

Parallel parking

1. Pull alongside the car in front of the space. **(don't forget your right turn signal)** Leave about 2-3 feet between your car and the parked one. Position your car so that the driver's side mirror of your car lines up with the parked cars mirror. If you are having a tough time judging distance between your car and the parked car try to get as close as you can without taking off a mirror.
2. Before you move check over your left shoulder(blind spot). Look over your right shoulder when the car is in motion.
3. Turn the wheel all the way right once your front mirror is around the other car's back door. Continue backing up until you are at **10 o'clock if the other car is at 12 o'clock. The important thing for students to understand is that it's a guideline not a solution.** Straighten out the car by turning the wheel all the way left, when the angle has been achieved and continue to back up.
4. Pull forward in order to make adjustments if necessary. Make sure to keep enough space in front of and behind you so that you and the other car can get out.

Parallel parking fixes

If you are too far from the curb, you can do a mini-parallel park by repeating steps 1-4. The main difference is to get your back wheels closer to the curb when you have the wheel to the right in order to get the car closer once straightened out.

If you get too close to the curb when the car is straightening out, **STOP** when you think the car is starting to get too close to the curb and put the car in drive. Then simply turn the wheel to the right to finish straightening out. Backing up until the mirror is at the back door in the first step should give you enough space to complete this, but if not, put the car in reverse and turn the wheel to the left to completely straighten out.

Hopefully this gives you a structure to begin practicing parallel parking. It is also necessary to stress that this is the structure that we find works best for parallel parking, but it is not a guarantee that it will work every time. Going to 10 o'clock gives an estimate for how far to go but the only thing that will make a perfect parallel park is practicing these steps.

Three-point turn

1. Position yourself as close as possible to the right edge of the curb. **(Remember to signal right)**
2. Signal a left turn. Check for traffic and pedestrians in both directions **(including your blind spot)**. Wait if you see a car coming towards you.
3. Turn the steering wheel quickly to the left from a stop. Try to get the front wheels as close as you can to the curb without hitting the curb. If you are unsure how far away the wheels are, put your foot on the dead pedal on the left and the tire is now 6 inches in front of your foot.
4. Turn your steering wheel fully to the right. Check for traffic in both directions **(including your blind spot)**. Shift into reverse and start backing up, while looking over your right shoulder. Back up until your left knee is just past the center of the road or until you have enough space to pull away.
5. Check again for traffic in both directions **(including your blind spot)**. Signal a left. Shift into drive and accelerate to the proper speed.

Backing (Straight) Along Curb

1. Place gear selector in "R", Reverse.
2. Have a firm grip on the top of steering wheel with left hand
3. Check over your left shoulder to check your blind spot before moving.
4. Look to rear over right shoulder the whole time the car is moving, with **brief** glances to the right mirror.
5. Maintain slow speed, coast.
6. Tilt steering wheel as needed to correct steering. Keep in mind that the back of the car will turn in the direction that you turn, but the front will swing in the opposite direction. This is often what confuses most new drivers. You can practice this at home by moving away from the curb and trying to straighten the car against the curb.
7. Continue to watch rear of car until stopped.