

Bay parking



The speed limit in car parks is often only 5mph and this is because it's difficult to see pedestrians walking between the parked cars & cars often pull out of spaces unexpectedly. Prangs in car parks are very common accidents. By driving very slowly you are less likely to hit something and if you do, you will cause minimal damage.



What do the examiners test?

On your driving test you may be asked to reverse into a parking bay or to drive forwards into one and then reverse out. You would not be penalised for cutting the side lines slightly when entering the bay but you must finish with all four wheels in the bay. You will also have to drive forwards into a bay to park at the end of your test.

- **Forward bay parking**

This manoeuvre takes place in a public car park. You can choose which bay to park in. There may be vehicles parked in neighbouring bays. After parking, you would be asked to reverse out of the bay to the right or left before driving forwards out of the car park.

- **Reverse bay parking**

This manoeuvre takes place at the driving test centre car park. You can choose which bay you would like to reverse into.



Car park security

Make sure you don't leave valuable items or bags on display in your car as they may tempt thieves. Try to park in areas where there are lots of pedestrians and at night choose somewhere well lit.

Pass your test with:

Wycombe Driving School

01494 718888

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Reverse bay park

Using clutch control reverse into the bay at a right angle, aiming to finish in the centre of it and parallel with the side lines. Start by positioning well away from the bays, as having more space makes it easier. Reverse back in a straight line until it is time to steer - your instructor will help you work out when this is. Check around, then steer to full lock to bring the nearest back wheel into the bay close to the first side line. Check your side mirror & if it looks like you will cut the line on the way in, straighten the steering for a while to avoid this. You can check your side mirrors occasionally but mainly look through your windows to monitor your position and keep safe. If you are about to cut the far sideline, stop and pull forward towards the opposite bay and then reverse back. When parallel with the lines, straighten your front wheels.



Forward bay park and reverse out

Using clutch control, approach the bays parallel to them and at least 1.5m from them. When your front bumper is roughly half way across the bay you are aiming for, quickly steer to full lock so the car turns at a right angle. Keep looking through your windows for hazards and to check your position.

If the bay you are aiming for has cars parked in neighbouring bays: approach as above but you will need to steer slightly earlier, when your front bumper is one third of the way across the bay you want to enter. Steering briskly, position the leading corner of your car close to the corner of the parked car that is furthest from you. As you continue into the bay, gradually steer the other way so the corner of your car remains close to the parked car. Imagine there is a paint brush attached to the corner of your car and you are trying to paint a stripe down the side of the parked car. When you are two thirds of the way into the bay, steer quickly back to straighten your car, then steer the other way to straighten your front wheels.

Reversing out of the bay: look through all your windows to check for hazards and for arrows on the road surface which may dictate which way to turn. If there are cars parked next to you, reverse back in a straight line until your steering wheel is roughly in line with the end of them before steering, to avoid swinging into them. Continue looking around for hazards throughout the manoeuvre.