

Parallel Parking: Project Worksheets

For this project you will:

- Read the Method notes below
- Determine your goals for the exercise
- Initially practise parallel parking for 20 to 40 minutes or as long as is required if this is not sufficient.
- Make a brief key point plan for further improvement
- Reflect on the outcome of the practise

Method

Spend as long as it takes to perfect your skill with this manoeuvre over at least two practise sessions.

Quiet suburban roads, or off road areas, are ideal. You should choose a road that is wide enough for other vehicles to pass while you are manoeuvring.

If you have two cars in the family, or a friend or relative with a car, it may be better to use that car for practice rather than incur the wrath of a stranger by repeatedly reversing around his/her vehicle.

Keep in mind that this manoeuvre is often tested using only one car. The DVSA do it in this way for convenience during the test – it's not always easy to find an appropriate space between two cars given the time constraints of the test. This is important because it can be easier to park in a tight space where there is another car for reference; because reversing into an empty, unbounded space is different to reversing into a clearly defined gap you may need to practise in order to get the required accuracy.

When you are easily able to meet the accuracy targets move on to a slightly busier location so that you are 'forced' to keep a good look out for other road users.

Read the achievement targets, plus any of your own, before you start reversing. And again after a couple of reverses; provisionally tick off those targets that you are happy with. It may take a few attempts, or sessions with your trainer, before you can consider ticking off all the targets.

To further assist your preparation for Part-Three, take along your copy of the DVSA Driving Manual. After 15 minutes, take a break and read about reversing to the left – are you following DVSA advice and practice?

Goals and reflection

Start by setting your goals for this exercise, revisiting them after completing other manoeuvring projects or practising manoeuvres covered earlier – how do the skills required in other manoeuvres affect your goals and outcomes for this manoeuvre?

Reflective notes are required for this project as are the 'working notes'.

Parallel Parking: Goals

Name: Date

The three main things that I want to achieve with regard to parallel parking are:

1.

2.

3

Now consider the evidence that will tell you that you have achieved your goals. What will be different, what will you see, hear and feel differently?

I will know when I have achieved the three goals above when:

1.

2.

3.

Parallel Parking: Achievement Targets

Name: Date

Using the scaling method, score yourself before and after your initial 20/40 minute practise. There are six assessment criteria therefore the average score for the exercise as a whole will be the total score divided by six. At the end of each session make brief key bullet point notes as a plan for improvement.

Topic	Score Before	Score After
<i>Before starting the parallel park manoeuvre I always:</i>		
Consider the safety and convenience of the location		
Look all around, front rear and blind-spots to ensure that it's safe to proceed before moving into the start position.		
<i>When reverse parking, I always:</i>		
Pull up parallel to, and about 1 metre (3 feet) from, the parked car. <i>Make sure that you make full use of the MSPSG routine when pulling up. Take care not to confuse following drivers.</i>		
Select reverse gear ASAP after stopping to give a signal to road users behind.		
Glance around frequently to check for other road users. <i>The same considerations apply as with other manoeuvres.</i>		
Park reasonably close (i.e., about 15 cm), and parallel, to the kerb when parking in a space of about one-and-a-half car lengths. <i>If you have control problems, start with a bigger imaginary parking space and gradually work down.</i>		
Total score		
Average score (total score divided by 6)		

Action required for improvement:

Parallel Parking: Reflection

Name: Date

Use this sheet to write your reflective notes about your parallel park experience.

Your completed notes form part of the coursework required for assessment. Please contact Training Support for details of how to submit your work.

- What have you learned?
- What have you learned about yourself?
- What do you need to improve?
- Where/how will you use the learning?

But you are not limited to these points and are encouraged to write anything that is relevant for you.