

# **Vehicle Safety, Seat Belts, Child Restraints and Driver Assistance Systems (UK) – Student Learning Guide**

## **1. Seat Belts**

Seat belts are essential for safety and **must be worn** if fitted, unless you have a legal exemption. Both the lap belt and diagonal belt must be correctly adjusted and comfortable.

You may remove your seat belt **only while reversing**, but you must fasten it again as soon as the manoeuvre is complete.

If your seat belt locks because the vehicle is parked on a slope, you may move the vehicle slightly to release the mechanism. Once released, stop and put the belt on properly.

## **2. Legal Responsibilities**

- **Drivers must wear a seat belt.**
- **Drivers are legally responsible** for ensuring all children under 14 years old use a seat belt or an approved child restraint.

Passengers aged **14 and over** are responsible for wearing their own seat belts.

## **3. Carrying Children Safely**

### **Correct Child Restraints**

A suitable child restraint **must be used** for all children under **1.35 metres** in height or under **12 years old**.

Types include:

- baby seat
- child seat
- booster seat
- booster cushion

All restraints must be **correctly fitted** following the manufacturer's instructions.

**Never** put a seat belt around yourself and a child together. This is illegal and could cause serious or fatal injuries.

## Child Seat and Seat Belt Requirements

Child's Age / Height	Front Seat	Rear Seat
Under 3 years	MUST use correct child restraint	MUST use correct child restraint*
Age 3–12 or under 1.35m	MUST use correct child restraint	MUST use correct child restraint where seat belts are fitted**
Over 12 or over 1.35m	Adult seat belt must be worn	Adult seat belt must be worn

\* In licensed taxis, if the correct child restraint is not available, the child may travel **unrestrained**.

\*\* In taxis, in unexpected short journeys, or where two restraints prevent fitting a third, an **adult seat belt** must be worn.

## 4. Airbags and Child Seats

Never use a **rear-facing child seat** in a seat protected by an active airbag.

In a collision, the airbag can strike the seat with fatal force.

Always check the vehicle handbook to understand how your airbags operate.

## 5. Smoking in Vehicles

It is **illegal** to smoke in a private enclosed vehicle if **any occupant is under 18**.

This means:

- No one may smoke in the vehicle.
- The driver (including learners) must prevent others from smoking if a passenger under 18 is present.

## 6. Transporting Animals

- **Dogs** should be restrained using a **special car harness** or travel **behind a strong grille/dog guard**.
- **Other animals** must be carried in a **secure cage or carry-box**, which should be **held in place using the seat belt** or another secure method.

## **7. Carrying Loads and Packages**

- Packages must be **securely stored**, ideally in the boot.
- Items should be **strapped down or wedged securely** to prevent movement.
- Loose objects can cause serious injury in sudden braking or a collision.

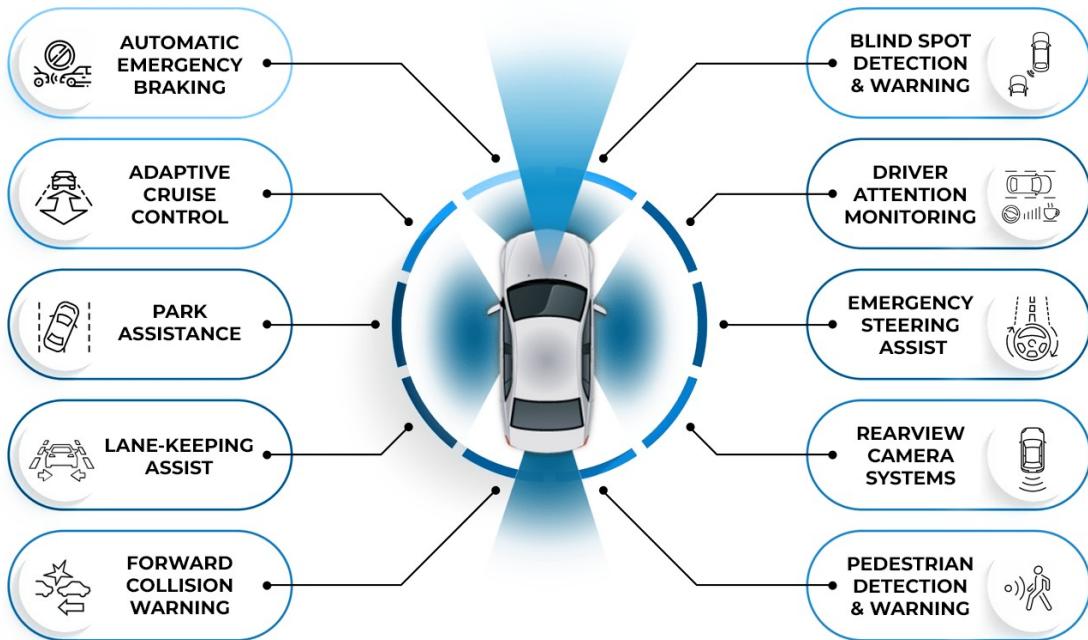
## **Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)**

Modern vehicles are increasingly equipped with **Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)**. These technologies are designed to support the driver and **reduce the risk of incidents**, but they **do not replace** the need for full driver attention and control.

### **Important Principles**

- ADAS **do not make a vehicle self-driving**.
- The driver remains **fully responsible** at all times.

- You must stay alert and be ready to take over immediately if the system does not behave as expected.



## Examples of ADAS Features

### Lane-Keep Assist

- Helps prevent the car drifting out of its lane.
- If you move towards lane markings without signalling, the system gently steers you back into the correct position.

### Lane-Departure Warning

- Alerts you (usually with a sound or vibration) if you are unintentionally leaving your lane.
- You must then correct your steering.

### **Blind-Spot Monitoring**

- Uses sensors to detect vehicles in areas you cannot see easily in your mirrors.
- Provides a visual or audible alert when another vehicle is in your blind spot.
- The system only works properly if the sensors are clean and unobstructed.

### **Advanced Emergency Braking (AEB)**

- Monitors the road ahead using sensors.
- Detects potential collisions.
- Automatically applies the brakes if you have not reacted in time.
- Helps avoid collisions or reduce their severity.

### **Driver Drowsiness Detection**

- Identifies signs of tiredness such as poor lane discipline or inconsistent steering.
- Alerts you with a sound or visual warning and suggests taking a break.
- Helps prevent accidents caused by fatigue.

### **Using ADAS Safely**

- ADAS should be used only when appropriate.

- Always follow the guidance in your **manufacturer's handbook**.
- Different vehicles may use different names for systems and may operate in slightly different ways.
- Understanding your car's technology ensures you use it **correctly and safely**.