2024 EDITION www.reddrivingschool.com A COMPLETE GUIDE TO DRIVING FROM YOUR AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL ALL YOU NEED TO LEARN AND ENJOY THE ROAD AHEAD Your new and second-hand electric plan. DRIVER TRAINING 000 INCENTIVE

The e-Grant towards a Fiat 500e. More than worth a test drive.



We can all remember the feeling of passing our driving test! The exhilaration, the relief, and the excitement of finally getting to be behind the wheel alone. After the hard work of passing your test, the thought of buying your first car and getting it on the road can be daunting. At Lookers we're here to help make that experience more enjoyable.

As one of the top car retailers in the UK, Lookers offers over 7,000 new and used vehicles from 34 manufacturers. With such a wide range of options, we're confident that we have the perfect car for you.

You only get to buy your first car once, so let us help make it a special and memorable experience.

CHOOSING THE BEST CAR FOR YOU

After passing your test the next step is to choose the best car for your needs. For a first-time driver, and particularly young drivers, it's important to do your research before making any purchasing decisions. You need to think about how much money you want to spend and what type of driving you will do. At Lookers, we're here to help guide you through the process.

BUDGET

When budgeting for your car, remember to consider all the associated costs that come when buying a car, such as road tax, fuel, insurance, and maintenance. To keep these costs down, consider choosing a smaller, fuelefficient or electric car.

FINANCE

If you're planning to finance your car, understanding the different types of finance available is crucial. At Lookers, we have a dedicated section on our website to help you understand the different finance options, so if you're wondering what the difference between PCP, PCH and HP are – be sure to **check it out**.

NEW OR USED

Buying a brand-new car is always an attractive option, but Lookers also offers many great low-priced used and nearly-new cars that would be a great option for a first car. These cars often come with the latest features and technology like touch screens and mobile phone connectivity, as well as safety features such as airbags, ABS, and traction control.

CAR DETAILS

Consider the type of car that would best suit your needs. Would a small city car or a larger hatchback to fit all your family and friends? How many doors do you need? What technologies are most important to you? What safety features are you looking for? The options are extensive, but also exciting.

LET'S GET LOOKING

Now that you have an idea of what you're looking for in your first car, trust in Lookers to help you find the perfect one for you. What's more as a Red School customer you will receive two years* of servicing included for free. Simply quote your Red School reference number and you can leave our showroom with the added knowledge that your new car's servicing needs are covered for two years*.

You can search, order and arrange a collection or home delivery all online today – by using our **Click & Drive service**

All of our used cars also come with:

Money Back Guarantee

If you're not completely happy with your used vehicle purchase, you can request a refund within 14 days of collection or delivery. Find out more about our 14-day money-back guarantee.

Transparent pricing

Honest, straight forward pricing. All of our vehicles are offered at the best price possible; this means no haggling and less hassle for you. Find out more about our transparent pricing.



Red Driving School customers receive two years* of servicing included for FREE





THOROUGH APPROVED USED INSPECTION

The servicing and vehicle history will be confirmed independently in full.

This includes a:

- Multi-point test expertly carried out by one of our fully trained technicians
- Up-to-date status on scheduled maintenance and MOT tests.
- A full HPI Vehicle Check to analyse the history of the vehicle

With Lookers, we want to make buying your first car an amazing experience. Let us help you make it unforgettable.

Visit our website today to start your journey. **Lookers.co.uk**







Ah, the great British summer. While the weather may not always be on our side, we can't let it stop our plans. Many motorists worry about the health of their vehicle during winter, but travelling long distances can have a significant impact on our vehicles whatever the weather.

So, if you're heading out on a long car journey this summer or have plans to get away for the bank holiday staying safe on the road needn't be a chore, particularly if you're part of the Halfords Motoring Club. Whether you're after travel accessories or a 10-point car check, we've got all your motoring essentials sorted to keep you moving, safe and saving!

It's easy to become a Motoring Club Member

Simply click the link below or head over to our website, enter your details and start saving with your instant benefits. Premium members can enjoy benefits worth over £100, including a FREE MOT for just £4.99 a month, or £49 a year. The Halfords Motoring Club is the smart way for new or learner drivers to save money while ensuring your car is safe and roadworthy.

Gain access to instant benefits worth over £100, for just £4.99 or £49 a year

Premium membership Gain access to instant benefits worth over £100, for just £4.99 or £49 a year.			
£10 welcome discount	+	2x FREE 10 point Car Check worth £30.00	+
FREE MOT worth £44.99	+	FREE store fittings (Pair of wipers, bulbs or a battery)	+
Unlimited 5% discount on motoring products & services	+	FREE next day delivery (Online orders)	+
EXCLUSIVE offers & member discounts + Join Premium			

If Premium isn't right for you just yet, you can still benefit from exclusive member savings by joining for free. Join us today!

Join Today

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome

Welcome to the new issue of Drive, the e-zine for RED's drivers. Life on the road is full of important decisions, and you're off to a great start by choosing to learn with RED Driving School. We help thousands of new drivers pass their test every year.

We're going to be in the passenger seat all the way from the first time you put on your L-plates to the day you pass the practical test – and even beyond if you choose post-test training.

There's more to learning with RED than the expert instruction you'll receive from our friendly and supportive driving instructors. With brilliant apps to help with your theory and hazard perception tests, our award-winning RED Road Brain Trainer to prepare you for the practical test, and the MyRED tool for managing the learning process online, we'll make learning to drive fast, fun and rewarding.

Over the next few pages we'll talk you through the learning process, from applying for your provisional licence to getting the most from your lessons to the best way to prepare for your tests. There's advice on practising with parents, partners and friends too, as well as tips on how to find the right insurance cover at the right price. We'll even advise on your first choice of car.

Having a driving licence is great for work – it's a passport to freedom. We want to make earning your licence as enjoyable as the thrill you'll experience on the day you pass.

08. GETTING READY

Before you get on the road, you'll need your provisional licence. We'll talk you through the steps you need to take before your first lesson.

18. STARTING LESSONS

We'll explain what to expect from your first few lessons, and how to prepare for the theory test.

28. MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

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Learn all about winter driving and skid control plus how to handle your driving test day nerves.

EDITOR - DAVID MOTTON

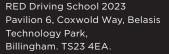
David Motton has been a motoring journalist for 25 years. A former editor of What Car? magazine, David has written for dozens of websites, newspapers and magazines including Classic &



Sports Car, The Sunday Times and The Telegraph and sits on the jury for the UK Car of the Year. David has also worked in television and presents car reviews on YouTube. He's looking forward to helping his daughter learn to drive when she turns 17 next year.

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Whether you're preparing to sell your car at a higher resale value or just wanting to give your vehicle a much-needed facelift, a full car detail can help to extend the life of the car. Follow our complete new car detailing guide on how to perform a full at-home car detail with the right Turtle Wax products.

WHY DETAIL AT HOME?

The thought of having to set aside a full day of detailing might make you want to scrap the whole idea and call a professional instead, but consider these points:

- The initial investment of supplies and tools will save you money in the long run, as you won't need to pay someone's labour costs every time your car needs detailing. Only replace what you need when you run out.
- Keeping up with the routine of general cleaning afterward will save you time when you're ready for your next detail clean.
- Nothing beats the satisfaction of standing back and appreciating the hard work you just put into your fresh, clean vehicle.
- This helps to extend the life of your car, by eliminating the substances that degrade your interior and exterior surfaces, and adding protection with the right products.

Always start with the interior first, since repeated in-and-out during the detailing process can leave the exterior filthy. Focus on the inside of your car first, and after it's pristine, close the doors and windows, and turn your attention toward the exterior

INTERIOR DETAILING PRODUCTS AND STEPS

These next steps will highlight the useful tools needed (**bold**), the cleaning products recommended (<u>underlined</u>), and tips from the pros (*italicised*), to get professional results right at home.

- The best starting point is by removing any rubbish. Don a pair of **latex or nitrile gloves**, grab a **rubbish bag**, and begin picking up anything that's too big for the vacuum to suck up. Look inside every cubby, console, cup holders, and door pockets. Find a temporary spot to hold any loose coins you find.
- Take out the floor mats and give them a good shake to remove any loose dirt and gravel. For rubber floor mats, use a **stiff brush** and <u>car wash soap</u>, like our **MAX Power Car Wash**. For carpeted floor mats, a **stiff brush** or **steam cleaner** paired with an upholstery cleaner, like our **POWER OUT! Carpet & Mats Cleaner** will work best. Hang the mats to let them air dry after they have been cleaned.

Pro Tip: To speed up the drying process, use a wet-dry vacuum to suck up excess water.







REFRESH YOUR UPHOLSTERY

• The next step is cleaning the hard surfaces. An all-purpose cleaner, like our **Dash & Glass Interior Cleaner**, is perfect for plastic, vinyl, and even tech screens that are mostly clean already, but could use a quick wipe-down. Just spray the surfaces and use a clean **microfibre cloth** to apply the product, and a second one to wipe and buff the areas clean, leaving behind the right amount of shine. For stains and grime that are a bit tougher to clean, try a <u>diluted organic</u> or <u>citrus cleaner</u>.

Pro Tip: Instead of spraying the cleanser directly onto the surface, spray it onto a microfibre cloth, to prevent overspray and dripping.

- On to the soft surfaces next. Use a foaming upholstery cleaner, like our Power Out! Upholstery formula, which can be sprayed directly onto cloth, door panels, and headliners. Allow it to penetrate any stained and soiled spots for a few minutes before using a **stiff brush** to loosen up the dirt.
- Because it's easy for seats to soak in extra dirt and smells, they'll need a little more attention. The Power Out! Upholstery cleaner can be left to penetrate stains for five to ten minutes before using the **stiff brush** to clean the seat. The Odor-X technology in the formula will eliminate any odours and continue to deodorise for up to 30 days. For more stubborn stains, you can allow the cleaner to soak into the messes for an even longer amount of time, or you may need to go the **steam cleaner** route.



RENEW YOUR LEATHER SEATS

If your car has a leather interior, special care will need to be taken. Because of its sensitive nature, the wrong products used can cause it to dry out, fade, and crack. Use a conditioning formula specialised for leather, like our POWER OUT! Leather Cleaner & Conditioner, which does not use harsh chemicals and will leave you leather seats feeling soft and supple. Use the integrated soft brush to scrub out any stains. For stains that are a bit tougher to loosen up, try diluted citrus or organic cleanser first.

