

AWARENESS, ANTICIPATION & PLANNING

Learner Level

Awareness, anticipation and planning are required every time we drive - by complete beginners up to experienced drivers. Therefore, you should introduce them to your learner as soon as possible.

Teach Your Learner...

These skills are dealt with in all aspects of driving. Whether at the early stages of learning or near a test standard, you will have to teach your learner how to deal with hazards.

Hazards

A hazard is anything that requires a driver to change speed or direction.

This means hazards can take on many forms e.g. a hazard could be caused by other road users, junctions, pedestrians, bends in the road, a slippery road surface or the weather etc. Again, basically anything that might make a driver **change speed or direction**.

Awareness

As a teacher you will find new learners have a lack of awareness when spotting developing hazards, because they focus on controlling the vehicle rather than 'reading' the road. Help your learner to become more aware - remind them to:

- Look in the far and middle distance
- Scan the area directly ahead of the vehicle
- Glance in the mirrors regularly to stay aware of road users behind

Anticipation

Use your driving experience of seeing and responding to hazards to teach the learner what might happen. **Before** your learner can respond to a risk, they need to know **how to look for clues; understand the habits of other road users** and the **correct response to take**.

To sharpen their anticipation they should be encouraged to **always** consider worst case scenarios:

- Drivers don't always obey the rules
- Cyclists and motorbikes weave in and out of traffic
- Pedestrians don't always look before crossing the road

Planning

Planning to respond safely and correctly is vital when dealing with road and traffic situations. You must teach your learner to drive in a way that allows them to stop within a safe distance. Do this by **planning** their approach to hazards. For example, when approaching a sharp bend, ask yourself:

- How sharp is the bend?
- Am I at the correct speed?
- Am I in the correct position?
- Could I stop safely if necessary?



Trade
Secret

To make sure learners understand the importance of awareness, anticipation and planning, we tell them to always expect the worst from other road users.

Teacher's responsibilities

- You'll never encounter every type of scenario during lessons, the aim is to 'program' learners into seeing a hazard as early as possible, and teaching safe strategies on how to respond.
- If their driving is making you feel nervous, you must respond early to avoid the danger developing. Stay calm, and when appropriate, discuss the reason you intervened.

Ref: Highway Code Rules 146, 204 to 237 | Driving Essential Skills sections 7 and 10