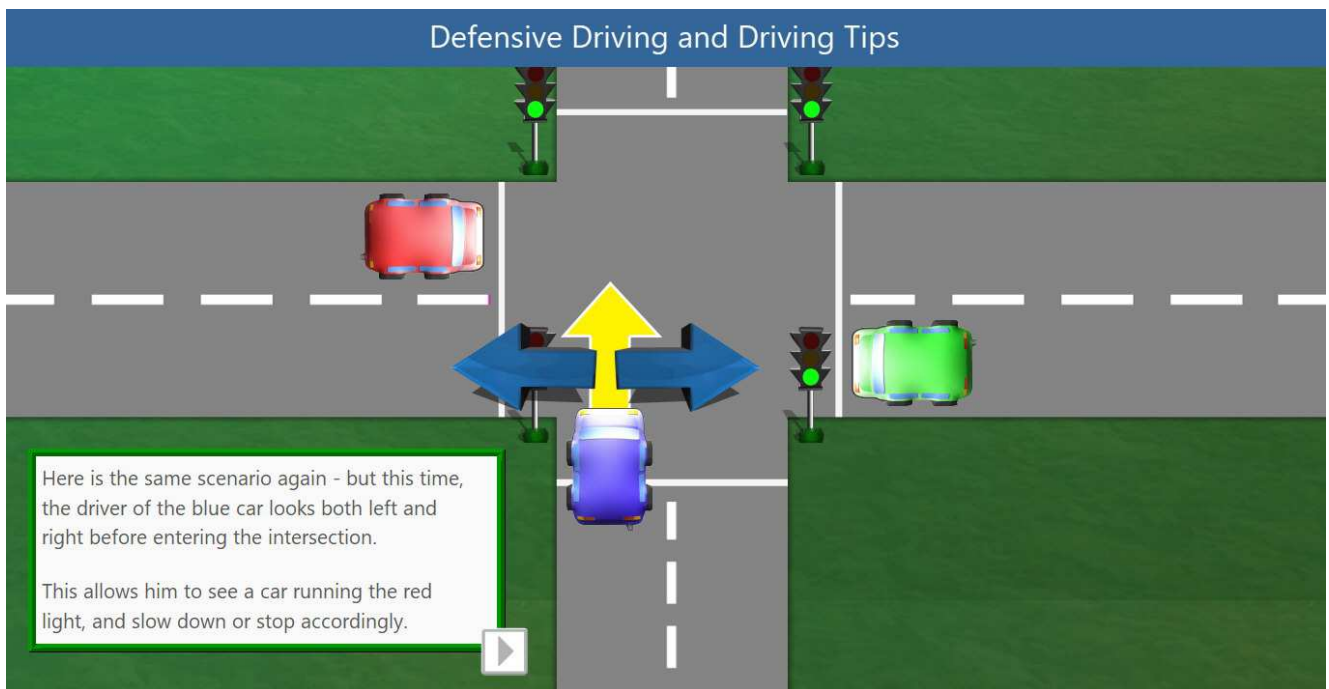
Now let's put  
**Defensive Driving and Driving Tips** into practise.

Defensive Driving and Driving Tips





## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips





### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

#### Defensive Driving

Defensive driving means it does not matter who is in the right. Your safety, your passenger's safety, and other driver's safety (whether in the right or wrong), are the main priority.

It means always keeping a lookout for bad drivers. Drivers doing illegal activities. Going through red lights, going through Stop signs or Give Way signs, even pedestrians crossing the road at the wrong place and/or the wrong time.

It means looking both left and right. It means keeping a safe distance between you and the car in front of you. It means being aware of cars around you at all times



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

#### Braking

If you are going to brake quickly or heavily, take a glance in the rear view mirror. You may need to take some alternate action if it appears that the driver behind you will not be able to stop in time.

The most effective braking you can do is performed in two stages:

- First, apply only light pressure to the brake, and pause.
- Second, firmly apply more pressure to the brake to get the effective braking capacity.

This technique can help you stop quickly, with more control.



## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

### Look Further Ahead

It is not enough just to watch the car in front of you. Know what is going on several cars in front, so you will be ready for anything.



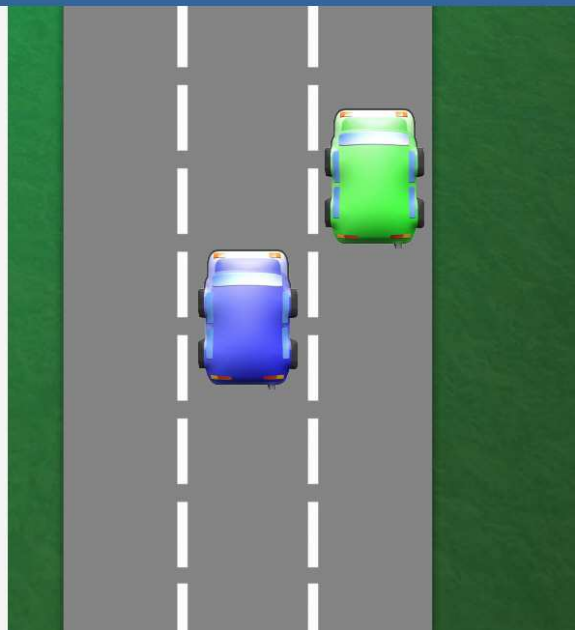
## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

Let's say you are in the blue car in this diagram, travelling along a multi lane highway.

There is a green car just ahead of you, in the next lane.

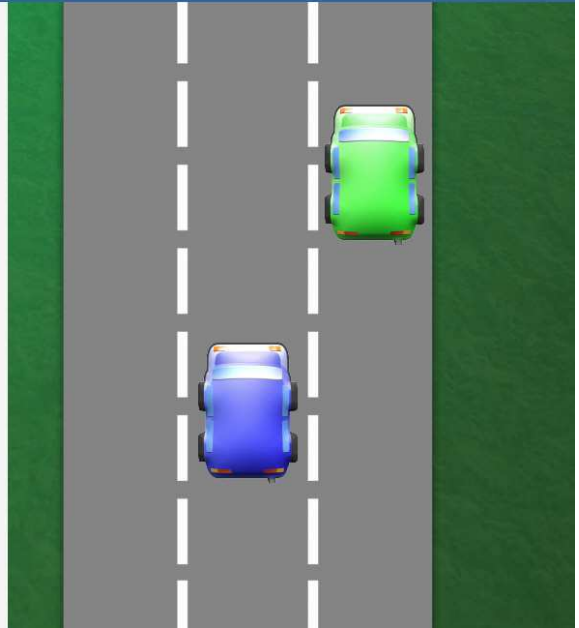
This is a car you need to be aware of. They may, at any time, decide to change into your lane. Perhaps they don't see you. Perhaps they don't even look. They may not even use a blinker to indicate a lane change, even though they are required by law to do so.

But you, as a defensive driver, see them - and are ready to react at a moment's notice.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

In fact, to be safe, it would make sense to slow down so that car in front of you on the right is further away, meaning you have more time to react if necessary.

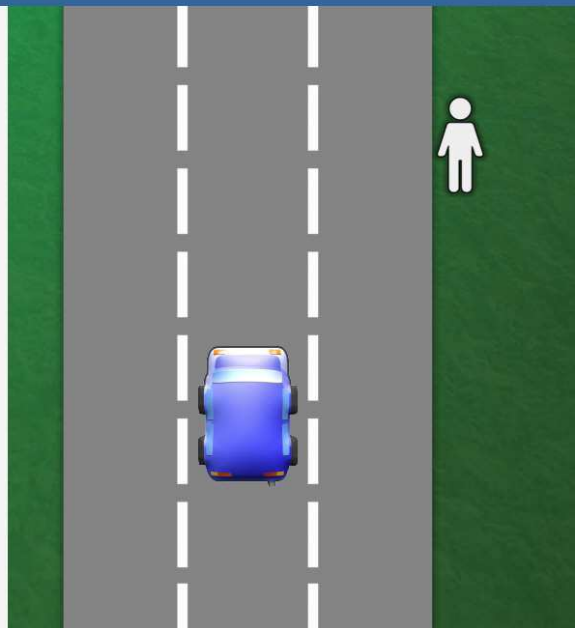


### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

Here, you are travelling along on the same multilane highway.

