

3. The hand controls

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The parking-brake (handbrake) should be used to secure your car when parking or when waiting for a safe gap in the traffic; for example, at junctions, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings or in traffic queues.

By pressing the ratchet button when applying the handbrake you will prevent unnecessary wear and tear to the mechanism and minimise stretching of the brake cables.

Most modern cars have five forward gears. The gears allow you to make efficient use of the engine power. You will soon get used to the different range of speeds for each gear.

By using the 'palming method' of gear changing, selecting the correct gear is easy without looking at the gear lever, however, palming is not essential, the most important thing is that you are comfortable with the method you use and always find the gear you want.

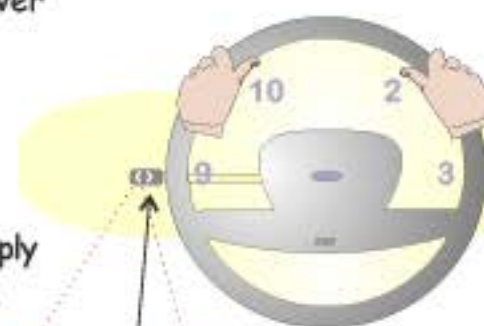
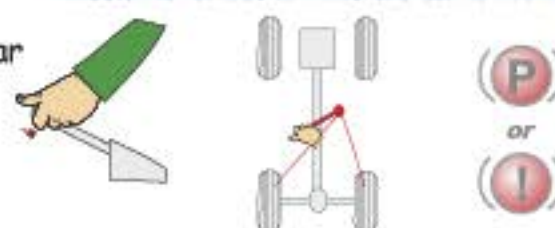


The more relaxed your hand is, the easier it will be to make your gear changes. Avoid 'gripping' the gear lever tightly. The speeds shown on this diagram are approximate and may vary from car to car

For the best steering control, hold the steering wheel with a light, positive grip placing your hands in the 'ten-to-two' or 'quarter to three' position. Apply pressure with your palms and thumbs rather than gripping with your fingers.

Operate indicator switch with 'fingertip control' by moving it the same way as the steering wheel moves for your intended direction.

The handbrake only operates on the rear wheels. Never use it while the car is moving!



Use fingertip control when operating the indicators

Turn the ignition key to start the car, but be sure to release it as soon as you hear the engine start, otherwise you risk causing damage to the starter motor.



Lesson Notes: