



Drivers License Road Test



Top Five Reasons for Failing the Driving Exam

Five common mistakes to avoid.

1. Failure to Obey Signs/Signals

The most common reason for failing a driving exam is not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign. Many new drivers have a hard time judging when they've come to a complete and total stop.

TIP: Obey all the signs along the driving route. When stopping at a stop sign, press down completely on the brake and silently count to four to make sure you're completely stopped. If you're turning right at a red light, be sure to completely stop and wait until the way is clear before turning.

2. Hitting the Curb/Cones While Parking or Completing a Three-way Turn

You may have to park between two orange cones in the parallel or straight-in parking maneuver. Hitting any cones results in automatic failure of the test.

TIP: Practice your parking maneuvers in an empty parking lot. Drivers tend to steer to where they're looking so the best way to practice is by looking at where you want to put the car. Before you enter the space, turn your head to look squarely at the center of the parking space and steer the car toward that spot. Don't focus on the hazards on either side of the car or you might steer into them. Pull in until you've determined your car is centered in the parking space. Get out of the vehicle to check for sure that your vehicle is parked correctly. Once your vehicle is well-centered, look to see where the stop line is in relation to your left mirror and use that as a guide from now on to let you know how far to pull in. Keep practicing until you can park perfectly every time.

To practice parallel parking, set up your own barriers to show the space you have to park in. Practice the maneuver until you can get as close to the curb as possible without actually hitting it. Remember, in most states, you have to park no more than 12 to 18 inches away from the curb.

3. Failure to Follow the Examiner's Instructions

Many people look for the hidden meaning or trick in the examiner's directions.

TIP: Remember, THERE ARE NO TRICK QUESTIONS! Don't try to second-guess the examiner. Just follow the examiner's directions exactly as they are given and you will be all right.

4. Failure to Obey the Law

Any maneuver you perform illegally will be an automatic failure. Most often it's things like:

- Failure to yield to other traffic when changing lanes on a multi-lane street.
- Not using your turn signal when changing lanes or directions.
- Not coming to a stop behind a stopped school bus.
- Failing to stop at a yield sign if there are other vehicles or pedestrians approaching.

5. Improper or Expired Insurance/Registration Documents or Failing the Vehicle Safety Check

Before you go to the test site make sure your car's registration and insurance paperwork are up to date. Perform a safety check on your vehicle to ensure all the lights work, the tire pressure is good, and your windows, windshield wipers, and defogger work.