Up above on the right is a pedestrian, on the side of the road. There is no pedestrian crossing. They are not allowed to cross here. But we can't possibly know what they are going to do.

Because you are alert, and looking around, you see this pedestrian. You keep an eye on this pedestrian - perhaps slow down a little, or change lanes - but are ready to react should they make the decision to try and cross the road.

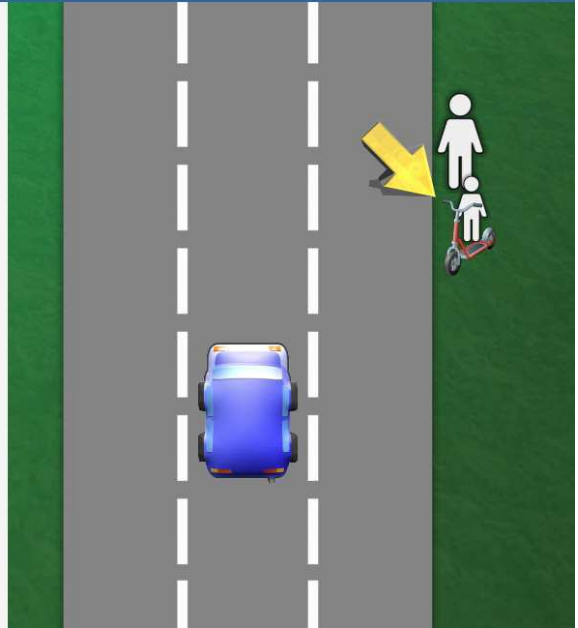




### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

If the pedestrians on the side of the road are young kids, then you must be especially careful. Slow down.

Kids can have very little road sense, and can cross the road with no warning and without looking. They can instinctively chase a ball onto the road.

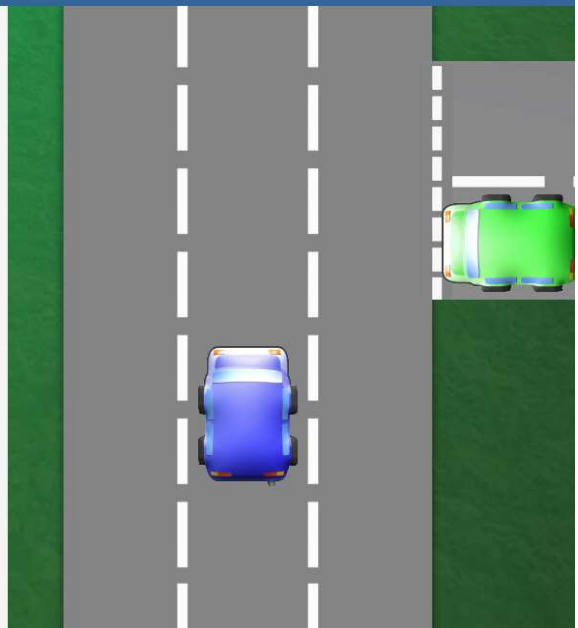


### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

The same thing should happen with cars that may enter the road you are driving on. Here, the green car by law needs to give way to you in the blue car.

But what if they don't? What if they just pull out in front of you?

