

The clutch



Pushing the clutch down

The clutch is a link between the engine and the driving wheels of the car. You need to push the clutch down to break this link when you are stopping. If you stop without pushing the clutch down the car will stall. This is because the engine and wheels will still be connected, so when the wheels stop the engine stops too. You also have to push the clutch down to change gear.



Bringing the clutch up

To move off you must bring the clutch up to link the engine with the wheels again. You must move the clutch slowly at the point where the link is made otherwise the car will jerk or stall. This point is known as the biting point. You can tell when you have reached the biting point because the engine tone will sound lower. To move off smoothly and safely: i) press the gas so the engine sounds strong then bring the clutch up to the biting point; ii) look around, signal if necessary & release the handbrake; iii) bring the clutch up the thickness of a pound coin while pressing the gas pedal the same amount and wait until the car has moved half a car length; iv) bring the clutch all the way up with a little more gas.



Clutch control

If you need to drive extremely slowly in first or reverse gear, you should use a technique known as clutch control. Move the clutch above and below the biting point about the thickness of a pound coin to provide and cut the power as necessary. At the same time, move the gas pedal in the opposite direction - so your feet act like a see-saw.

Pass your test with:

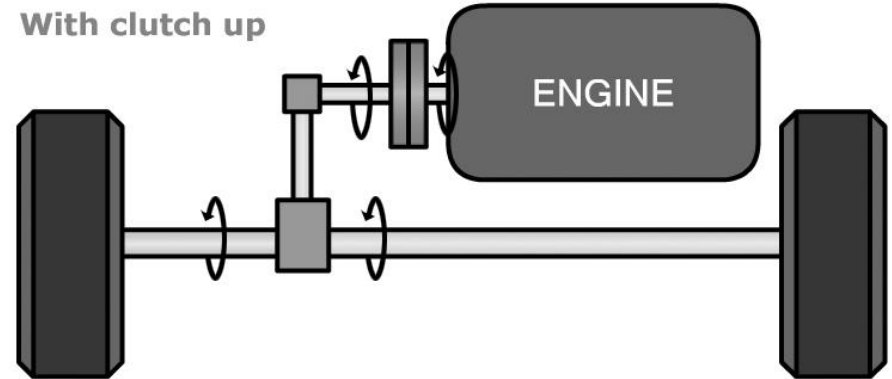
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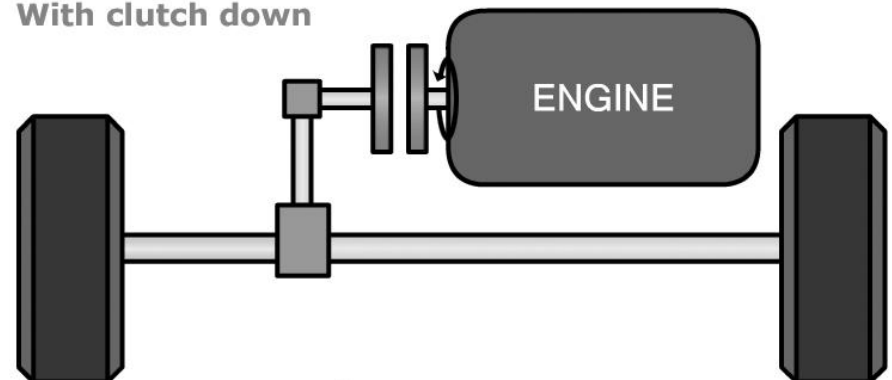
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With clutch up



With clutch down



At biting point