Pro Tip: Working from top to bottom is best, because loosened dust and dirt will fall.

Use a **wet-dry vacuum**, ideally with **automotive accessories**, to suck up dirt and dust off the carpets. Move the front seats as far back as they'll go, to get all the debris that tends to collect underneath. If you're able to, with a few **hand tools**, remove the seats completely, along with the centre console and other inside trim pieces to ensure every bit of carpet doesn't get overlooked.

Pro Tip: Before you vacuum, ruffle the carpet with a **stiff brush** to knock the dirt in the fibres loose.

SAVE THE GLASS FOR LAST

- Now it's time for the carpet shampoo. With our POWER OUT! Carpet & Mats Cleaner, focus on one section at a time, including inside the boot, using the built-in brush or a stiff brush to work the foam deep into the carpet fibres. Use a wet-dry vacuum or steam cleaner to suck up the foam and dirt.
- We recommend saving the glass for last, because during the process of cleaning the rest of the interior, the chemicals and products used tend to get splashed on your windows. Use a non-ammonia glass cleaner, spray it on a microfibre cloth, and clean all exposed interior glass, ensuring not forget the rear view mirror, dome lights, or sunroof, if you have one

Pro Tip: For cars with upper window frames, roll down the windows just a bit, clean the top edge of the glass, then roll the windows up and clean the rest of the glass.

EXTERIOR DETAILING SUPPLIES AND STEPS

The task of exterior detailing is a bit more extensive than simple washing and rinsing. Move your car out of direct sunlight, ensure all the windows are rolled up completely, then pop the bonnet and fuel door.



START FROM THE BOTTOM

- Give your car a good, thorough rinse with a garden hose or pressure washer, working from the bottom to the top, to loosen up dirt and bugs and allow them to run off. Apply a snow-foam-pre-wash after the car is rinsed.
- Next, clean the tyres with a tyre and wheel brush and our Wheel Cleaner, which is formulated to dissolve brake dust, tar, and road grime. Make sure to work the foam into all crevices.

Pro Tip: Cleaning the tyres last means you may accidentally splash dirt and other contaminants onto the body of your clean car.

Pro Tip: Use warm water, no hotter than 60°C, to help the soap mix better in the water. Be generous with the amount of soap you use on your car — don't let it dry!

PROTECT YOUR PAINT

• Starting at the top, use a garden hose or pressure washer to rinse your car. Don't let it air dry. Instead, use a chamois or microfibre cloth to dry your vehicle by hand, to avoid water spots being left behind. Wring out the cloths when they get too wet or switch to dry cloths. Open the doors and dry off the weather seals. Apply a sleek layer of our Wet'N Black Tyre Dressing Aero to the weather seals to prevent sticking and give it a glossy look.



ADD LAYERS OF PROTECTION

- What if your vehicle has scratches or chipped paint? If they're minor enough, they can be restored during the exterior detailing process. Our Scratch Repair and Renew can be applied to a foam applicator, microfibre cloth, or dual-action (DA) orbital polisher, to repair the paint surface.
- For microscopic clear coat imperfections, a polishing compound can be beneficial. You can work by hand using a **foam pad**, or if you're comfortable and confident, with a powered **dual-action (DA) orbital polisher.** Work one small section at a time, buffing until there is an even shine, adding more compound as needed. Check how different sections of the paint surface reflect the light, to ensure you've got a flawless finish.

Pro Tip: Use masking tape to protect your plastic and rubber trim, emblems, and headlights from the compound.

FINISH UP WITH A SHINE & POLISH

- If you tyres are dry, give them one final spray with our **Wet'N Black Tyre Dressing Aero**, for that sleek black shine. Or, you can use a cloth to wipe them down for a matte finish. This formula helps to keep your tyres stay cleaner, protects them from sun damage, and slows down dry rot.
- As the final step, it's time to clean the
 exterior glass. Use non-ammonia glass cleaner
 and a couple microfibre cloths one kept
 moist with glass cleaner and the other for
 buffing out streaks. Begin at the top with the
 sunroof, work your way down to the windscreen
 and side windows, wing mirrors, and rear window. Lastly, clean the headlamps, fog lights,
 and brake lights.

You're done! You can now stand back and admire your freshly detailed car, show it off to your friends or family members, and take pride in the hard work you just accomplished. While your first time detailing at home may have been exhausting, the more you tackle the taskon your own, the easier it'll become.







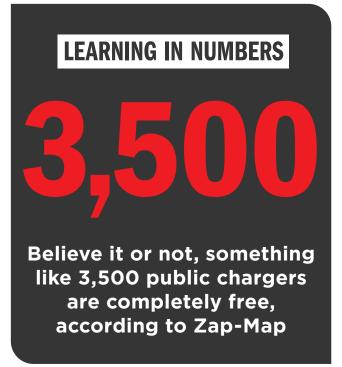
Did you know the first UK driver to pass their test in an electric car was a RED Driving School student? Whether you have been taking lessons in an EV, or you want to do your bit for the environment when you have your full licence, electric cars are now a realistic first-time buy for many new drivers.

There are more than a few myths about electric cars. Some have a nugget of truth to them, others make no sense at all. Here's what you really need to know if you are thinking of going electric.

TRUTH OR MYTH: ELECTRIC CARS ARE EXPENSIVE

A new electric car is pricier than a new petrol car of similar size. Choose a Fiat 500 Electric and the list price is around half as much again as the Fiat 500 Mild Hybrid.

Right now, though, Fiat is offering a £3,000 saving on the price of the 500 Electric, which eats into that price difference. And running costs will be lower if you choose





the EV and have somewhere to recharge at home. Take a look at 'Buying a new electric car' for more advice on buying new.

Most new drivers start out driving a used car. There are some bargain-priced electric cars out there if you shop for a second-hand model. It comes down to supply and

demand. There's a growing number of used electric cars, but used car buyers aren't as keen as new car buyers. We'll come to why that might be later, but for now it means there are lots of cut-price EVs if you buy used.

TRUTH OR MYTH: THERE'S A GOVERNMENT GRANT TO HELP WITH THE COST

Nope, not anymore. There used to be a plug-in car grant which saved thousands from the price of a new electric vehicle, but it's no longer available.

There is a grant to help with the cost of installing a wallbox (a dedicated electric car charger) but it's quite narrowly focused – you'll need to live in a flat with its own parking space to apply (search OZEV grant scheme).

TRUTH OR MYTH: ELECTRIC CARS ARE HARD TO DRIVE

Definitely not. Electric cars make driving really easy. You have one gear to go forwards, and one to go backwards. There's no clutch pedal to worry about, so you can drive an EV whether you pass your practical test in a manual or an automatic.



If you do need to use the public charging network, it's a good idea to head to a charging hub with several chargers rather than just one. That way there's much less chance of having to hang around waiting for a free connector.



Some electric cars can be driven with one pedal unless you need to stop in a hurry. The regenerative braking which tops up the battery as you drive is so strong that the car slows down as soon as you ease off the accelerator. This does take a bit of getting used to, but it's a feature you can usually turn off if you don't like it.

TRUTH OR MYTH: ELECTRIC CARS ARE RUBBISH AT LONG JOURNEYS

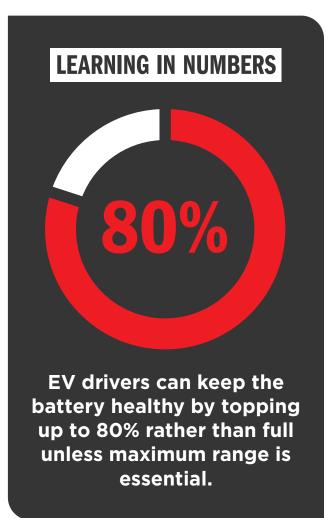
It depends on the car, and what you mean by long. A Fiat 500 Electric will go 115 to 199 miles, depending on the size of the battery. Yes, a petrol car will go further on a full tank, but be honest... how often do you need to drive more than 200 miles in a day?

If most of your miles are local, a shortish range will still be enough for most of your journeys.

TRUTH OR MYTH: THE PUBLIC CHARGING NETWORK ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

Fair enough, you can pick holes in the public charging network. Sometimes EV drivers will come across chargers that aren't working, and it's really annoying if you drive to a charger and find someone else is already using it.

The network continues to get bigger and better, though. There are now more than 43,000 charge points across the UK, according to Zap-Map. Drivers can now charge more quickly than ever before, too, with a 99% increase in the number of ultra-rapid chargers in the past year.





If you do need to use the public charging network, it's a good idea to head to a charging hub with several chargers rather than just one. That way there's much less chance of having to hang around waiting for a free connector.

TRUTH OR MYTH: CHARGING TAKES AGES

It can do, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Charge your car at home and it will be several hours before it's charged, but plug it in overnight you'll be asleep so it's hardly a problem. If you recharge at home you won't need to fill up at a crowded petrol

station, so an EV could save you refuelling time - the opposite of what many people believe.

It's a different story if you need to charge using the public network. The speed at which you can boost the battery will depend on the type of charger and the car – some can recharge more quickly than others.

The Peugeot e-208 is one of the best small electric cars and can recharge at a speed of up to 100kW. That's just over 14 times as fast as a typical home wallbox and can charge the batteries from 0-80% in just 30 minutes.

TRUE OR MYTH: HIGH ENERGY PRICES HAVE MADE CHARGING EXPENSIVE

While it's true that energy prices are high, charging at home still costs a fraction of the price of a full tank of petrol or diesel. If you can install a home charger and have a smart meter, you can sign up for an EV energy tariff. These offer cut-price electricity at night, when your car is sat still and demand for electricity as at its lowest. You could pay as little as 10p per kWh (kilowatt hour, which is a unit of energy). Fill up the 58kWh battery in a Volkswagen ID.3 and you'll pay £5.80. That's less than the cost of a single gallon of petrol.

If you need to fill up in the day, you'll pay closer to 31p per kWh, according to Mina, an electric vehicle charging specialist. That means £17.98 for a full recharge that will give a range of around 215 miles. So, the fuel cost per mile is just over 8p.