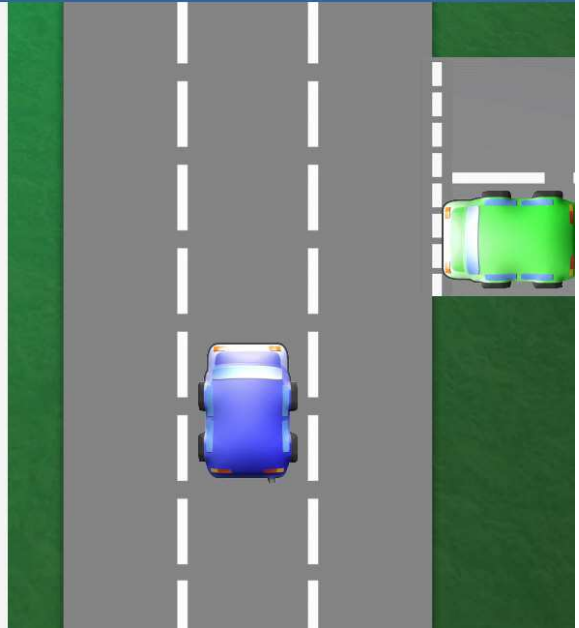
It happens. It happens all the time. However, if you, while approaching the green car, keep an eye on it, you can be ready to react to stop, or swerve if necessary, you can be ready to react at a moment's notice.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

In fact, a smart defensive driver will not only keep an eye on the green car, but will be aware of all other cars around them.

For example, if this green car were to suddenly pull out in front of you, is it safe to quickly swerve into the lane on your left? Is there a car there or not?



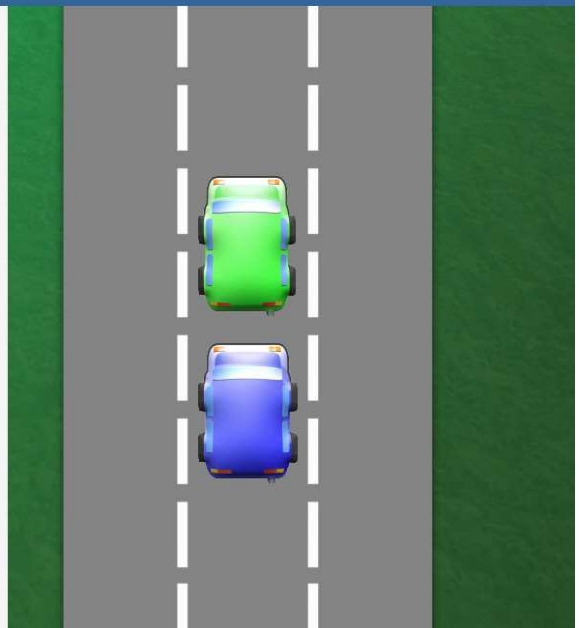
### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

When following a car on any road, you must keep enough distance between you and the car in front so that you can safely stop if the car in front of you is in an accident, or comes to a complete halt - even if there is no reason why they should.

Following too closely increases the chance of a rear end collision, which is one of the most common causes of car accidents.

Defensive driving means you are always ready when this happens. If you run into someone from behind, it is almost always your fault, legally.

Here, the blue car is following much too closely behind the green car.



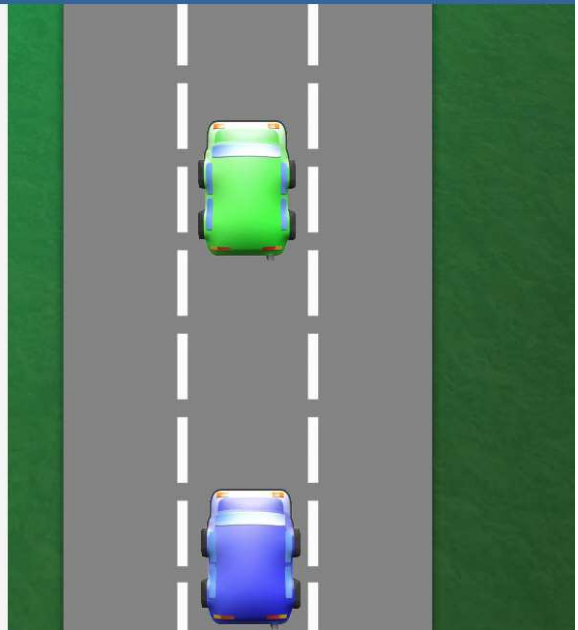
### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

In this example, the blue car leaves much more room between itself and the car in front. This is much safer.

