



Contents

Section 1	Becoming a Good Driver	5
Chapter 1	Learning to Drive	8
Chapter 2	Getting a Driver's License	14
Chapter 3	Bad Weather and Other Hazards	20
Chapter 4	Using a City Map	26
Section 2	Buying a Car	33
Chapter 1	Sticking to Your Budget	36
Chapter 2	Comparing Used Cars	42
Chapter 3	Interpreting a New Car Sticker	48
Chapter 4	Financing a Car	54
Section 3	Maintenance and Repair	61
Chapter 1	Benefits of Upkeep	64
Chapter 2	Car Repair Estimates	70
Chapter 3	Using Jumper Cables	76
Chapter 4	New Tire Warranty	82
Section 4	Driving and the Law	89
Chapter 1	Automobile Registration	92
Chapter 2	Shopping for Car Insurance	98
Chapter 3	Traffic and Parking Tickets	104
Chapter 4	Dangerous Driving Habits	110
Word List		116
Index		118



CHAPTER 1

Learning to Drive

Diego's Plan

Like most states, Diego's state has **graduated licensing laws**. Those laws require him to get a learner's permit before being able to get a driver's license.

In Diego's state, getting a learner's permit requires taking a class in driver education. Diego's high school offers this class, so he's decided to sign up for it. In this one-semester course, he will learn the rules of the road and get some tips on safe driving.

The class will prepare him for taking the written test needed to get a learner's permit.

After Diego gets his learner's permit, he will be able to take behind-the-wheel training. For that, he will attend a driving school. A professional instructor will give Diego four 90-minute lessons.

Graduated Licensing Laws

Laws that provide different levels of privileges and restrictions for drivers. They are usually based on drivers' ages and levels of training and experience.





Taking Your Driving Test

Visit the Web site of your state's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to find out what to bring when you take your driving test. You might need to have any or all of the following:



- A completed driver's license application (signed by a parent or guardian, if you're under 18)
- Your learner's permit and proof of having completed training
- One or more valid forms of identification
- Payment for the license fee
- Proof of having auto insurance
- Your glasses or contact lenses (if needed to pass the vision test)
- A parent or guardian (if you're under 18)

To get a license in Diego's state, a driver under age 18 must complete 50 hours of supervised driving practice. Also, 10 of those hours must be at night. Diego's parents will help him complete the required time behind the wheel. Then, he will take his driving test at the local testing station.

Because Diego is under 18, his driver's license will be restricted. In his state, that means he won't be able to drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. He also won't be able to have more than one passenger with him.



[FACT]

Restricted Licenses

Drivers under 18 usually have restrictions on the hours they can drive. Most states forbid teens to drive late at night and early in the morning. Exceptions are sometimes made when driving with an adult or when going to work or school. In addition, most states don't allow teen drivers to have more than one or two teenage passengers. This restriction usually applies for the first six months or more after getting a driver's license. Exceptions are sometimes made if an adult is present or the passengers are family members.

Risk Factors for Teen Drivers

Teens make up only 7% of all drivers, but they account for 14% of all car accident deaths. Why is this age group at such high risk for accidents?

- Don't often recognize hazards
- Bad at identifying risks
- Eager to take risks
- Don't always use seatbelts
- Have little driving skill and experience
- Tend to use alcohol and drugs
- Often have passengers
- Have little experience driving at night





Kaylee's Plan

To get her learner's permit, Kaylee will read the driver handbook and take the written test. After she has her permit, she will take behind-the-wheel training from her sister. By law, Kaylee can practice driving only with a person who is over age 25 and has a valid driver's license.

Kaylee's state doesn't require her to complete a certain number of hours of behind-the-wheel practice. Nor does the state require her to have a learner's permit for a certain length of time. She can take the driving test as soon as she feels ready. And because she's 18, her license will be unrestricted.