A gallon of petrol costs around £6.58, according to the AA Fuel Price Report. Drive a car that achieves 40 miles per gallon, and the fuel cost per mile is 16p – twice as much as the electric car.

You will generally pay more when charging in public. Mina's research reckons on 74p per kWh as an average, which makes EV running costs close to those of a petrol car. But not all public chargers are so expensive. Believe it or not, something like 3,500 public chargers are completely free, according to Zap-Map.

So despite high energy prices, charging an EV can still be cheap, or even free of charge.

TRUTH OR MYTH: THE BATTERY WILL BE USELESS IN A FEW YEARS

Another myth. The batteries in an EV will hold less charge over time, just like the batteries in a tablet or smartphone. But the loss of performance is gradual.

Researchers at Geotab looked at the batteries of 6,300 electric cars, and found their capacity dropped by an average of 2.3% per year. So, if a new car starts out with a range of 250 miles, after three years it will still be able to go 233 miles between charges.

EV drivers can keep the battery healthy by topping up to 80% rather than full unless maximum range is essential.

TRUTH OR MYTH: YOU NEED A HOME CHARGER TO RUN AN EV

If you don't have a driveway or garage where you can install a wallbox, running an EV is more of a challenge. You're going to need to learn where the local chargers are, which ones are most reliable, and where you can top up at the lowest cost.

But it's not impossible to run an electric car if you need to park on the street. Don't forget those 3,500 public chargers that don't charge a penny. You could still be able to run an EV on the cheap, even without a home charger.



A gallon of petrol costs around £658, according to the AA Fuel Price Report. Drive a car that achieves 40 miles per gallon, and the fuel cost per mile is 16p – twice as much as the electric car.

BUYING A NEW ELECTRIC CAR

Right now, a brand-new electric car is a stretch for most first-time buyers. There are steps you can take to bring that shiny new EV within reach, though.

Fiat is offering a £3,000 'E-Grant' off the price of the Fiat 500 Electric. That's a big saving to put in your back pocket.

Keep your eyes peeled for this kind of guaranteed discount, or a low-rate finance offer. A Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) will have lower monthly payments than traditional car finance, because a big chunk of the loan is left until the end of the agreement, and you don't have to pay it – you can hand the car back instead.

Insurance is another big expense for new drivers, so look out for a package that includes insurance and finance in

Keep your eyes
peeled for this kind of
guaranteed discount, or
a low-rate finance offer.

LEARNING IN NUMBERS

£3,000

Fiat is offering a £3,000 'E-Grant' off the price of the Fiat 500 Electric. That's a big saving to put in your back pocket.

one monthly payment. If you won't drive far each year, limit the mileage on your finance deal and insurance premium, as this will cut the cost.



Image: Fiat

17 | WWW.REDDRIVINGSCHOOL.COM



READY

Time to start on the road to your full driving licence! Here's what you need to know

BY DAVID MOTTON

How do you feel about learning to drive? Excited? Nervous? Maybe a bit of both?

It's only natural to be a little anxious about getting behind the wheel for the first time. But don't worry too much. You're going to enjoy learning to drive with RED Driving School!

Before you sit in the driver's seat, there are a few hoops to jump through. It's nothing too taxing and it won't take long. First of all, you're going to need your provisional licence.

APPLY FOR YOUR PROVISIONAL LICENCE

It's easy to apply for a provisional licence. Just go to the relevant part of the government <u>website</u>. You can apply as young as 15 years and nine months old if you're looking to ride a moped at 16. For a car licence, apply up to three months before your 17th birthday. That leaves more than enough time for your licence to come through – you should have your licence in around a week if you apply over the internet.

For an online application, you'll need your Government Gateway ID. This gives you access to various online



services through a profile that's unique to you. If you don't have one, it only takes a few moments to set one up at gateway.gov.uk.

Got your Gateway ID handy? Good. You'll also need a credit or debit card (the licence costs £34), proof of identity (such as a passport), your address details for the past three years, and ideally your National Insurance number.

If the internet is down or you enjoy standing in a queue, you can still do things the old fashioned way at the post office. Ask for a D1 form. Once you've filled it in, you'll also need to send off an identity document and a colour passport-style photograph. Apply this way and you'll pay £43 rather than £34. It's also likely to take longer for your licence to arrive, so an online application has to be the way to go.





A provisional Driving Licence allows you to drive on all UK roads, provided you're supervised.

It doesn't matter how early your licence arrives, you can't drive on the road until your 17th birthday. There is an exception for disabled learner drivers – if you receive the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or the enhanced rate mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment you can learn from 16.

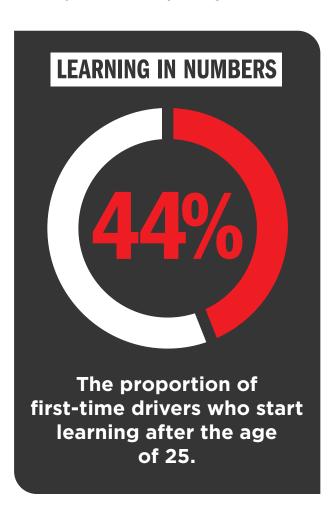
Don't get stressed out if the big day arrives and your provisional licence hasn't arrived. Call or email the <u>DVLA</u> and it will soon be sorted.

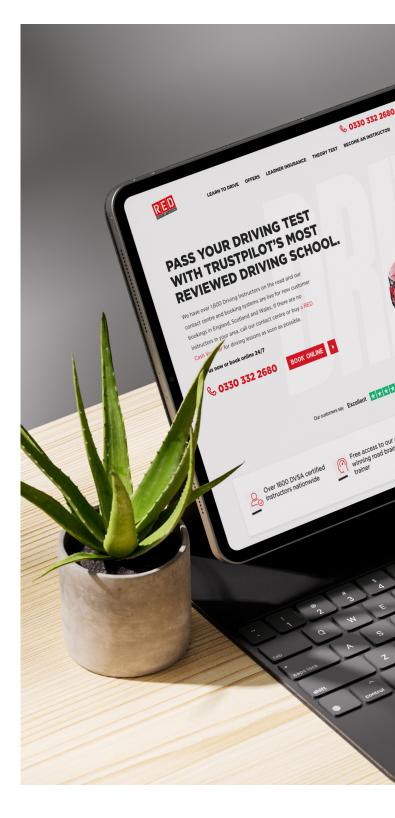
BOOK YOUR LESSONS

So, your licence application has been sent off and you're counting the days until your 17th birthday. Time to think about booking your first driving lesson.

You could try some subtle hints like leaving the family computer's browser open on the RED Driving School voucher page. Gift voucher packages are available for two, four, 10 or 20 lessons.

If nobody buys you vouchers for your birthday, <u>block</u> <u>booking</u> will make the most of your money. You can always have a refund if you pass before you've used up your lessons. Or you can use the lessons after you have passed, maybe for some extra instruction on the motorway – so there's really nothing to lose.

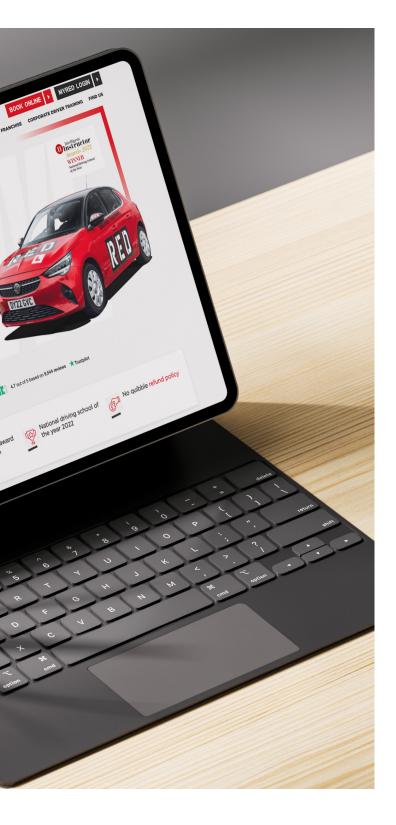


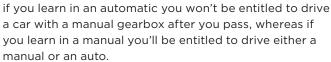


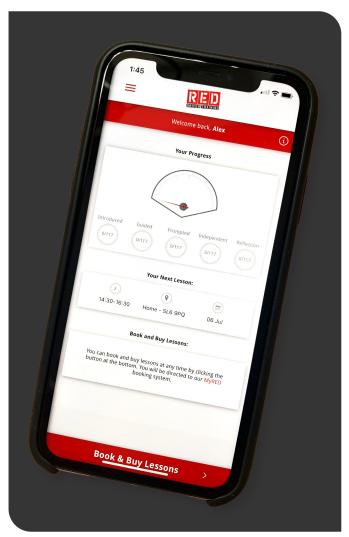
All of our driving instructors are friendly, professional and supportive. Each of them will go the extra mile to put you at ease. But as one of the UK's biggest driving schools we can offer choice and flexibility in a way many smaller schools can't.

It may be that you have a preference as to whether you are taught by a male or female instructor. Depending on the area you live, that's usually no problem – whatever makes you feel more comfortable.

Likewise in most regions we can offer a choice of learning to drive in a manual or automatic car. Just remember that







Perhaps English is not your first language. If you'd prefer to be instructed in a different language that may also be possible. Again, this varies from area to area but we'll do our best to help if we can.

You can call 0330 332 2680 or book lessons at reddrivingschool.com. Once your first lessons have been booked, the smart way to manage your learning is through the MyRED App. It makes it easy to check when your instructor is free, book more lessons, and manage your personal details, 24/7.

Registering with <u>MyRED</u> provides access to some great apps to help with the theory and hazard perception tests as well as the brilliant RED Road Brain Trainer.

But we're getting ahead our ourselves. You want to know about your first driving lesson - how you should prepare, and what to expect.







23 | WWW.REDDRIVINGSCHOOL.COM

YOUR FIRST LESSON!

It can also be a little nerve-wracking but our instructors will do their best to make you feel comfortable. Learning to drive well takes time and patience, and the first lesson is just about the basics.

- Your provisional licence with you.
- Your prescription glasses or contact lenses (if you need them).
- Comfortable clothes and sensible shoes (so you can operate the pedals easily).
- A good night's sleep. You need to be alert to make the most of your lesson.
- Something to eat before the lesson. Hunger is a distraction you don't need.

