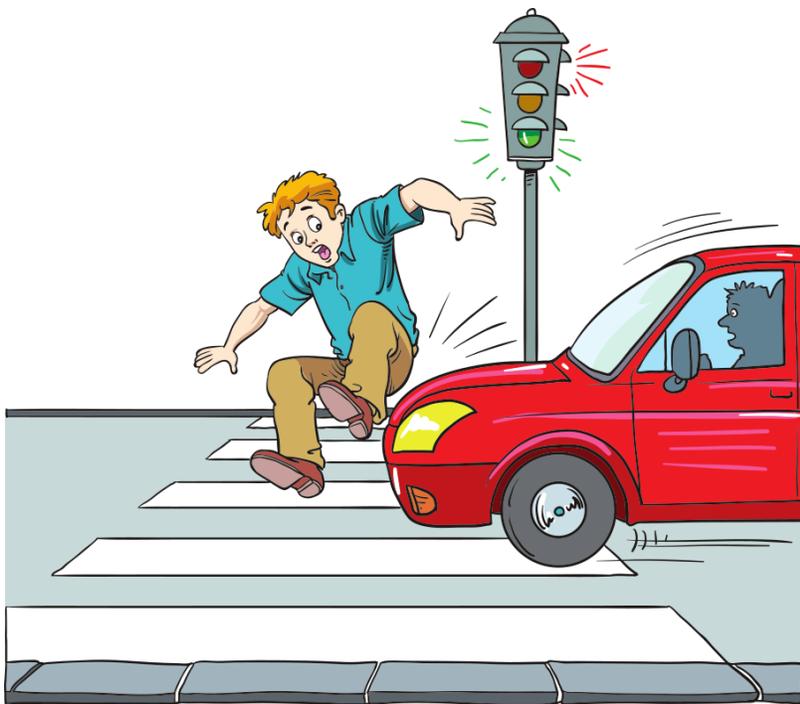


SafeDriver Monthly Newsletter

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Pedestrians



The pedestrian death rate in the US has risen sharply over the past several years and there seems to be no end to this trend.

According to the 2021 Dangerous By Design study by Smart Growth America, Florida leads the nation in pedestrian deaths. In fact, out of the ten most dangerous cities in the US for pedestrians, seven are in Florida. The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL metropolitan area is listed as the most dangerous metropolitan area in the US for pedestrians.

Nine of the top ten most dangerous states for pedestrians are in the South.

There are several reasons for the high number of pedestrian injuries and deaths. According to Dangerous By Design, lower income areas and areas where the focus has been on vehicle traffic rather than pedestrian safety, pose the greatest threat to pedestrians. Those areas generally have fewer sidewalks and crosswalks, forcing pedestrians to walk on the side of the road. For that reason, pedestrian deaths and injuries fall heavier on black and brown communities.

However, the primary reason for the large number of pedestrian injuries and deaths is due to both driver and pedestrian distractions. Drivers who aren't paying full attention to the road ahead and pedestrians who are concentrating on their cell phones rather than the dangers ahead of them. Alcohol and drug use by both drivers and pedestrians also play a major role.

While teaching your teen to drive, particular emphasis must be put on pedestrian awareness. Even if the pedestrian is distracted, the driver has a duty to be aware of their presence and avoid a collision at all costs.

Teens should also be taught to anticipate the sudden presence of pedestrians in areas near schools, playgrounds, and sport venues. Anywhere where compulsive children may dart out or where there may be large crowds entering the roadway.

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

Parking

Parking a vehicle may seem like a simple operation but, for teens who have never tried to park a car before, it can actually be quite a complicated evolution, especially when there are other vehicles parked close by. Many teens fail the driving test almost before it has begun by failing to properly negotiate a parking space. Hitting the cones on either side of the parking spot during the test is grounds for automatic failure.

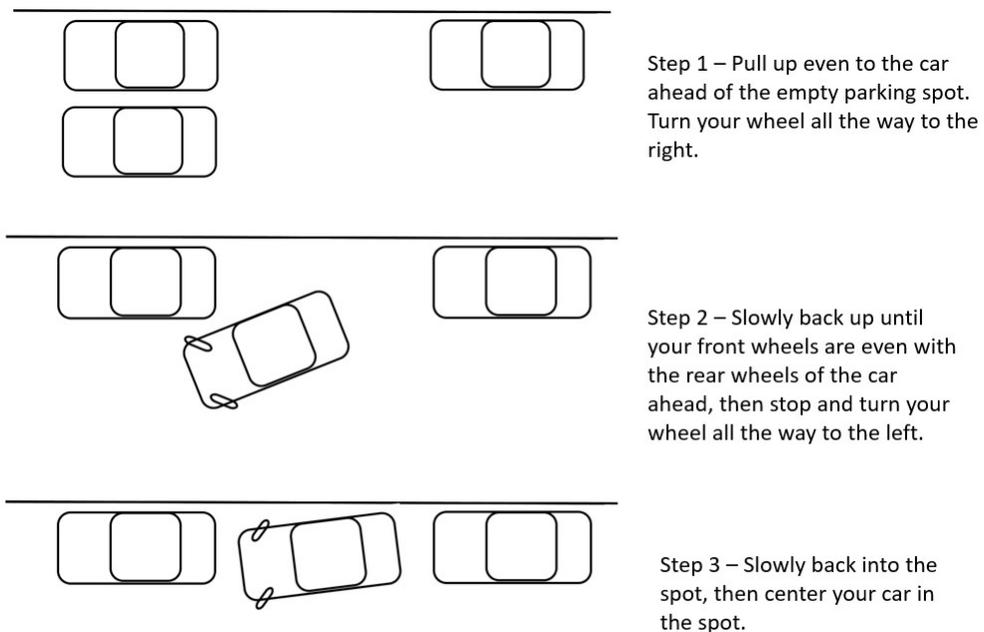


Teaching a teen to park can require a lot of patience on the part of the parent/teacher and it is something that the parent needs to review and practice first before attempting to teach the teen. You may have been parking for so long that you don't really think about the steps required to enter a parking spot and it may be hard to pass that on to the teen without some time to review it yourself.

When pulling into a parking spot, many people focus on the hazards on either side of the spot and that concentration can keep the driver from smoothly entering the spot smoothly while allowing plenty of room on either side. If you are looking at the hazard on one side, you may be missing how closely you're approaching the hazard on the other side.

The trick to parking in a parking slot is to look at where you want to put the vehicle and steer toward that spot without worrying about what's on either side. That means looking at the center of the parking spot and steering toward it.

The best way to teach this is to find an empty parking lot and practice the maneuver over and over again until it is second nature.



Parallel parking is more difficult and will take more time and patience but it is actually easier than it looks. Parallel parking involves three basic steps as shown in the image below.

Remember, before you pull into either a standard parking spot or a parallel parking spot to signal your intentions and let others know what direction your car will be turning, even when you are backing into or out of the spot.

