

## Parking

### Parking

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 **Parking**.

### Parking



Let's take a closer look at  
**Parking** and related road signs.

## Parking

### Parking

#### Parking

Wherever you go in your car, you'll have to park somewhere. On a street, in a shopping centre, in a driveway or a parking station.

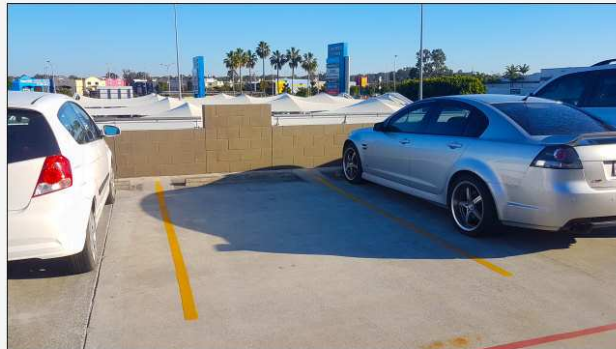
Each parking destination is slightly different.



### Parking

**Parking within the lines.** Most parking is quite simple - park your car between the white lines. This is the way it works in parking stations and shopping centres. Sometimes this form of parking is used by the side of a road.

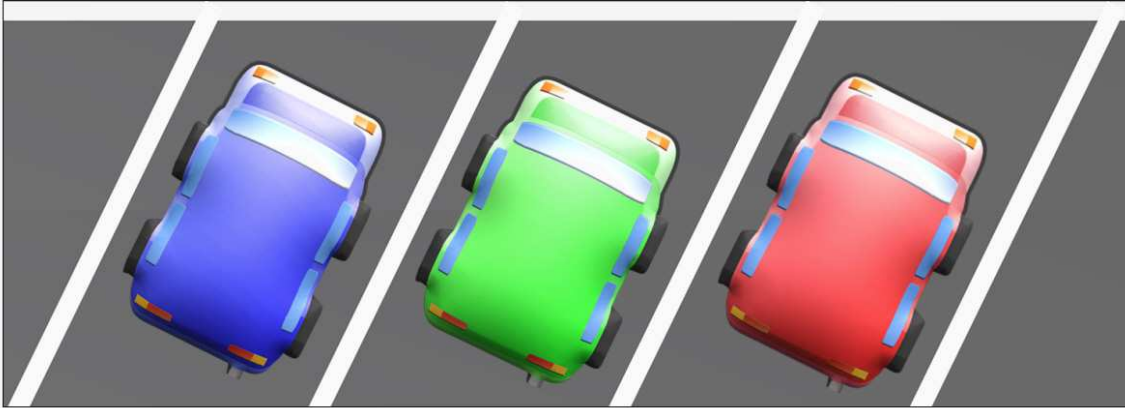
Simply drive your car in between the yellow or white lines, positioning the car as centrally as possible between those lines, as you can see in the image below.



## Parking

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Sometimes the lines will be perpendicular to a wall, and other times they will be on a slight angle, as you can see below. The parking process is the same.



### Parking

If you have found a parking spot on a street, especially in a business district, you need to confirm:

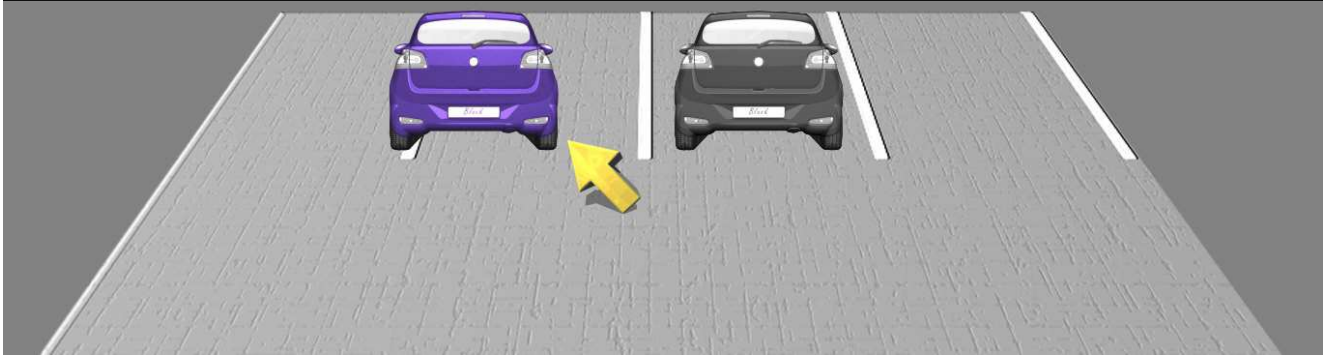
- That you can legally park where you are.
- How long you can park there.
- If any parking fees are payable - i.e. is there a parking meter nearby?