- Absolutely no partying the night before. You need to be well rested and sober every time you drive.
- Don't be distracted. Whatever else is going on in your life, put your worries to one side and concentrate on driving.
- Keep off the caffeine! An espresso or a caffeinated energy drink may seem like smart idea to keep you sharp during your lesson, but if you are nervous caffeine will only put you on edge. And your energy levels will drop when the caffeine wears off.

You won't be in the driving seat from the very start of your first lesson. You'll be picked up from home, work, school or college, and the instructor will drive you somewhere quiet with very little traffic.

Once they've taken you to a suitable road it will be your turn in the hot seat. The instructor will talk you through the cockpit drill you should run through every time you get behind the wheel. It's sometimes referred to by the acronym DSSSM.

- ✓ Doors closed securely?
- ✓ Seat positioned comfortably?
- ✓ Steering wheel adjusted?
- ✓ Seatbelt on?
- ✓ Mirrors adjusted for a clear view?

If you can answer 'yes' to all these questions, you're ready to drive. But there won't be any rush. The instructor will talk you through the car's controls, explaining what the accelerator, brake and clutch are for. They'll also explain the basics like clutch control and the biting point (the pedal position at which the clutch engages and the car starts to pull away).

Just 10mph can seem fast if you've never driven before, but don't forget our instructors have their own controls. They're trained to keep you out of trouble and to help you learn at your own pace.■

You'll be picked up from home, work, school or college, and the instructor will drive you somewhere quiet with very little traffic.



IMPORTANT QR CODE QUICK LINKS



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THE FIRST 10 HOURS

Learning to drive doesn't happen overnight. The DVSA reckons it takes an average of 47 hours of professional tuition to take a learner driver from novice to full licence holder. Bank on around 20 hours of practice in between lessons on top of that.

Building solid foundations in the first 10 hours is crucial. Your first lesson will have shown you the very basics, but there's a limit to what you can pick up in an hour or two. There's lots more to cover in the first few lessons.

Here's some of the things you'll learn about with your RED Driving School instructor:

Moving off: mastering the biting point and getting to grips with clutch control.

Using the gears correctly: how to change gear and which gear to choose.

The mirrors: how to use them correctly and checking the blind spot.

Signalling: how and when to indicate your intentions to other drivers.

Parking by the side of the road: how to pull up safely and precisely.

LEARNING IN NUMBERS

The number of video clips you'll watch during the hazard perception test.
There will be 15 hazards to spot, with one video containing two hazards. The faster you spot the hazard, the higher your score.

You'll use these techniques over and over again in the first few lessons, reinforcing and refining your skills.

Two-hour lessons mean that you make the most of your time with your instructor.

Many learners find that longer lessons give them a better chance to find their rhythm. However, any longer can affect concentration as you may find the lessons tiring.

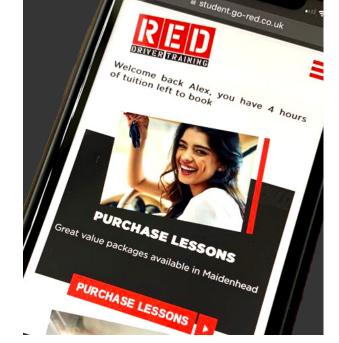
It can also help to have a regular time slot each week. That way you're less likely to forget about a lesson, and you can make sure you are rested and well prepared each week.

You can keep track of how you are getting on with the RED Progress Log. It will help you better understand how far you've come, and the skills that are still to learn.

If you haven't done so already, it makes sense to sign up to the MyRED portal. Not only does it allow you to manage your lesson bookings 24/7, it also gives access to RED's Road Brain Trainer. This brilliant training aid reinforces everything you're learning with your instructor, helps with identifying hazards and teaches you to deal with distractions. It has been shown to improve practical test pass rates by 14%.

You can use it whenever and wherever you like and it's absolutely free for RED customers!









THE THEORY TEST: HOW RED CAN HELP YOU PASS

It's easy to get excited about your driving lessons. Actually driving a car is the 'fun' bit, right? Cramming for your theory test is, well, a bit like being at school. It's tempting to have a quick flick through the Highway Code and trust that common sense will get you through.

If you've been thinking along those lines, it's probably best to think again. The theory test pass rate is just over 47%. In other words, more than half of candidate fail. Gut feel and guesswork won't be enough.

Don't think that you're on your own, though. Your RED instructor will help, especially with the hazard perception part of the theory test. By building hazard perception into every lesson this essential skill becomes, well, a whole lot less 'theoretical'.

It can also help to have a regular time slot each week. That way you're less likely to forget about a lesson, and you can make sure you are rested and well prepared each week.



Then there's our website and a couple of handy apps.

- ✓ Over 1000 DVSA official practice theory test questions.
- ✓ Full feedback available for every question.
- ✓ Complete mock tests to help you know if you are ready for the real thing and to boost your confidence.
- ✓ Official DVSA sample hazard perception test clips which you can interact with.
- ✓ Full online version of the Highway Code and the official edition of "Know Your Traffic Signs".

The DED Theory Test and easts \$7.40 and everides

- Official DVSA theory test revision questions and a full in-app copy of the Highway Code.
- ✓ Mock theory tests, structured just like the official test.

The <u>RED Hazard Perception</u> app also costs £3.49 and gives you:

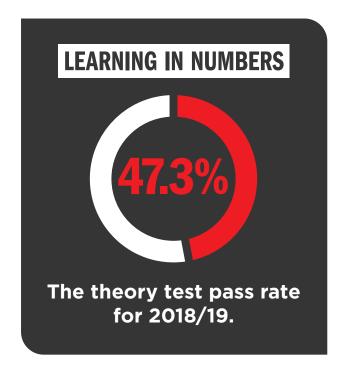
- ✓ The official DVSA revision CGI and video hazard perception clips and instructions video.
- A single clip and mock test practice facility, which shows performance against each hazard with a full video playback explanation of the scoring window.



The Theory Test Training Aid is very comprehensive and great value for money. However, if you would rather learn on the go through an app, then we have not one but two.

Given that you have to pass both parts of the theory test before you can move on to the practical test, it makes sense to have both apps. In which case choosing the RED Theory Test App Bundle is really a no brainer. For £5.99 you get both get both the RED Theory Test app and the RED Hazard Perception app. Plus you also get the in-app copy of Highway Code. The bundle saves you money and means you'll be better prepared when you come to sit the test. Please note that the apps are available for IOS devices only.

And as we've established, you really do need to be prepared! Around 40 hours of study is typical if you want to give yourself the best chance of passing. That might seem like a lot, but remember, 40 hours isn't that long when you're preparing for a lifetime of driving. The freedom and independence your full driving licence brings will be worth the effort.



Around 40 hours of study is typical if you want to give yourself the best chance of passing.



IMPORTANT QR CODE QUICK LINKS











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SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



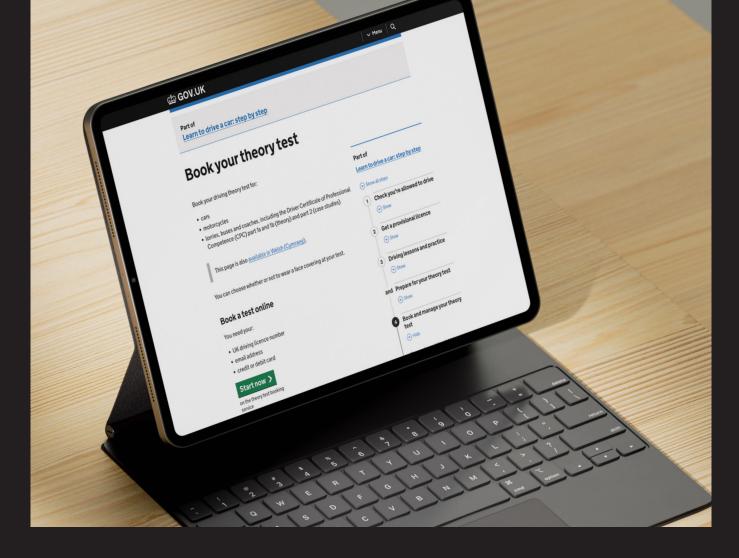
@REDdrivingsch



@reddrivingschool



REDDrivingSchool



THE THEORY TEST:

YOUR TURN TO ASK THE QUESTIONS

HOW DO I BOOK MY THEORY TEST?

Easy. When you and your RED driving instructor agree that you're ready, book through the official government website.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO MAKE THE BOOKING?

You'll need your licence number, your email address (without one you'll have to book by phone), and a credit or debit card to pay the fee.

HOW MUCH IS IT?

£23.

SHOULD I BOOK THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT SITE?

Be very wary of booking your test through an independent theory test booking service. Some offer unlimited rebookings for a fixed fee, but it will be a lot more than the cost of one test through the official website, which is how RED Driving School recommends booking your theory test.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO TAKE WITH ME TO THE TEST?

You'll need to take your provisional licence with you. But you can't take personal belongings such as phones into the test - the DVSA doesn't want you Googling the answers! Personal possessions will need to be stored in a locker at the test centre.

HOW DO I GIVE MYSELF THE BEST CHANCE OF PASSING?

There are no shortcuts – you need to put in the hours to learn the Highway Code, memorise the meaning of traffic signs, and hone your hazard perception skills. But with so many interactive learning tools and apps, including RED's, it's not as dull as it sounds.

WHAT IF I FAIL?

More candidates fail than pass. If you don't make the grade, ask yourself why? Was there something more you could have done to prepare? People who pass will have taken the test seriously and put in the hours. You'll need to do the same to make sure you pass next time. ■

Safe **Driving**for Life



The new Safe Driving for Life website!

Safe Driving for Life provides a great range of **free** content from advice, valuable information, tools, and tests, designed to promote lifelong learning and driving standards.

The website includes:

- Free mock hazard perception
- Traffic sign quiz
- Free mock theory test
- Full of free advice for everyone from learners to professionals

And much more!

Since the launch of the website in April 2021, over **12 million people** have visited the site and we've had the opportunity to help **hundreds of thousands** of learner drivers pass their theory tests **first time** through our eLearning platform integrated onto the site.