Driving too closely to the car in front, apart from being dangerous, is also illegal, and is called **tailgating**.

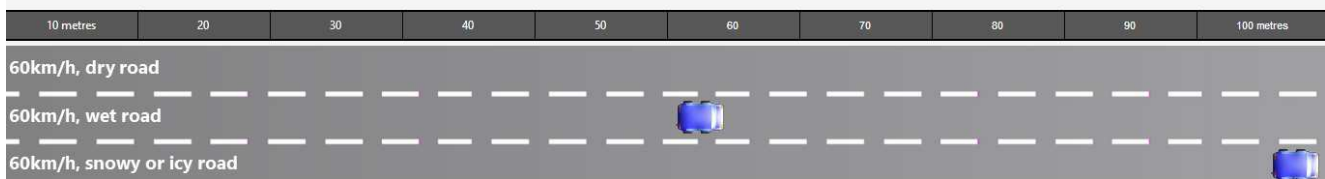
The faster you are travelling, the more distance you must leave. If the conditions are wet, or icy, or visibility is poor, you must leave even more distance.

Remember, you need to leave at least as much distance as you would need to come to a complete halt safely. At least 3 seconds travelling time. See the lesson called **The Three Second Rule**.



### Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

#### 60km/h, road surface comparison.



Above, you can see how long, comparatively, it takes for a car to stop on different road surfaces.

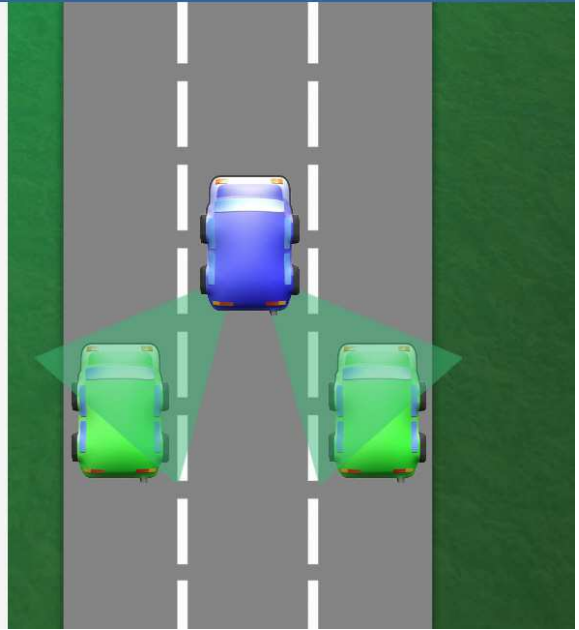
Snow and ice surfaces vary in slipperiness - and stopping may take from 5 to 10 times the dry road distance.



## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Your Blind Spot.** Most cars have a blind spot - and area just behind your car to the right or left where it can be difficult to see other cars. The green cars here represent roughly where the blind spot will be for the blue car. We've represented the blind spots with the green triangles.

Whenever you are driving, or in particular merging or changing lanes, you may need to physically turn your head to ensure there is no one in your blind spot.



## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

When following a car in traffic, keep an eye on the brake lights of the car ahead. You'll notice these turning red before you notice the car in front slowing down. Apply **your** brakes accordingly.



## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

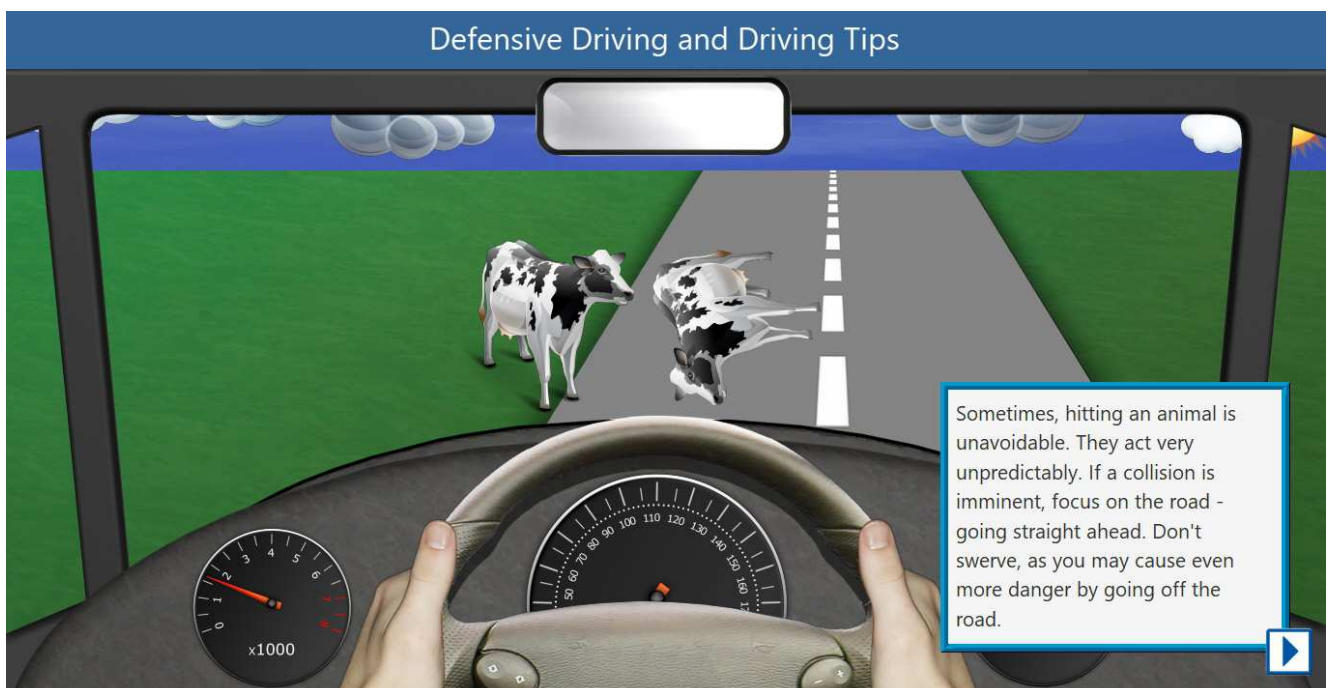


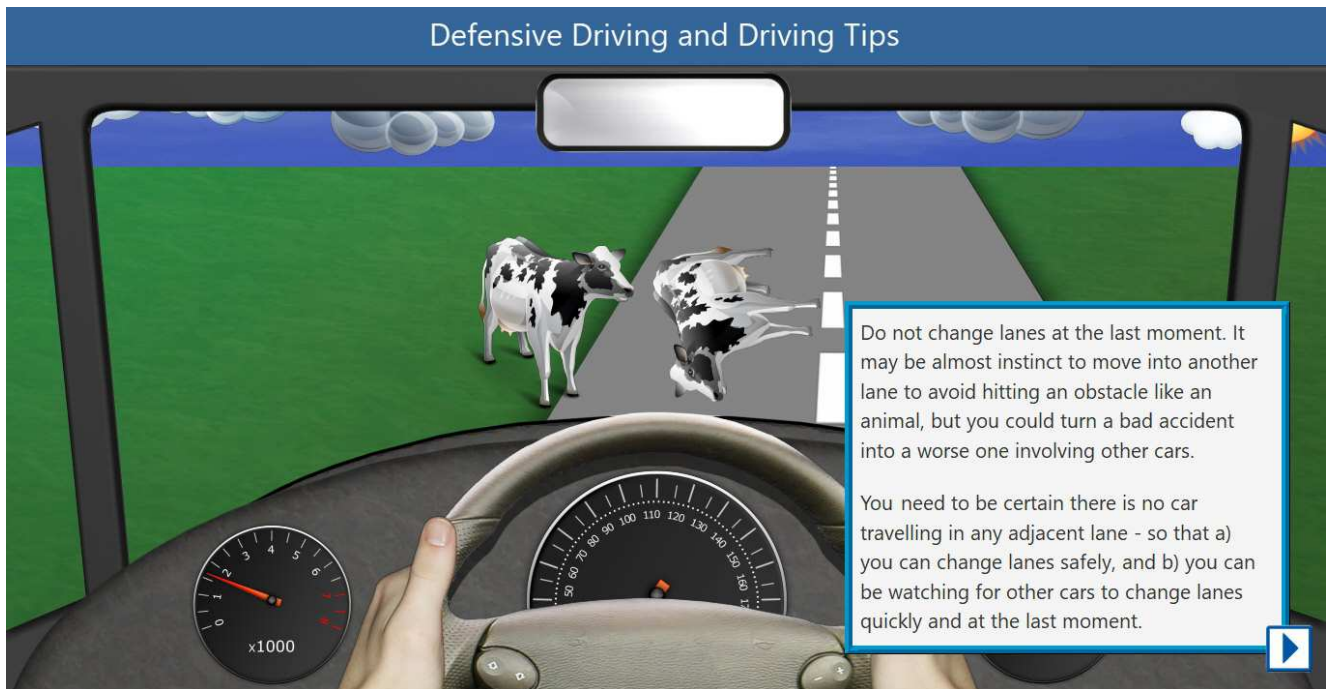
## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips





## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips





## Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**What to do if you Hit an Animal on the Road.** If an animal has been struck by your car, it may be dangerous if still alive but injured. Be extremely wary, even if it appears dead.

It would be wise to pull over, and assess damage to both your car and the animal. If a dog, or cat, or some other domestic animal, and it requires veterinary assistance, you should organise this. If it is a native animal, you can contact WIRES, Native Animal Rescue, Wildcare Australia, or other similar organisations. If a kangaroo, wallaby, or some other marsupial, check the pouch for live young.

Local police can be contacted if you believe the animal needs to be euthanised.

If necessary, remove the carcass from the road when safe to do so, and if required.



Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

# SUMMARY

Defensive driving means:

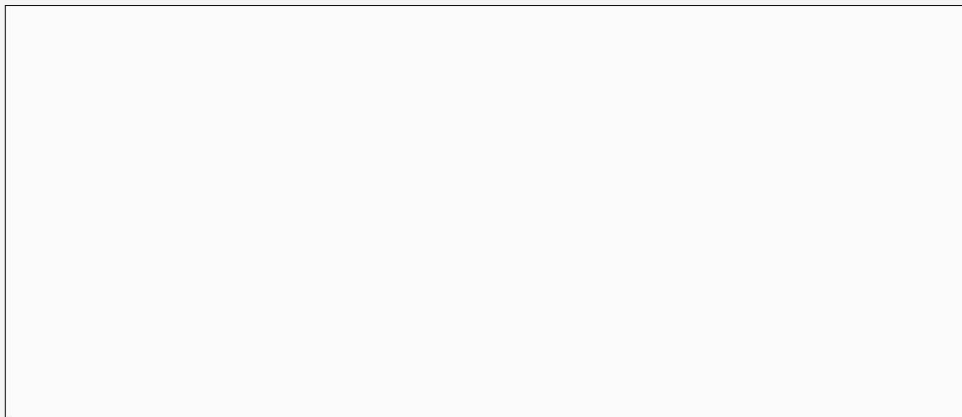
- Always looking left and right at intersections.
- Being aware of cars, pedestrians and bikes around you.
- Being aware of pedestrians on the side of the road.
- Being aware of cars that may enter the road suddenly.
- Travelling a safe distance behind other cars.
- Watching for animals and wildlife.

Your job as a defensive driver is to avoid accidents by driving safely, as well as watching out for other road users who may break the law or drive dangerously.

FINISH LESSON

Defensive Driving and Driving Tips

**Signature.** It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.



SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE



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In this lesson, we discussed **Defensive Driving and Driving Tips**.