## Parking

### Parking

The image below illustrates two cars in a carpark. The indicated car is parked illegally, as they have not parked centrally between the lines.



### Parking

The image below illustrates two cars in a carpark.

**Click on the car that is about to reverse out of their parking spot.**





## Parking

When parking on the street, sometimes you'll be asked to park rear to kerb, or front to kerb. For the former, you'll need to reverse into the car parking spot.

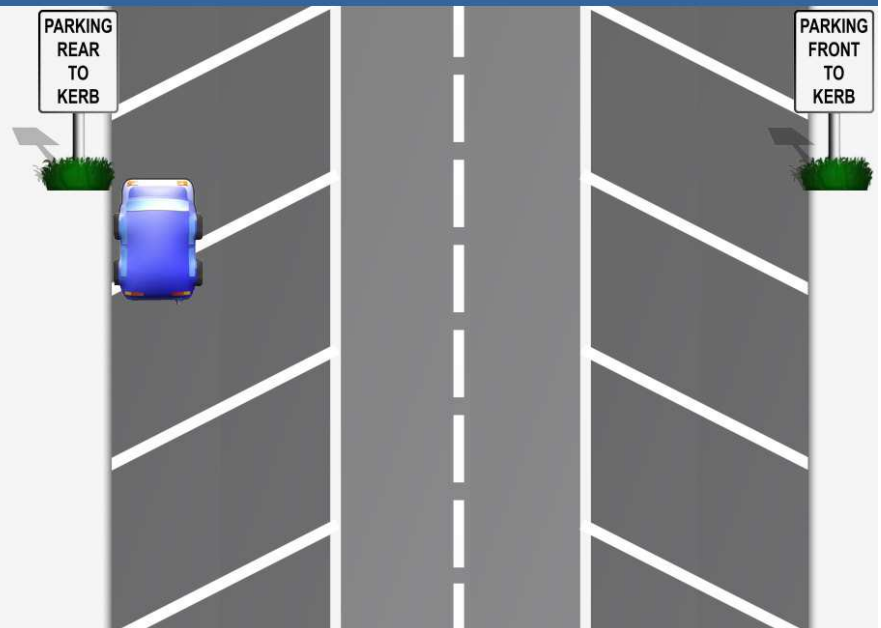


## Parking

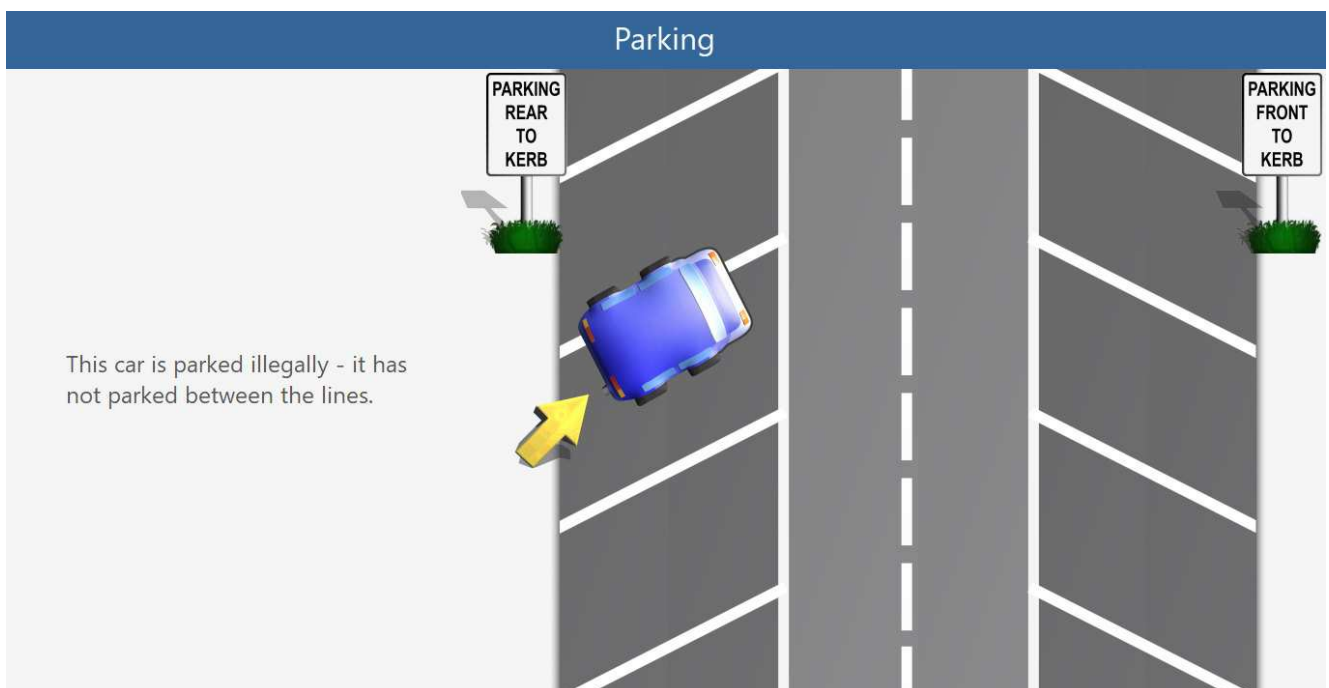
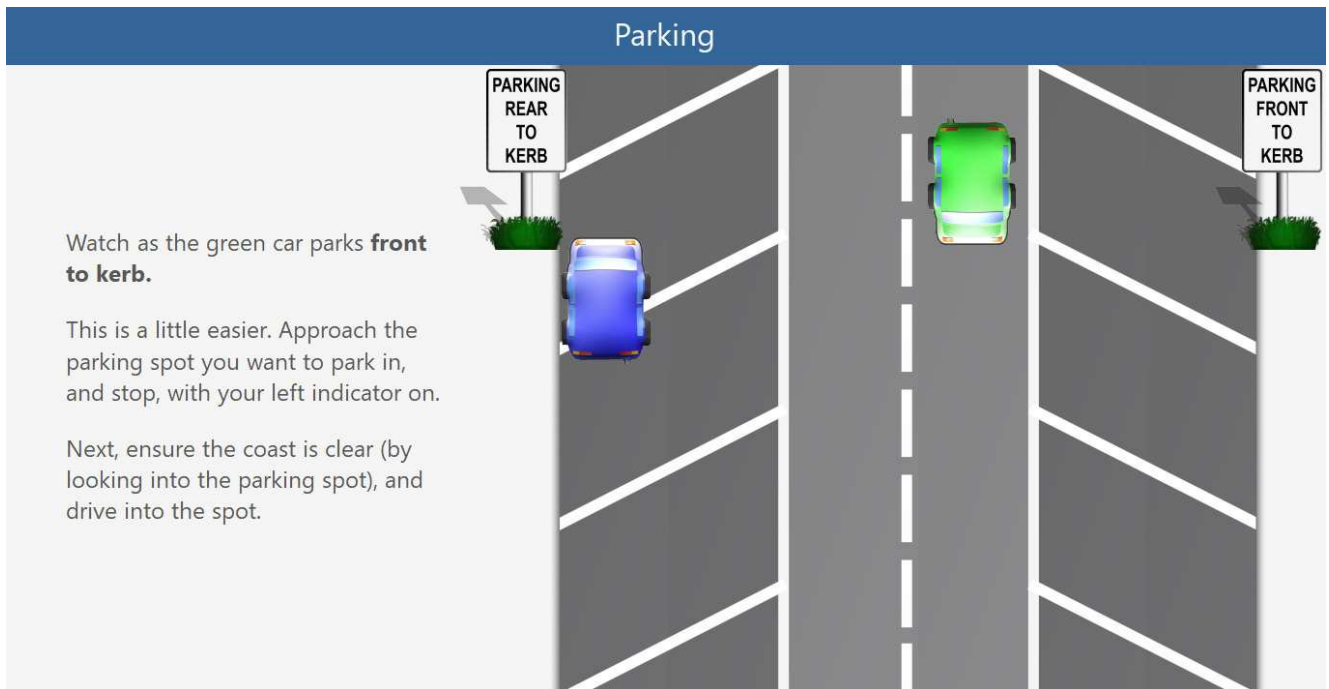
Watch as the blue car parks **rear to kerb**.

First, travel slightly past the parking spot you want to park in, and stop, with your left indicator on.