Pass your theory first time

Including exciting **new features** created to help learner drivers, the eLearning subscription contains everything you will need:

- Three subscription length options, pick which one suits you best
- Includes all the latest revision questions
- Over 130 interactive hazard perception clips
- 9 new multiple-choice video clips
- Link with your ADI

It also includes additional benefits such as the measure of test readiness scale – so you know when to take your test, and pass!





Take a look at the new site now: www.safedrivingforlife.info









We all need a little more colour in our lives. Step forward, the bright and vibrant FIAT 500e.

At FIAT, we've decided to stop building grey cars. There's nothing passionate, flamboyant, or exciting about grey. Instead, our electric city car comes in a choice of strong and vivid colours.

It's not just about the 500e's stand-out looks. This easy-to-drive electric car has won awards all over the world. What Car? named the 500e the Best Small Electric Car for the City and Best Convertible for Value in its 2023 awards, while Auto Express made the 500e City Car of the Year two years in a row.

We know what you're thinking. An EV with a bulging trophy cabinet is going to be expensive. Well, we're offering a £3,000 E-Grant towards the price of a new FIAT 500e to make electric motoring more affordable for everyone, including new drivers.

THE FIAT E-GRANT ELECTRIC POWER TO THE PEOPLE

There used to be government grants to help car buyers with the higher cost of new electric cars. When the Plug-in Car Grant was introduced in 2011 it offered up to £5,000 off the price of a new car. That was gradually whittled away to £1,500, then stopped altogether in 2022.

At FIAT, we think that there's still a lot of work to do in persuading more drivers to ditch fossil-fuelled cars in

favour of electric models. Nowadays, around 1-in-6 new cars are electric, but our sense is that more needs to be done for the private buyer.

Managing Director of FIAT UK, Damien Dally explained, "We've responded by bringing in our own £3,000 incentive, the FIAT E-Grant, for buyers of our award-winning electric 500 range – and have written an open letter to the Government calling on them to do more to help people make the switch."

New drivers need to be particularly careful with their motoring budget. Now the FIAT E-Grant brings a brandnew, award-winning FIAT 500e within closer reach.

THERE'S A 500E FOR EVERYONE

Most car makers now offer at least one EV, maybe more. But the 500e is different from the rest.

Pick the FIAT 500e as your first car, and your next decision is which body you prefer. Unlike just about every other electric car, the 500e is available as a hatchback and a convertible. Stay cool in the shade, or worship the sun, it's up to you.

That's not the only win-win choice for FIAT 500e buyers. Take your pick from a range of eye-catching colours, as well as options and accessories to make your 500e truly your own.

There's a choice of models, too, including the head-turning (RED) and the stylish and luxurious La Prima.

As the very first small electric car available with Assisted Driving Level 2, the 500e acts like a trusted co-driver, steering the car to stay in lane and adjusting speed to keep a safe distance from the car in front.



Choose the (RED) edition, and not only will your first car remind you of your favourite driving school(!), but it will also support the (RED) charity. Co-founded by U2's Bono, (RED) was established to fight against AIDS. All the money generated by (RED) empowers health workers and provides testing, treatment, and care in places where injustice has enabled pandemics to thrive.

FIAT has committed to donate a minimum of \$4million over three years to help (RED) fight global health emergencies. Every FIAT (RED) vehicle sold is part of that commitment.

No wonder the 500e was Europe's best-selling electric car in 2022, with almost 150,000 cars sold since it first appeared on the road.

LOVED BY OWNERS, LOVED BY EXPERTS

Electric cars make great first buys for newly qualified drivers. The 500e is so easy to drive, perfect for city driving but more than capable on the open road.

We would say that, wouldn't we? But the experts agree. Steve Huntingford, Editor of *What Car?* said: "The instant response from the FIAT 500's 117bhp motor helps you nip in and out of traffic with ease, while the car's tiny dimensions and light steering make it great for urban





Life is too short to own a boring first car. The FIAT 500e shows that new drivers can enjoy style, safety, and the latest technology in an award-winning package.

manoeuvres and squeezing into tight spaces. We're also big fans of the smart, modern interior and the relatively high driving position, with the latter boosting visibility."

Awards from *Auto Express* add to the praise that the motoring press has heaped on the FIAT 500e. "The New 500 brilliantly blends retro and modern, looking cooler than ever," said Steve Fowler, Editor-in-Chief of Auto Express. "It has a stylish design, feels premium and is an efficient and usable electric car."

THE MYTH-BUSTING FIAT 500E

The Fiat E-Grant addresses the idea that EVs are expensive. There are some other misconceptions that the 500e helps to dispel.

Has anyone told you that small electric cars can't go far between charges? Don't believe them. The 500e comes with a choice of two batteries, one with a 24 kWh capacity, one with 42 kWh. The higher capacity battery gives the car a range of up to 199 miles. That's enough to drive from London to Sheffield with 30 miles or so to spare.

We're not pretending that the real-world range will always match what can be achieved in the official tests - driving style, temperature, and speed all make a difference to how far the 500e can travel. But given that the average car journey is less than 10 miles, a full charge will last many drivers a fortnight or more.

If you don't tackle many long journeys, go for the 24 kWh battery. This still gives a range of 115 miles - plenty for many of us.

A SAFE PLACE TO START

The 500e is packed with the kind of safety features to make those crucial early months of independent driving as safe as possible.

As the very first small electric car available with Assisted Driving Level 2, the 500e acts like a trusted co-driver, steering the car to stay in lane and adjusting speed to keep a safe distance from the car in front.





Your phone can do more than connect to the car while you're driving. The brilliant FIAT app lets you manage your car, anytime and anywhere.

SPONSORED

The My Remote features gives your driving an Eco-Score, and provides tips on making the most of the battery's charge. You can check how much range the car has left, and lock or unlock the doors, all through your smartphone.

My Car gives real-time updates on the car's status, such as tyre pressure, maintenance updates and total mileage.

With My Navigation, you can send your destination to the car with a simple tap so the route is ready before you set off. Not only will it calculate the quickest route, My Navigation also provides tips and advice about where to charge on the way. My Navigation will even show you which destinations you can reach with your remaining range.

Thanks to autonomous emergency braking (AEB), the driver is protected from a moment's inattention. AEB will warn the driver if a collision is likely and apply the brakes if they don't respond. The system's sensors can detect pedestrians and cyclists as well as other cars, helping to protect the most vulnerable road users.

The 500e also comes with a fatigue monitor which picks up on signs that the driver is becoming tired and advises when it's time to take a break.

For a small car, the 500e is big on safety tech.

STAYING CONNECTED

We all like to stay connected, wherever we are. The Cinerama Infotainment system keeps you informed and entertained, without distracting you from driving. The bright 10.25-inch display is clear and easy to use, while ultra-fast Bluetooth connects to your phone within five seconds. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard.

ELECTRIFYING LA DOLCE VITA

Life is too short to own a boring first car. The FIAT 500e shows that new drivers can enjoy style, safety, and the latest technology in an award-winning package.

The FIAT E-Grant makes the dream of owning an electric car a reality. Better for the environment, better for you. Drive *La Dolce Vita*.

NO MORE GREY

At Fiat, we've stopped building grey cars. Watch this video to find out why! https://youtu.be/uWLX94pzYVk

DRIVE THE FIAT SOUR

Find your closest FIAT Retailer and book a test drive! https://www.fiat.co.uk/test-drive

IMPORTANT QR CODE QUICK LINKS



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DVLA Website



RED Website



FIAT e-Grant

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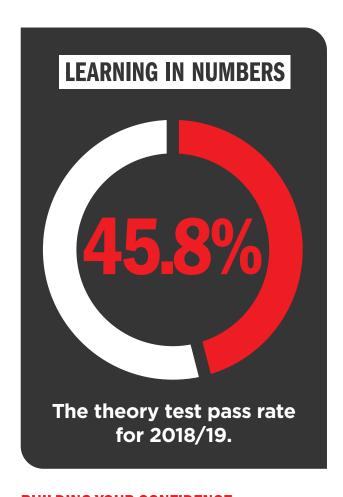
[†]Fiat e-Grant saves £3,000 from the retail price of a Fiat 500e. Offer applies to qualifying new vehicles ordered between 01/06/2023 and 31/12/2023. Selected stock and participating retailers only. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles UK Ltd t/a Fiat reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point. Offer correct at time of publication. Retail sales only. Fiat.co.uk

^{*}Fuel economy and CO2 results for the Fiat 500e Mpg (I/100km): Not applicable. CO2 emissions: 0 g/km Electric range: WLTP Combined cycle up to 199 miles for 500e. These figures were obtained after the battery had been fully charged. The 500e is a battery electric vehicle requiring mains electricity for charging. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and electric range figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

You're doing really well - here's how to keep on improving BY DAVID MOTTON





BUILDING YOUR CONFIDENCE

Everyone learns differently. Some people find controlling a car comes naturally, but struggle to memorise the Highway Code. Others are great at cramming for the theory test, but are borderline petrified of turning right.

As you start to find your feet as a learner driver, there are going to be good and bad days. When you do well and your instructor is pleased with your progress, give yourself a pat on the back. But remember there's still lots more to learn, so don't let success make you over-confident.

Likewise if you're struggling to park in the same postcode as the kerb, don't beat yourself up about it. You will get there with your RED driving instructor's help. Listen to them, take on board their advice, and don't give up!

Two of the biggest pitfalls when learning to drive are telling yourself you know it all already or believing you'll never be good enough to pass. You need to be your own biggest supporter and most honest critic.

To keep up momentum, make sure you have regular lessons. Taking a break is likely to set you back. Remember, learning to drive well takes time and commitment.

Regularly refer to your RED Progress Log. It will help you put things in perspective by showing how far you've come, and how much is left to learn.

Supportive friends can help, too. Tell your friends and family how you are getting on so they can share your successes and help you over any bumps in the road.

The <u>RED Road Brain Trainer</u> can be a huge plus if you need to build your confidence. This fantastic e-learning tool is designed to help you spot and assess potential risks – just like when you're driving during your lessons. It really does work! The pass rate for drivers who complete all the online modules improves by 14.2%. It's not just us saying that, it's been verified by Cranfield University. What's more, the RED Road Brain Trainer is available 24/7 to RED's learner drivers and it's absolutely free!



