

PARALLEL PARK

Learner Level

Your learner should have practised reversing in a straight line several times. They should be able to observe all around while keeping the vehicle under control.

Teach Your Learner...

On the driving test, candidates are only asked to carry out **ONE** reversing exercise. The manoeuvre could be it. The learner will be asked to park behind a vehicle within the space of 2 cars lengths in between 2 vehicles.

What is the manoeuvre?

Pull up next to a vehicle on the left, reverse back and park behind it within the space of **TWO** car lengths and not more than a steering wheel's width away from the kerb.

Why learn it?

This manoeuvre is useful if you need to park in between two vehicles where the gap isn't big enough to drive in forwards. When you reverse, the front wheels guide the rear of the car into the space first.

Where to practise it?

Somewhere Safe: Don't park where there are risks e.g. on a bend or brow of a hill.

Is it legal? Look for signs and road markings such as double yellow lines or arm holder bays

Somewhere Convenient: don't block an entrance to a property, opposite a junction or where your vehicle makes the road very narrow.

How to do the manoeuvre

Move to the start position

Check all around, drive away safely and into start position parallel to the object vehicle, slightly ahead of it. Use the mirrors, be aware of road users and use appropriate signals e.g. left signal.

Reverse behind the car

Check well ahead, mirrors and blind spots. Look over LEFT and RIGHT shoulders and through the back window. Keep the car under control until the rear of the car is level. Pause, check well ahead, mirrors and blind spots. **DO NOT** turn left. *Note: at this point continue with the technique the learner's instructor teaches - **there's an excellent Parallel Park technique on page 88.***

Remind your learner to keep checking all around and respond correctly to approaching hazards or pedestrians. When the car is parallel to the kerb, steer left to straighten the front wheels.

Move away safely

Check all around including blind spots; signal if necessary; check the mirrors again and only drive away when safe.



Trade
Secret

To help other road users, you can wave them through while the learner is practising. Make sure the road is clear first - don't wave them into approaching traffic!

Teacher's responsibilities

- Don't be a nuisance to others and practise in the same area repeatedly.
- On the test you can park within two car lengths - in real life you need a space about 1.5 car lengths long. Practise with one vehicle, then as the learner improves, between two vehicles.

Ref: Highway Code Rules 200 to 203 | Driving Essential Skills sections 9