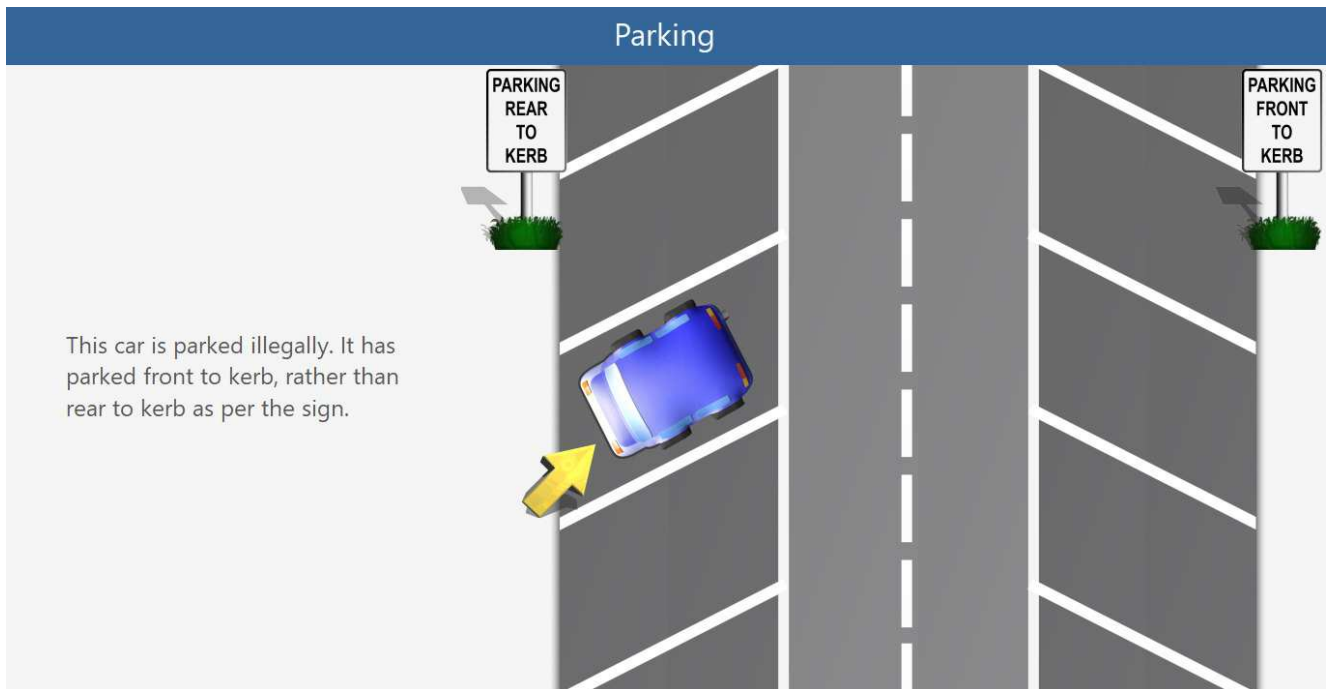
Next, ensure the coast is clear (by looking behind you), engage reverse gear, and reverse into the spot.



## Parking



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The symbol below in a parking spot indicates a handicapped parking zone.

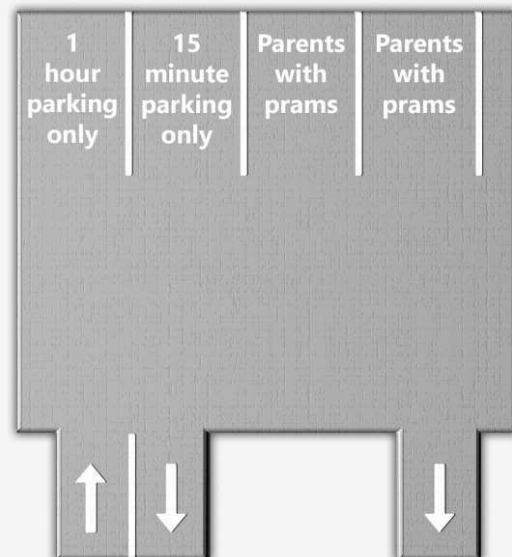
Unless you have a permit that allows you to park in disabled or handicapped zones, you cannot park here. Handicapped drivers rely on these spots, placed close to the entrance of shopping centres and business areas, to make their shopping trip easier.



### Parking

Shopping centres will sometimes have parking spots reserved for 15 minutes, or 1 hour parking.

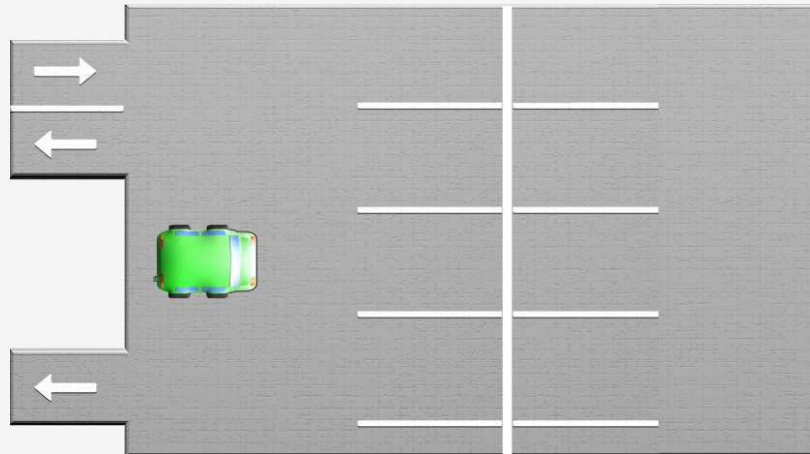
Quite often they will also have car parking spots reserved for parents with prams - and this should also be respected.