Regularly refer to your Red Progress Log. It will show how far you've come, and how much is left to learn



BOOK YOUR PRACTICAL TEST

The further you get through your RED Progress Log, the closer you will be to the day of your practical driving test.

You may be desperate to pass as soon as possible, but don't jump the gun. Talk to your RED driving instructor and ask them if they think you are ready. You'll also want to find out their availability and discuss the waiting time for a practical test in your local area. This tends to vary from test centre to test centre. Your RED driving instructor will know the score, and can advise on the most suitable DVSA test centre near you.

Waiting time tends to vary from test centre to test centre. Your RED driving instructor will know the score, and can advise on the most suitable DVSA test centre near you

WHAT WILL I LEARN WITH THE RED ROAD BRAIN TRAINER?

There are four sections made up of 27 modules, which you can complete and repeat as often as you like to boost your confidence and sharpen your skills.

READY TO GO!

This section will support your practical lessons with your RED driving instructor and give you a clear idea of the most important skills you need to become a good driver.

READ THE ROAD!

Learn how to anticipate what other road users will do next to keep you and your passengers safe. This module will help develop your hazard perception skills.

BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE!

This module will prepare you for your test and help you to deal with more complicated traffic situations.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

Learning doesn't stop on the day you pass! This section will help you prepare for your first unsupervised drive and beyond.





Booking a practical test is easy. Just go to the government website. You'll need:

- ✓ Your driving licence number
- ✓ A credit or debit card
- ✓ Your driving instructor's personal reference number if you want to check they are available

The practical driving test costs £62 if taken during the week. If you prefer to take your test in the evening or at a weekend it will cost £75.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

There's no substitute for professional lessons from your RED driving instructor. But it's really useful to reinforce what you learn with practice sessions in between formal lessons.

Before you go out on the road with a parent in the passenger seat, you'll need to have insurance cover. Your parents could add you as a named driver to their own insurance policy, but that can be costly and they may lose their No Claims Discount if you put a dent in the family

car. Another option is to arrange learner driver insurance with a provider like Marmalade.

Choosing learner driver insurance means you have your own cover for practising in a car belonging to a friend or family member. If you have a mishap you'll be able to claim on your policy, not theirs, so their No Claims Discount isn't at risk. The length of cover is flexible (with Marmalade, you can choose 30, 60, or 90 day policies), and the policy is fully comprehensive. It's affordable, too. At the time of writing Marmalade's learner driver insurance starts from as little as £1.69 per day.

Share your experience of learning to drive with friends on social media. Don't forget to tag us too!



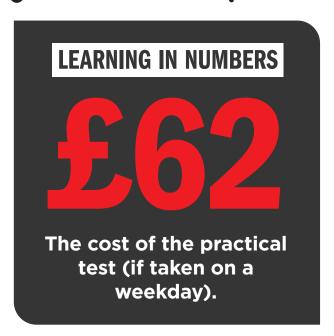
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Maybe you've developed a few bad habits over the years, but don't pass them on!



Practising with parents can be a little fraught. You don't want them to criticise your driving, they'll be nervous at letting you loose behind the wheel of their car. So here are some dos and don'ts for you - and mum and dad.

FOR YOU...

DO

- ✓ Discuss what you should practice with your RED driving instructor beforehand.
- ✓ Stay below the level you have reached with your instructor - you won't have the safety net of dual controls.
- ✓ Remember your friends and parents are trying to help. Try to take their advice on board.

DON'T

- ✓ Really complex traffic situations should be avoided, unless you are already dealing with them confidently and your instructor thinks you are ready to cope in a car without dual controls.
- ✓ Don't get angry. Everyone needs to keep their emotions in check for practice to be effective and enjoyable.

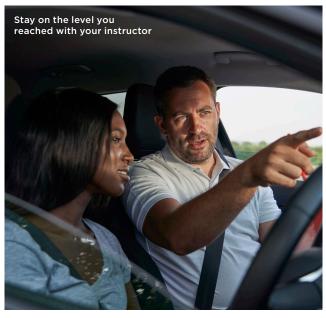
FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS...

DO

- ✓ Talk things through with the instructor. You need to make sure you are reinforcing their instruction, not contradicting it or confusing the driving student.
- ✓ Stay calm and positive. You need to build the driving student's confidence as well as offering constructive criticism when needed.
- ✓ Drive the driving student to an area with quiet roads until their instructor tells you they are ready to cope with more challenging road layouts and lots of traffic.

DON'T

- ✓ You may be nervous about sitting in the passenger seat while the driving student is driving, but don't let it show if you can help it - nerves can be contagious!
- ✓ Don't become angry if you can help it. Remember, the driving student needs your support and you've been driving a lot longer than they have.
- ✓ Maybe you've developed a few bad habits over the years, but don't pass them on! ■



IMPORTANT QR CODE QUICK LINKS



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Okay, your test is booked, you've been flying in your lessons and you've been practising hard in the family car. It's time for those all-important final steps.

By now, your RED driving instructor will be preparing you for the 'show me, tell me' questions.

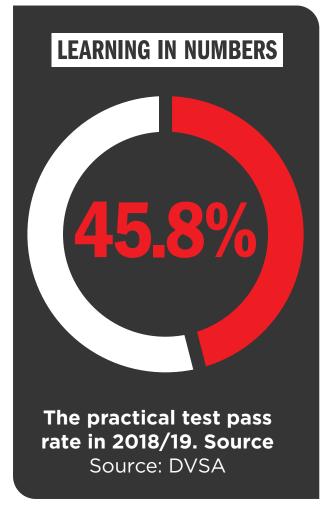
The 'tell me' question will be asked before the driving portion of the practical test starts. You'll have to explain how to perform a simple job, such as checking the car's tyre pressures.

The 'show me' question will be asked while you are driving. The examiner will want you to demonstrate how to perform a straightforward task, such as demisting the rear window.

Work on these with your instructor, and make sure you have a thorough understanding of the controls in the car you'll be driving during your test.

A week or so before your practical test, it helps to have a mock test with your RED driving instructor playing the





role of examiner. They'll get you to practice the 'show me, tell me' questions, and all the other skills you'll need to demonstrate to pass.

ON THE BIG DAY

You've put in the hours, you've concentrated in your lessons, and you've been practising hard with your friends and parents. In other words, you are ready for the practical test.

It doesn't matter how well you've been driving in your lessons, there are no guarantees. But you can maximise your chances.

The 'show me' question will be asked while you are driving. The examiner will want you to demonstrate how to perform a straightforward task, such as demisting the rear window.

BEFORE YOUR TEST

✓ Get a good night's sleep

Easier said than done if you're a little nervous, but a restful night will help you to perform at your best.

✓ Don't drink the night before

The evening before your driving test is not the time for a night out at the pub or to have a few mates round. Even if you have sobered up fully by morning (and you could still be over the limit) you'll be more tired than if you'd avoided alchohol completely.

✓ Wear comfortable clothes and shoes

Flip flops or high heels aren't easy to drive in. Choose sensible shoes that allow you to operate the pedals easily, and wear clothes you feel comfortable in.

✓ Stay fed and hydrated

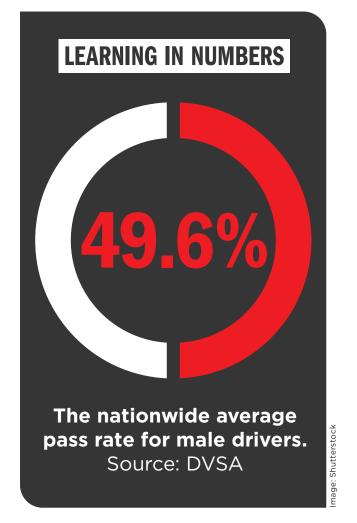
A healthy snack, like a banana, and a couple of glasses of water will keep your energy levels up. Food and drink will also stop you being distracted by hunger and thirst.

✓ One last lesson

Many drivers find it useful to have one final lesson immediately before the test itself. It helps to settle nerves and gets you into the swing of driving.

✓ Remember the paperwork

Don't forget your provisional licence and your theory test pass certificate. You'll need them to take the test.







AFTER YOUR TEST

✓ Well done!

Whatever the result (and obviously we hope you pass!), congratulations on making it through. The practical driving test is a big milestone in your life.

✓ Be ready for good or bad news

The pass rate for the practical test is just 45.8% nationwide, so more candidates fail than pass. RED learner drivers have a much better chance of good news with a first-time pass rate of 64%. They also pass more quickly than average. Even so, don't kick yourself too hard if you fail, it's a setback not the end of the world.

✓ Let the world know how you got on.

Go to our Facebook page and the Review Centre, and tell other learner drivers about your experience. We value honest feedback, too, so don't be afraid to speak up if you think there are things we can do better.

So if you realise you've made an error, don't panic. You need to make no more than 15 driving faults to pass, and no serious or dangerous faults

DURING THE TEST

✓ You don't have to be on your own

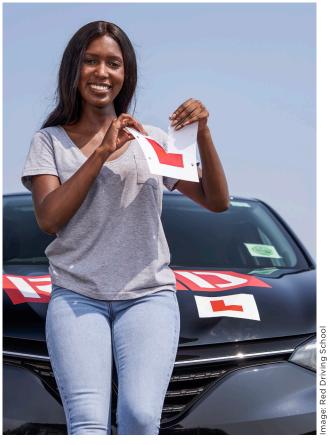
Throughout the learning process, there's been one person who has been with you through thick and thin. Yes, we're talking about your RED driving instructor. They can ride in the back during the test if you think it will help your confidence – although they won't be able to intervene or offer any advice.

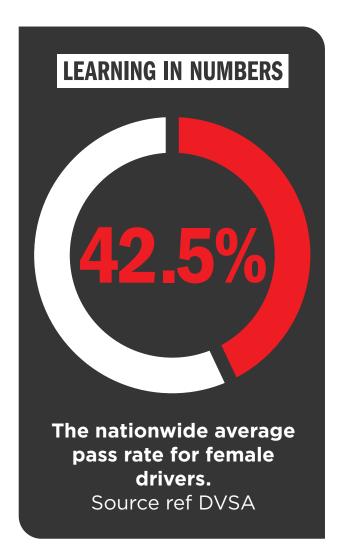
✓ Stay calm and listen carefully

The examiner isn't going to ask you to do anything you haven't done before. You know how to reverse park, start on a hill, position your car at a junction – you have the knowledge and skill to pass, or your RED driving instructor wouldn't have encouraged you to put in for the test. So keep your cool. Listen carefully to what the examiner is saying, and ask them to clarify if you are confused about what they want you to do next.

