

Parallel parking answers

What skills should be in place before starting this manoeuvre and when should it be introduced?

Before starting this manoeuvre the learner should have straight reversing skills on both the left and right hand side of the road, angle start skills and possibly bay parking skills. Learners also need confidence to deal with traffic without getting 'flustered' - with this in mind the exercise should normally not be tackled for the average learner until they have around 25 hours experience - this figure will vary from learner to learner.

List the ideal outcomes for this lesson.

The pupil will:

- Recognise a safe, legal and convenient location
- Ensure that the road is clear before starting the manoeuvre
- Maintain full control of the car at all times while parking
- Maintain reasonable accuracy
- Use effective, all around, observation throughout the manoeuvre
- Deal with other road users appropriately

True or false: During the driving test candidates could be asked to reverse into a space of two car lengths between parked cars.

True. While it's useful to use one car when starting this exercise the learner needs the life skill to reverse park in different situations. The examiner's decision about whether to use one car or a two car gap will depend on the opportunities available on the test route for any given test.

What are the benefits of using a single car when starting to learn this manoeuvre?

While parking between two cars can often help the learner to line up when finishing the manoeuvre, the presence of a second car when first practising can be daunting for many.

By reversing into a large gap behind a single parked car you reduce the task demand because there is one less thing to worry about (hitting the car behind!).