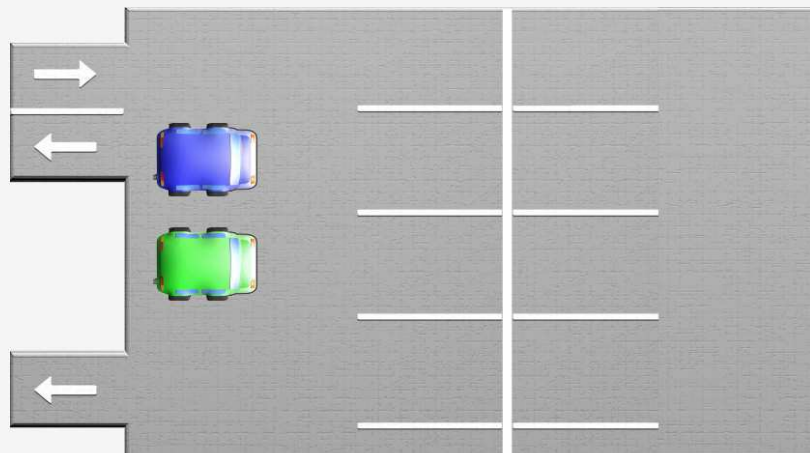
## Parking

### Parking



We already mentioned how dangerous it can be reversing in a carpark. Above, the green car has entered the carpark, selected a spot from the many empty spots, and parked there. Nothing wrong with that, but...

### Parking



The blue car does the same thing - except it moves through the empty car spot to one in front. As it leaves, it does so facing forwards, exactly how it entered, and much more safely. You may have to check that there are no barriers in between two rows of parking spots before trying this.

## Parking

### Parking

Shopping centres will offer anything from free parking, to some free parking, to paid parking at all times. Where you will be charged a fee, you'll be asked to collect a ticket while entering the carpark, and then, before you exit, pay any fees that may be payable.

Sometimes shops in the shopping centre will validate your parking. This means that a receipt from certain shops will allow you more free parking time.



### Parking

**Parking Stations.** Parking in a dedicated parking station is much the same as parking in a shopping centre.

In all parking stations, you collect a ticket as you enter the carpark, and pay before you leave the carpark. You'll pay by the hour or half hour. In some private carparks, an attendant may take your keys to park your car for you.

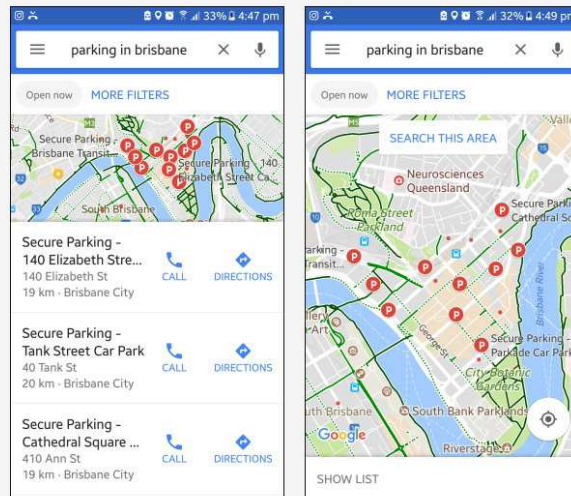
The sign below is used to denote public car parking stations.



## Parking

### Parking

Most phone or dedicated navigation programs will tell you where carpark are available - they are also denoted by the sign below. Simply search for *parking*.



### Parking

**Road Parking.** In suburban areas, parking on the street is a simple process. It is only where parking signs appear that things get tricky. They can be notoriously difficult to read or understand.

In any event, they need to be read and observed so that you park legally. You may receive a parking ticket if not.

A simple but common one is seen below - **No Parking.** Pretty self-explanatory.



## Parking

### Parking

Below, you'll see what is something like a standard parking sign. Here, you'll see when parking is available, and when it is not. It also denotes a 2 hour parking limit (the 2P indicates this).



### Parking

**No Standing and No Stopping.** These signs are similar, but both mean that you cannot park in any area designated by these signs. They may also mention specific times.

