

Lesson 1: Controls

Cockpit Drill (DSSSM)

Entering the car

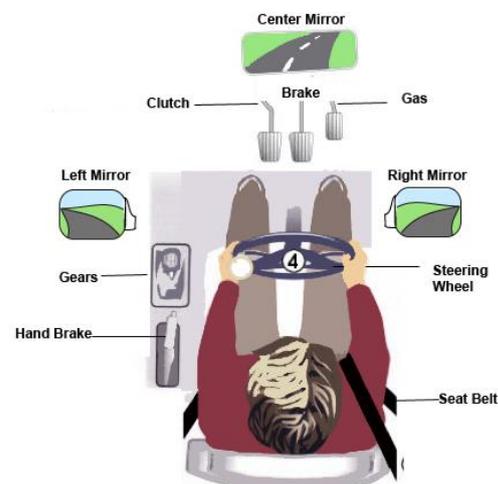
When entering or exiting the car it is advised in the Highway Code that you should do so from the kerb. Walk around the back of the car checking for traffic as you enter the road, do not open the door into the path of traffic and never leave it open to obstruct the flow of traffic.

Doors

Check the door by giving it a tug inwards and look in the door mirrors to check it is line with the body of the car. Check the handbrake is secure.

Seat Positions

Move the seat backwards and forwards using the bar underneath the seat and up and down using the lever to the right side of the seat. Leg should have a slight bend in the knee when pedal is depressed - slight bend in arm or test by placing wrists at 12 o'clock arms should be straight.



Steering

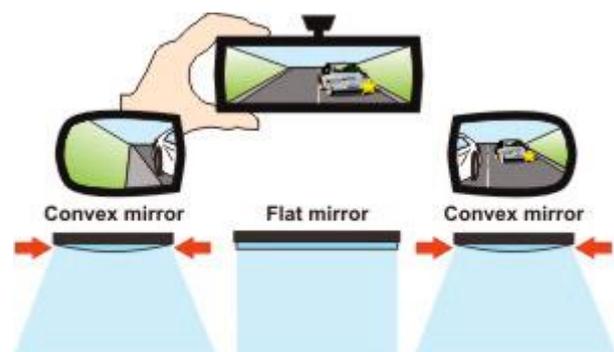
Move the steering wheel using the release lever underneath to move into a different position. You should be able to hold the wheel at 10 to 2 with a slight bend in the elbow. You should be able to see the dials and the windscreen clearly.

Seatbelt

You can adjust the height of it on the pillar on your right if you need to. Is the seatbelt comfortable across your body? Make sure the belt is not twisted and clipped into the correct clasp

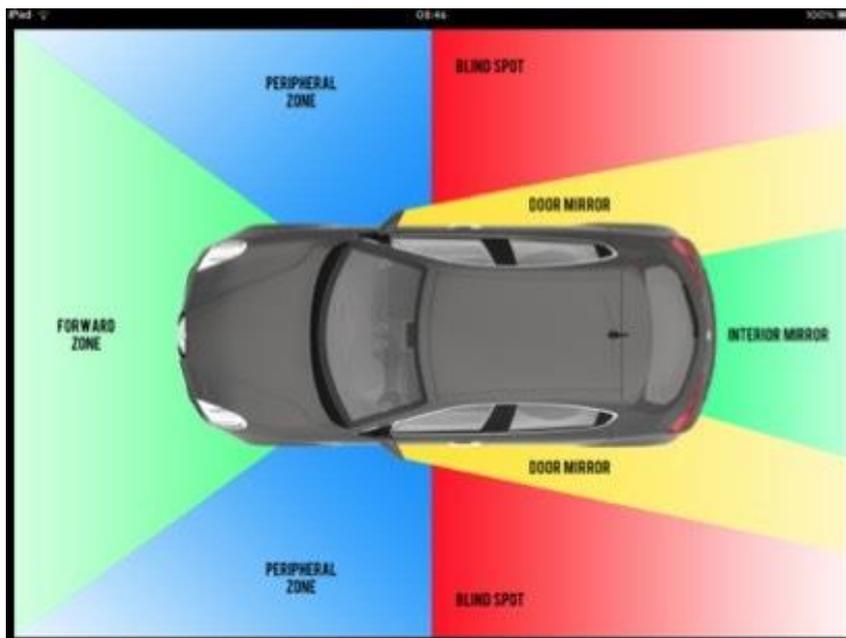
Mirrors

Look in the mirrors with as little head movement as possible - the rearview mirror should frame the rear window. In the door mirrors - ensure you can just see the sides of the vehicle and horizon should be positioned across the centre of the mirror.



