Getting Ready to Drive

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 **Getting Ready to Drive.**



Preparation to Drive

Before you start out on a drive, there are a couple of things you need to check and adjust, particularly if driving an unfamiliar car.



Getting Ready to Drive

Lights, Blinkers, and Wipers. Different cars have the controls for lights, blinkers and wipers in different positions. Most appear just behind the steering wheel, attached to the steering column.

Some have controls mounted directly on the dashboard. Wherever they are, you need to know before you start driving so you can turn them on in an instant without taking your eyes off the road.





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The demister control (front and rear windows) is generally found near the air conditioning controls. It will use an icon much like the ones you see below.



Seat Position. You need to adjust the seat in the car you are driving to ensure you are comfortable, and can reach the pedals easily, as well as being able to see as much as the outside of the car as you can. Almost all car seats are adjustable, and you may be able to change:

- how far the seat is from the dash
- how high or low the seat sits
- the angle of the seat itself
- the position and angle of the seat head

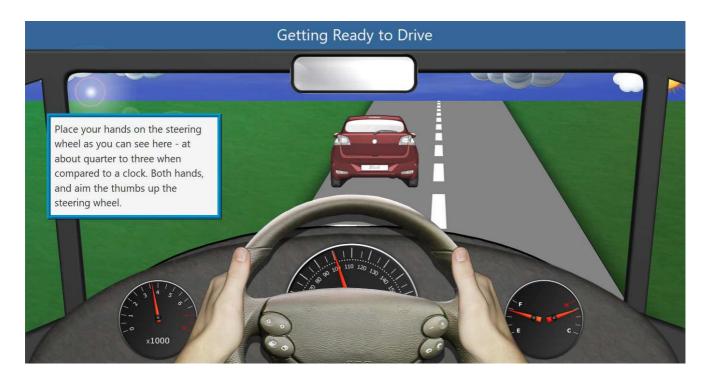


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Steering Wheel Position. Almost all steering wheels are adjustable. It may be able to be moved up or down, forwards or backwards, and even have the angle changed.

Adjust the wheel so it feels comfortable for you. You should not be any closer to the steering wheel than about 30cm - and not so far back that you have trouble reaching the steering wheel.





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Side and Rear Vision Mirrors. It is important for general driving that your side car mirrors, and rear view mirror, 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. Ensure there is no ice or mist obstructing the mirror.

In your rear view mirror, you should get a clear view out the back of the car.

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







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Check Fuel Level. Locate the fuel gauge on the dashboard, and check how much fuel is remaining - and whether you'll need to get some more. The gauge below reads empty.

Today's cars tell you so much more than just how much fuel remains - you'll see how many kilometres you can get, and how efficiently you are driving.



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Checking Lights and Tyres. 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 tyres are fine and pumped up, and all lights and indicators work correctly.



SUMMARY In this lesson, Getting Ready to Drive, we discussed: Why you need to familiarise yourself in a new car. Where lights, wipers, indicators and demisters are generally found. Adjustment of all mirrors. Seat position. Steering wheel position.

Getting Ready to Drive	
Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to <i>sign</i> the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.	
SUBMIT SIGNATURE CLEAR SIGNATURE	

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