In fact, unless there is an emergency, you cannot even stop here temporarily.



### Parking

**Loading Zone.** Loading Zones are designed for cars that are principally constructed for carrying goods. This includes couriers and work vehicles. Even then, such vehicles can only stop for up to 30 minutes while they unload goods.

Some other cars, like station wagons, can stop for up to 15 minutes in these zones.

You may also see **Work Zone**, or **Truck Zone** signs - in both of these cases, you are not allowed to park.

If you do not fit this criteria, you cannot park in these zones. But you are allowed to stop here for the purposes of picking up or dropping off passengers.



### Parking

**Taxi and Bus Zones.** You are not allowed to park, or even stop, in zones designated as Taxi and Bus Zones, unless these zones designate times and it is outside of these times.

The same applies for normal bus stops.





### Parking

**Clearways.** Clearways are designated lanes designed to help smooth traffic flow. At the times indicated on a Clearway sign, you cannot park or stop in the clearway designated area.

Clearways are sometimes set up for special events - like a football game near a stadium. This, and other special event parking signs must be obeyed during these times (i.e. there may be some areas you can normally park in, but not during special events).



### Parking

**Resident Parking Only.** In some intercity or busy areas, councils reserve spots for local residents to be able to park near their own homes.

Only those with a permit for these zones can park in these areas.



### Parking

**Parking Meters.** When parking on a public road, you may need to pay a parking meter. Parking meters are automated devices that accept money for parking payment in certain areas. Normally, if parking meters are in use, it should be clearly signed that this is the case.

At a parking meter, you enter how long you'd like to park for, and the meter will tell you how much that will cost (there may be a parking time limit). Sometimes it will return a ticket for you to display on your windscreen, sometimes it will ask for your car registration number. Sometimes, on older meters, it will ask for neither, but will be positioned right next to your car.

Parking meters will generally take credit cards or cash.



### Parking

**Parking.** Before you leave your car after parking, there are a few things to check.

- Check that your car is in P (automatics), or in 1st gear (manuals), and that the parking brake (see below) is engaged. This will prevent the car from rolling away.
- Ensure there are no children or animals in the car. Cars can heat up incredibly fast and reach much higher temperatures than occur outside.
- Ensure the car is locked and windows up.
- Watch for other vehicles when exiting the car - especially if parked on the side of the road.
- Check for signs that indicate how long you can park for (if at all), or whether payment is required for parking.



## Parking

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If you are caught illegally parking, you'll not lose any points from your license.

You will however, suffer a hefty fine, and in some cases have your car towed away. If your car is towed away legally, it will cost even more money to have the car returned to you, not to mention the inconvenience involved.

So pay attention!



### Parking

If parking fines are not paid, however, most states have a system whereby your license, and/or car registration can be cancelled if any fines are not paid after a certain period of time.



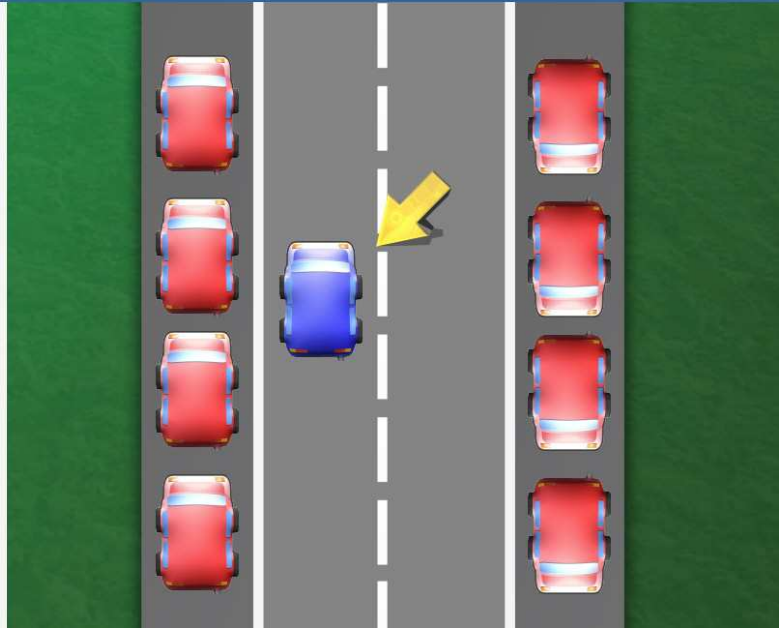
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**Double Parking.** In the example on the right, the red cars are legally parked on the side of the road.

The blue car, however, has stopped and parked on the roadway next to the red cars. This is known as **double parking**.