✓ Don't panic if you make a mistake

Few candidates get through the test without making so much as one minor slip-up. You need to prove that you are safe and competent, not an absolutely perfectly driver. So if you realise you've made an error, don't panic. You need to make no more than 15 driving faults to pass, and no serious or dangerous faults.









DEALING WITH NERVES

It's only natural to be anxious before your practical test. Here are four tips to help keep your nerves in check

1 KEEP THE TEST DATE TO YOURSELF

If you think that having friends ask "Do you think you'll pass?" will only pile on the pressure, keep the test date to yourself.

2 DON'T AVOID DIFFICULT MANOEUVRES

Maybe there's a particular manoeuvre or type of junction you've been struggling with. Talk to your RED driving instructor and they'll help you to practise until you feel confident.

3 PICTURE PERFECTION

Before the test starts, imagine yourself performing the manouevres you'll be asked to tackle. Picture yourself making a perfect parallel park, or a textbook hill start. See every step of each manoeuvre clearly. You can do the same in the test.

4 DON'T WORRY, STAY FOCUSED

Easy to say, not so easy to do. But if you spend your driving test constantly thinking about what might go wrong you aren't focusing on how to drive at your best. Stay in the moment and concentrate.



Just stay in the moment and concentrate

HOW TO COPE IF YOU FAIL... AND IF YOU PASS

Whether the news is good or bad, here's how to handle it.

IF YOU'VE FAILED

- ✓ Don't think you're the only one. It happens to a lot of learners, and there's plenty of evidence that drivers who fail first time go on to be safer drivers in the long run.
- ✓ Listen carefully to the examiner when they explain why you failed, and discuss it with your RED driving instructor. Come up with a plan between you to address your weaknesses and be a better driver next time.
- ✓ You may feel down, but don't take a long break from driving as your skills will get rusty. Book some more lessons and be ready to take another crack at the practical test soon.



- ✓ Congratulations! Your driving licence is a passport to independence and freedom. Take a few moments to let the achievement sink in and enjoy it.
- ✓ Don't fall into the trap of believing you are now a perfect driver. The first few months of independent driving are packed with potential danger, and overconfidence can lead to rash decisions.
- ✓ Think about extra tuition, Think about extra tuition to help sharpen your driving skills or maybe a <u>Pass</u> Plus course. ■



Don't think you're the only one. It happens to a lot of learners, and there's plenty of evidence that drivers who fail first time go on to be safer drivers in the long run.

IMPORTANT QR CODE QUICK LINKS



My RED App



DVLA Website



RED Website



GOV Website

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



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@reddrivingschool



REDDrivingSchool

AFTER YOU'VE PASSED THE TEST

Congratulations! But this isn't the end of the road - it's the beginning

BY DAVID MOTTON

GETTING READY FOR THE ROAD

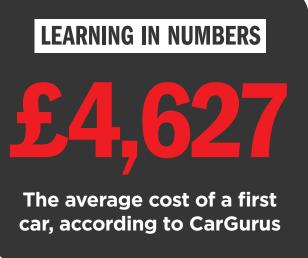
First, the good news. You have passed your test! Your provisional licence has been swapped for a full one, and you can now drive on the road without an instructor or parent beside you.

Now, the not-so-good news. Young drivers are hugely over-represented in crash statistics. You have proven you can drive safely to pass the test, but you are still very inexperienced. And it's easy to become over-confident after passing.

If you bought a bundle of lessons from RED and still have some left over when you pass, don't just waste your cash. Use them for extra instruction to help push your skills beyond the minimum level required to pass the driving test. Even if you've used up all your lessons it's a smart move to have some more, maybe a lesson on the motorway if you didn't opt to have one while you were learning, or perhaps a <u>Pass Plus course</u>.

Maybe you feel you've had enough of being told how to drive, and you just want to get out on the road and enjoy it. That's understandable, but don't forget there are other benefits to Pass Plus as well as improving your







- ✓ Dual carriageways
- ✓ Motorway driving
- ✓ Rural roads
- ✓ Complicated city situations
- ✓ All-weather conditions
- ✓ Night driving

Pass Plus is affordable, reduces your risk of an accident, and cuts the cost of insurance. What's not to like?

YOUR FIRST CAR...

Everyone remembers their first car. It pays to choose wisely if you want to remember it for the right reasons.

RED Driving School recommends the <u>Renault Clio</u>. It's used by many of our instructors, so there's a good chance you'll have learned to drive in one as a RED customer. That means everything will be reassuringly familiar as soon as you get behind the wheel.

We think the Clio is very stylish. We know looks shouldn't matter(!), but we all know they do when choosing a car you'll be proud to own.

More importantly, the Renault Clio ticks all the sensible boxes, too. It's easy to drive, and the range of efficient engines makes it affordable to run. Perhaps most importantly, the Clio is a very safe first car – it scored the maximum five stars when tested by the safety experts at Euro NCAP.

If you are lucky enough to be able to afford a new Renault Clio, then great. If not, there are plenty to choose from on the used market. Take a look on <u>Auto Trader</u>. The nationwide database of used cars for sale will help you track down a car in your area within your budget.

driving. Many insurers offer discounts to young drivers who have completed a Pass Plus course. The tuition is not expensive, especially if your local authority supports young drivers in your area by contributing to the cost – some authorities chip in as much as half the price.

Pass Plus courses take six hours in total, and will teach you about these aspects of driving:



It's used by many of our instructors, so there's a good chance you'll have learned to drive in one as a RED customer

INSURING YOUR CAR

Insurance is the biggest running cost young drivers face. The price of cover if you have just passed your test is genuinely scary. One recent survey put the average cost of fully comprehensive insurance for a new driver at £1141. That's an average, remember. Many young drivers pay much, much more.

WHY IS INSURANCE SO EXPENSIVE?

Young drivers are a bad risk. As an individual, you could be one of the most safe and careful young drivers on the road. But as a group of people, young drivers have more accidents than any other.

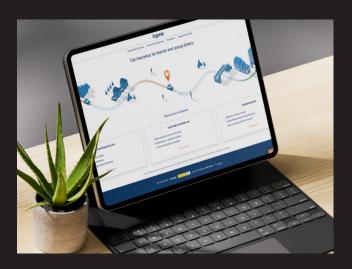
So, until you have proven that you stand out from the not-so-careful crowd, you're going to be hit with a high insurance bill.

HOW CAN I BRING DOWN THE COST?

First of all, choose the right car. Cars are rated in groups from 1 to 50 for insurance purposes. As a young driver, you want to find a car with a rock-bottom insurance grouping. It's likely to be a small car with a small engine. To keep costs down, don't modify it. A loud exhaust, lowered suspension or a bodykit will all push up the cost of cover.

You might think that third party or third party, fire and theft policies will be cheaper than fully comprehensive. It usually doesn't work that way, as in the past insurers have found that high-risk drivers tend to opt for a low level of cover to save money. So nowadays comprehensive cover is typically cheaper. It's much better to be comprehensively covered anyway.





WHAT ABOUT TELEMATICS INSURANCE?

Telematics (or black box) insurance policies are usually the best bet for young drivers. Your car is fitted with a 'black box' which reports back to your insurer. It monitors how and when you drive. Break the speed limit at 2am and your insurer won't be impressed. But drive sensibly, smoothly, and within the speed limit, and your premium will come down when it's next re-assessed. In just a few months, good driving could see you save hundreds of pounds.

RED has teamed up with the young driver insurance specialist, <u>ingenie</u>, to offer a discount of 5% to RED customers. Log into your <u>MyRED</u> account and follow the links to claim the discount.

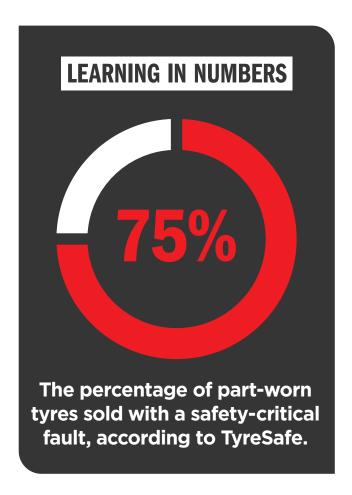
To help you track your progress, ingenie sends feedback on your driving every 10 days along with a driving score out of 100. You'll also be told how much you are on track to save. The premium is reviewed three times a year and good driving is rewarded with a lower premium.

Be warned, though. Accelerate and brake hard or drive too fast and the premium could increase. So it's much better to drive by the book and save yourself a lot of money.

But drive sensibly, smoothly, and within the speed limit, and your premium will come down when it's next re-assessed

RUNNING YOUR CAR

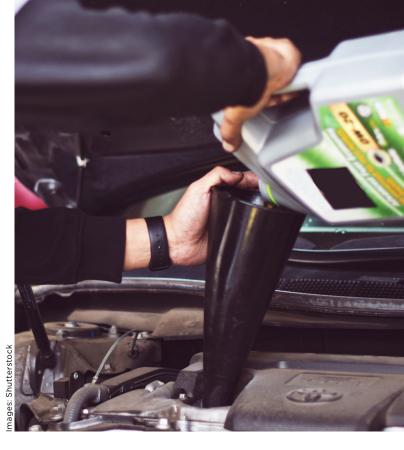
Insurance is likely to be your biggest running cost as a young driver, but there are others.



FUEL BILLS

Fuel isn't cheap, as you'll have discovered the first time you filled up. You can keep the cost down if you are careful.

- ✓ Keep your car's inflated to the correct pressure. It's not only safer – it's more fuel efficient.
- ✓ Stick to the speed limit and drive smoothly. Driving quickly will burn more fuel, as well as landing you in trouble if you are caught over the limit.
- ✓ Leave windows and sunroofs shut, as this reduces aerodynamic drag and improves fuel economy.
- ✓ If your car is fitted with air conditioning, don't always use it if you can travel comfortably without it. The air conditioning increases fuel use.



MAINTENANCE

Prevention is better than cure, as they say. Simple regular maintenance won't take long, will help you stay safe, and save you money.