Blind Spots

Blind spots are areas that cannot be seen in clear sight or in the mirrors. These areas should be checked by looking over the left and right shoulder.



Hand Controls



Handbrake

The handbrake is released by pushing in the button with the thumb and lifting slightly to ease and then lowered into the off position. To apply the handbrake push in the button with the thumb and lift.

Gear Stick

The gear stick is spring loaded and with return to the central neutral position if a gear is not selected properly [wiggle test](#). Most cars have 6 gears 5 forward and 1 reverse. We will run through gear changes later

Steering wheel

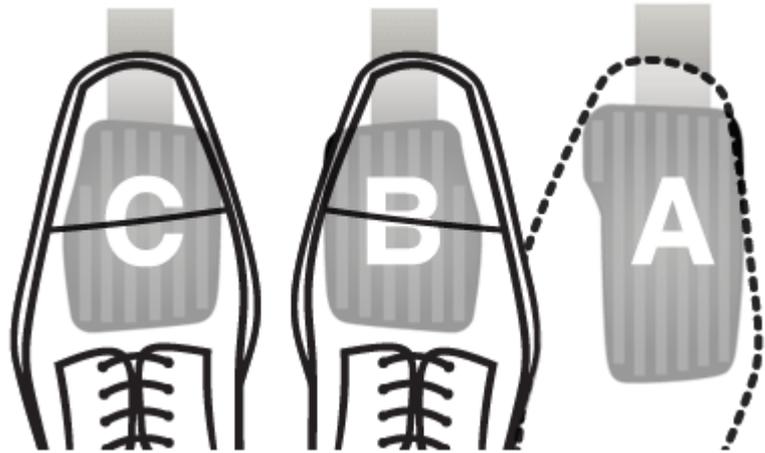
Hold the wheel at a 10 to 2 position whilst driving. When turning use the push and pull method with big movements between 12 and 6 o'clock. Controls should be reached comfortably using fingertips for stalk controls such as indicators and windscreen wipers.

Foot Controls (As easy as ABC)

Accelerator—aka gas. The pedal is sensitive and should be used progressively, the pedal increases engine power and therefore increases speed.

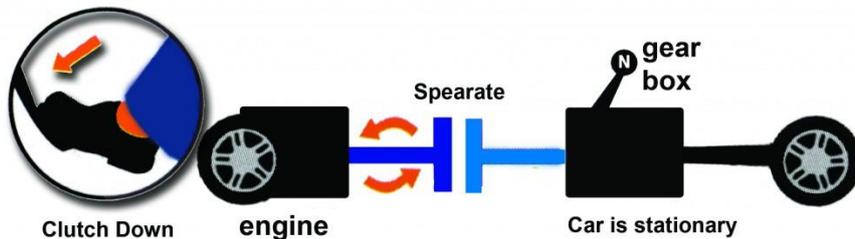
The **b**rake operates the brakes effecting all 4 wheels, it slows car down and should be used progressively and firmly to bring the car to a

stop easing off as the car stops. The pedal also operates brake lights so other road users are aware you are slowing or stopping.



The **c**lutch separates the engine from the road wheels, the wheel plate and engine plate move apart when the pedal is depressed. The biting point is when the two plates are starting to come together as the foot is raised gently off the clutch. The biting point is usually half way between fully depressed and fully released but varies from car to car. To engage a gear the pedal should be pushed down fully. The clutch should be brought up gradually or a kangaroo hop can happen.

Clutch Control



Changing Gears

There are 5 forward 1 reverse, the gear stick is located between the passenger and driver's seats and is operated with the left hand. The gear knob often has a diagram to indicate where it should be positioned to engage each gear. Lower gears are more powerful and 1st is usually used to start the car moving. Neutral is in the central position, you can check if you are in neutral by wiggling the gear stick from side to side without depressing the clutch pedal. It is not always necessary to change through each gear and you can block change e.g. from 4th to 2nd when slowing down.

Recap Reading (Read section 3 of Driving Essential Skills)