Double parking is illegal and dangerous.

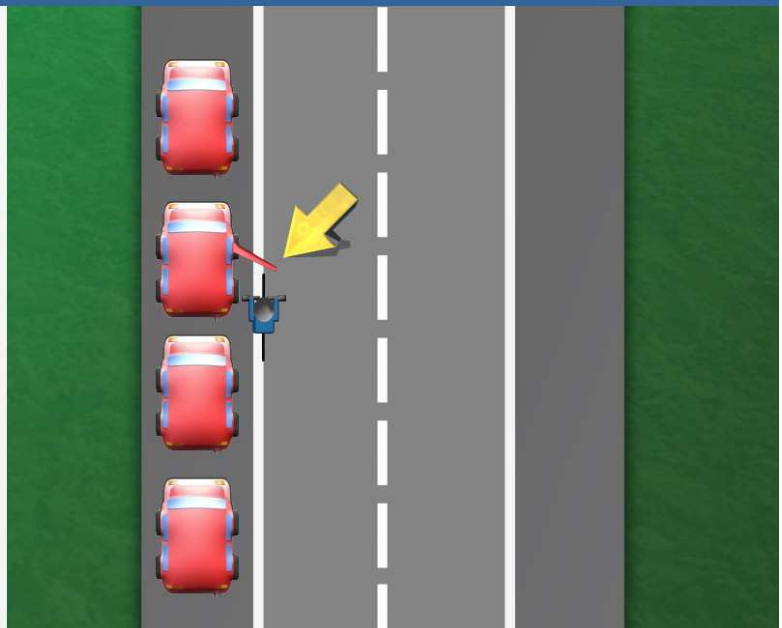


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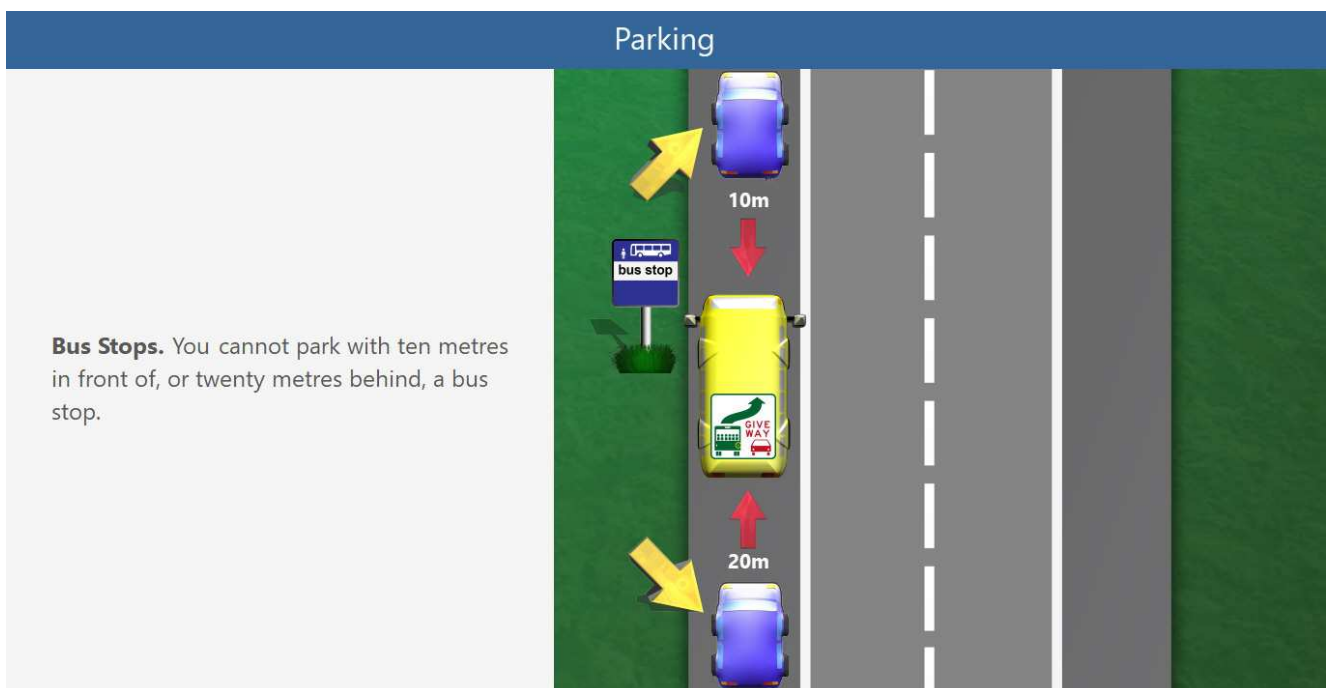
**Watch Your Doors.** When parked as per this illustration - on the side of the road, you must be very careful opening doors that face the traffic.