- Check oil levels regularly. Don't rely on a warning light on the dash - by the time it comes on it could be too late, and you'll face a big repair bill.
- ✓ Do simple things yourself, like changing the wiper blades when they are worn out. The car's handbook should explain how, and there are lots of blogs and YouTube 'how to' videos which can help too.
- ✓ When your car needs a service, shop around for a good price. Find a garage with a good reputation and check online reviews.

BREAKDOWN COVER

You don't have to have breakdown cover, so you may think of it as an unnecessary expense if you are on a tight budget. But if your car does fail, it will be very expensive to have it towed to a garage if you don't have breakdown cover.

- When deciding which breakdown cover to choose, make sure you are comparing like for like. For example, some policies include homestart (fixing the car if it breaks at home), some don't. The <u>RAC</u> is a good option.
- Don't pay for extras you will never need if you have no plans to drive abroad then don't pay for European cover.
- ✓ If you drive more than one car, consider a package which covers you personally rather than one specific vehicle.



Drive magazine gets to know Dave Dunsford who presents RED's test tips videos on YouTube

BY DAVID MOTTON

There's a lot to take in when you're learning to drive. It really helps to reinforce what your RED instructor teaches you in between lessons.

That's where RED's new 'Test Tips' videos come in. They're a great way to get a head start on what you are about to learn, or to underline skills you've just developed.

One of RED's top driving instructors, Dave Dunsford, presents each video in his own unique style. Dave doesn't just teach learner drivers, he's qualified to train RED's instructors. So you can be sure that he really knows his stuff.

If you're thinking that means the 'Test Tips' films are dry and boring, you couldn't be more wrong. Dave may be an expert on driving, but listening to his advice is not like being lectured by your least favourite teacher.

"I can't take things too seriously – I'm quite an easy-going guy," says Dave. "I realised that outtakes were going to be part of the appeal of the videos. There's a lot on the cutting room floor that I'm glad they didn't put in that was just me being me!"

In the last 10 minutes you start to think it's almost over and you might relax and switch off. But if you can't concentrate for 40 minutes you shouldn't be on the road!

There are five videos in the 'Test Tips' series, covering everything from independent driving to parallel parking. Each video is only a minute or two long, but it's amazing how much useful advice Dave can squeeze into 90 seconds.

"I'd like to think that anyone watching the videos has fun," Dave says. "When they go back to playing Fortnite or watch the next video clip they should have a smile on their face. The fun element helps us get serious points across. Without realising it people will have picked up a lot."

SECOND TIME LUCKY

He might be one of RED's top instructors now, but Dave still remembers what learning to drive was like. "It was about 27 years ago – I didn't pass first time. My test was a bit hit and miss. I went to pull out in front of a bus and stalled. Instead of doing the right thing which would have been to secure the car and wait I just dumped the clutch and flew off!

"When I got back and the examiner failed me I said 'What are you talking about? There was a lot of skill in pulling in front of that bus!"

Second time around Dave went into the test better prepared and with a different attitude. "My instructor probably called me a couple of expletives at the time! He told me to slow down. I was rushing and a bit anxious, like most pupils are. I just wanted to get the test done."

Dave still uses his experiences as a learner in his teaching today. "It's a good bit of advice that I still give to my pupils



now - the first 10 minutes and the last 10 minutes of the test are most important. The stuff that happens in the middle will just happen.

"For the first 10 minutes you're going to be a bit nervous but you need to hit the ground running. As soon as you start the car up you've got to be on the ball straight away. In the last 10 minutes you start to think it's almost over and you might relax and switch off. But if you can't concentrate for 40 minutes you shouldn't be on the road!

"That's the advice my instructor gave me and it helped me pass second time. Settle in, focus, and don't stop concentrating until the examiner says 'Can you switch the engine off and make yourself comfortable?' They're the words you want to hear!"

FROM CABBY TO INSTRUCTOR

Cutting a long story short, Dave went from newly qualified driver to London cabby to driving instructor. The career change allowed Dave to combine his interest in driving with the teaching skills he'd picked up as a judo instructor.

"I was getting in a rut. My wife said, 'You've been teaching judo all these years, and you've been a cabby for years. You love teaching and driving, so look at this advert for being a driving instructor.'

"I thought 'Hang on a minute, it might suit me. She might be on to something.' So I signed up and that was it."

It wasn't long before Dave qualified to teach instructors as well as learner drivers. "I loved teaching pupils and I loved the job satisfaction, but I realised I didn't just want to be a instructor. So I asked about being a trainer. They must have seen something in me because I was fast-tracked to teach both qualified drivers to a really high level and to teach instructors. I've been teaching driving instructors for at least five or six years now."

When he's not teaching the teachers or filming the 'Test Tips' videos, Dave still loves teaching learner drivers. "The buzz you get when they pass! And the feeling when they fail... It either pushes you on to do better, or you sit back and want everyone to look at you. 'Did you see that lady pass? It was all me. All me!'"



SEE DAVE ONLINE!

They must have seen something in me because I was fast-tracked to teach both qualified drivers to a really high level and to teach instructors.



HOW TO BOSS INDEPENDENT DRIVING

What will I learn?

This video talks you through the independent driving element of the practical test, which now lasts for around 20 minutes. Dave explains how to position a sat nav safely, and how to stop sat nav becoming a distraction.

What's Dave's top tip?

"Learners quite frequently get caught out for speeding, because they rely on the sat nav. You should rely on the road signs to tell you the speed limit."

DRIVING IN WET WEATHER

What will I learn?

All about how to cope when driving in the rain, from making sure your wipers are working properly, to how to adjust your stopping distance, to driving through shallow water.

What's Dave's top tip?

"My top tip for keeping your distance on faster moving roads is easy. We need to have a two-second gap, so you need to pick a fixed point, take the fixed point, then say 'only a fool breaks the two-second rule'. In wet weather, just say it twice, so that gives you a four-second gap."



POLLING BACK IN TOO SOON CANSES ROAD PAGE

HOW TO OVERTAKE SAFELY

What will I learn?

You'll find out how to overtake safely and legally. Dave explains the importance of looking for oncoming vehicles, the road signs you need to watch out for, and he outlines the risks of pulling in too quickly.

What's Dave's top tip?

"My top tip for overtaking is to remember: is it safe, is it legal, and is it necessary? You want to make sure you also use the MSM routine, which is Mirror-Signal-Manoeuvre. If you use those two together you'll be safe."

PARALLEL PARKING MADE EASY

What will I learn?

Dave explains how best to tackle this reversing manoeuvre, including how to control the car, the importance of observation, and most importantly of all - not panicking!

What's Dave's top tip?

"With modern-day cars, don't over-rely on cameras for reversing, or the mirrors. You must make effective all-round observation, so make sure you are looking in the direction of travel, and don't be afraid to stop and have an extra check."





WHEN AND WHERE TO PRACTISE MANOEUVRES

What will I learn?

Dave explains the importance of practising on a variety of roads, and how to choose the right time of day to practise.

What's Dave's top tip?

"When you're carrying out the manoeuvre, if there's noone around that's fine. If you do find another car comes along, you need to wait and stop and find out what they're doing. If they decide to go around, fantastic. If they wait, they're just being nice. Take your time and get the manoeuvre done. If you find that once you've nearly finished they start to move you need to stop. Just smile as they go past and have another go!"



RED'S SKID CONTROL TRAINING COURSE

Learn all the skills of winter driving and skid control at our own skid pan driver training centre at the spectacular Donington Park race circuit.

"RED's Skid Pan driver training course is an educational must for all drivers...and you'll also have a loads of fun!"

Britain's inclement weather means that most drivers will at some stage find themselves in a situation where the car is likely to break traction and skid. Our uniquely enjoyable skid control experience teaches valuable driving skills in a risk-free environment and we're confident you'll leave Donington Park a better, safer, road user.

"Tackling a skidding car is such an amazing experience"

Following a short safety briefing, you will venture to our skid pan area for a skid car experience based on a hydraulic skid frame built specially for the purpose. You'll understand about what actually makes a car skid and experience the feeling of loss of car control on ice and water and then, most importantly, you'll learn how to react quickly to put you back in control!

Our courses run throughout the year and this unique driving experience makes the perfect gift for any driver.



Click here to find out more and buy your voucher https://www.reddrivingschool.com/skid-pan-training-course/

Age and licence requirements

Minimum age: 17 years old. The course is suitable for all types of drivers and because it's RED owned, we're also able to run the course for those who have still to pass their driving test. But, if that's the case, we insist that you are currently trained to a level where you are competent with car control.

mages: Red Driving School (2)

How to beat driving test day nerves and prepare to pass your driving test

We've seen how anxiousness can hinder a learner driver's progress and how some very good candidates fail their driving test because of stress and nervousness on their big day. This has prompted us to use our expertise to create a specialist course designed to reduce the stress of learning to drive and helping people to cope with test day nerves.

The course is ideal for anyone who is anxious about learning to drive, who would get more out of their driving lessons by being more relaxed or who is looking for the best support to help them combat their nerves in the run up to their driving test.

A singe two-hour modules covers everything from driving anxiety to managing your test day and will increase your likelihood of passing your driving test and making all those training hours count!

Conveniently delivered in a two-hour live interactive webinar into your home or office, your specially trained tutor will welcome you to the virtual classroom and guide you through the steps to driving test success.

- 1. Understanding driving nervousness
- 2. Coping strategies and managing driving anxiety
- 3. Self-talk and breathing techniques
- 4. The role of brain-food, hydration and sleep in preparation for success
- 5. What to expect on the day
- 6. Conclusion and planning to pass

Click here to find out more and secure you place on the next course

https://www.reddrivingschool. com/driving-test-nervesonline-webinar/

Customers who have attended this course give it a 4.8 out of 5-star rating.





WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY

"RED's test day nerves webinar helped me to realise that taking care of myself and creating affective strategies for managing stress was very important. I believe it was pivotal in preparing me and allowing me to pass my second driving test attempt."

Katie from Nottingham

"The course gave me good techniques to help with my driving anxiety and helped me understand some of the reasons I might feel that way."

Course attendee July 2021



Contact Alchemis Communications, the Media Representatives for RED, the UK's largest and multi award-winning driving school.

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