

1 in 2 fail the driving test.
Relying on your instructor is NOT enough.



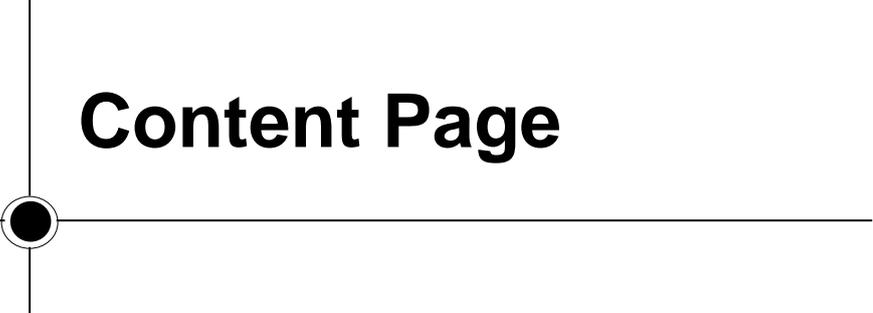
3rd
Edition

PASS YOUR DRIVING TEST WITH ONE TRY

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*"Your book is really useful and I find it very comprehensive.
It is a good preparatory resource book prior to the driving test"*

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6

Most Common Errors

No.	Error	Frequency
1	Strike kerb - Misc (26), directional change (22), parallel parking (19), vertical parking (15), crank course (7), s-course (3)	92
2	Fail to check blind spot/incorrect	74
3	Fail to confirm safety	63
4	Mount kerb - Directional change (15), misc (15), crank course (5), parallel parking (3), vertical parking (3), s-course (1)	42
5	Fail to check mirror	41
6	Turn steering wheel while vehicle is stationery	40
7	Fail to use appropriate gear	39
8	Insufficient acceleration	39
9	Change lane abruptly	37
10	Delay in moving off	34
11	Improper turning (wide turn, sharp turn, incorrect turn)	30
12	Incorrect braking technique	29
13	Cause other vehicle to slow down or take evasive action	24
14	Fail to slow down when approaching road hazards	23
15	Fail to use engine brake	17
16	Veer off course	17
17	Fail to look out for pedestrian	16

18	Speed too slow	16
19	Roll backwards	15
20	Fail to keep left (road hogging)	13
21	Fail to signal	13
22	Cause inconvenience to cross traffic	12
23	Incorrect positioning	12
24	Incorrect technique for ebrake	11
25	Proceed on amber light/blinking green arrow	11
26	Not enough side clearance given to other road users	9
27	Fail to look out for traffic	8
28	Move off in wrong gear	8
29	Fail to keep a safe following distance	7
30	Improper action causing accident/near accident	7
31	Require additional reverse manoeuvre	7
32	Change lane at bend	6
33	Fail to obey traffic rule	6
34	Fail to release handbrake	6
35	Fail to stop at stop line	6
36	Fail to give way to traffic	5
37	Fail to keep within lane	5
38	Turn into wrong lane	5
39	Fail to cancel signal	4
40	Drive across the centre line	3
41	Exceed speed limit	3
42	Fail to apply brake when vehicle is stationary	3
43	Fail to fasten seat belt	3
44	Fail to overtake when necessary	3
45	Stop on pedestrian crossing	3
46	Stopping inside yellow box	3
47	Unnecessary stopping	3

48	Fail to form up correctly in circuit	2
49	Fail to signal in good time	2
50	Fail to stop at zebra crossing	2
51	Cannot move back to left lane	1
52	Depress clutch unnecessarily	1
53	Fail to adjust mirror before driving	1
54	Fail to give way to pedestrian	1
55	Incorrect technique for moving up ramp	1
56	Release clutch	1
57	Slow in restarting stalled engine	1
58	Unable to drive up ramp	1

I have already went through how to avoid these common mistakes in the earlier chapters, especially the top 10 – 20 ones. However, I would like to share three observations that might not be so obvious from this table.

6.1 Mounting and Striking Kerb

First, mounting (no 1) and **striking kerb (no 4)** can happen anytime. I have never mounted or strike the kerb before in all my driving lessons, yet I mounted the kerb for an immediate failure during my first test.

Besides using the tips which were shared earlier on how to avoid mounting and striking the kerb, one other tip is to **identify the space your car occupies and the distance from the kerb**. If you can visualise that space, I guarantee that you will almost not commit this mistake.

Try this out by opening your car door from time to time at the different stations to see how far your front and back, left and right wheels are from the kerb. Do you tend to underestimate the distance of your front wheels and overestimate the distance of your back wheels from the kerb?

6.2 Psychology

Second, I would like to address the psychology of a test taker.

If we were to dig deeper into these mistakes, often times we can see that some mistakes were made due to a lack of focus/carelessness, such as veering off course.

So why did it happen?

It could be that you have committed a mistake, and you keep replaying that scene in your mind, causing you to lose focus for subsequent obstacles.

I know, because that was what happened to me. After mounting the kerb, which I had never done before, I kept questioning myself, did I really mount the kerb? I totally lost all semblance of focus, veered off course when I went out and even stalled at a junction. It was a nightmare.

The way to solve this is easy. Tell yourself now that you are bound to make mistakes. Almost no one gets a perfect 0. Don't beat yourself up when you realise you have just made a mistake. It is perfectly normal. Just focus on your next task.

Another thing to take note of is to NEVER EVER think that you have failed during the test. I have heard incidents where testers close one eye and let you pass, or they might have not seen your mistake. Retain your focus and do your best. Show your competence and your high regards for safety.

Finally, being able to handle your tester's style is of utmost importance. How do you react when your tester turns cranky and starts bellowing at you? Head to section 8 for more information.

6.3 Unpredictable Scenarios



Third, we must not ignore the possibility of unpredictable scenarios. These scenarios give rise to mistakes such as “causing other vehicles to take evasive action” which though may not be as common, is extremely fatal to your chances of passing if committed.

When such scenarios arise, a bunch of mistakes are also made at the same time. For instance, a car suddenly jam brakes in front of you. You swerve (veer off course, abrupt lane change, fail to signal, fail to check safety, fail to check blindspot) and cause other cars around to take evasive action.

The thing is through my research, these unpredictable scenarios can actually be predictable and prepared for. How so? Check out the next section to find out how.

End of Preview

I sincerely hope that you have managed to gain some insights from this free chapter and learn to be both more exam-smart and psychologically smart.

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