An unexpected door opening onto the road could cause an accident, or have serious repercussions for a cyclist, who may be riding close to the parked cars.

If you open a door from this position and it causes an accident, it is highly likely that you will be the one at fault.



## Parking





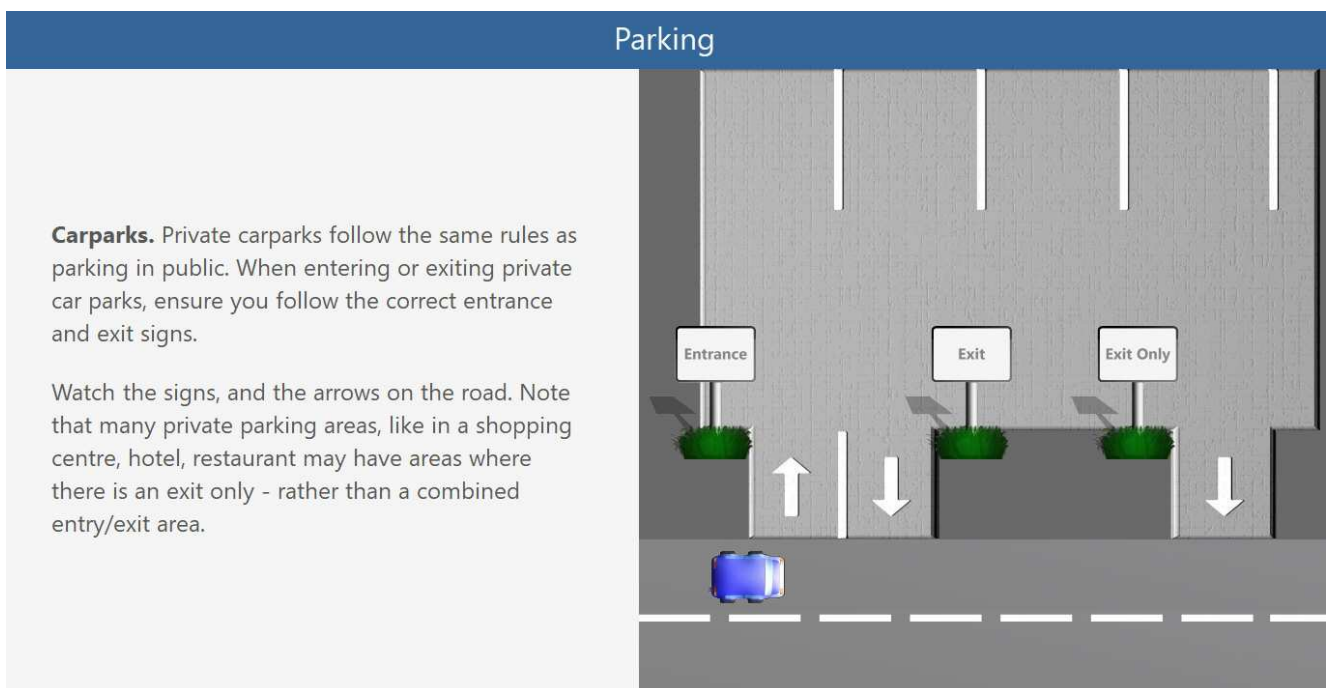
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Parking



**Reminder:** With all parking, follow the signs. They'll let you know when parking is available, for how long, whether payment is required, and more.

Parking



**Reminder:** When you've parked in a parking station or shopping centre, ensure you and all passengers open their doors slowly and carefully when exiting. Your passengers may not be aware of how close you are to the car beside you.



**Reminder:** When you are leaving a parking spot, ensure that you indicate, and have a good look around before leaving.

# SUMMARY

In this lesson, **Parking**, we discussed:

- Illegally Parking and Parking within the lines, Parking Instructions and Illegal Parking, Rear to Kerb Parking and Front to Kerb Parking.
- Illegal Parking, Reserved Parking and Timed Free Parking.
- Free Parking, Parking Stations, Search for Parking and Parking Meters, Road Parking and Parking Signs.
- No Standing, No Stopping, Loading Zone, Taxi and Bus Zones, Clearways, Resident Parking, Double Parking, Watch Your Doors.
- Pedestrian Crossings, Bus Stops, Double Yellow Lines, Railway Crossings, Australia Post Letter Box, Traffic Lights, Corners and Carparks.

[FINISH LESSON](#)



## Parking

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**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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