

Parking at the side of the road



When parking at the side of the road you must choose somewhere safe, legal and convenient. Here are some examples of bad choices:
Unsafe - on a bend, brow of a hill, within 10 metres of a junction
Illegal - obstructing a road, on a pedestrian crossing, in a cycle lane
Inconvenient - opposite another parked car, on a steep hill



Ideally, park your vehicle off the road in a car park or layby. If you must park on the road, use the left-hand side whenever possible, as this will make it easier to pull off again later.



When parking on the road at night your vehicle must face in the direction of the traffic flow ie passenger side next to the kerb. If the road has a speed limit above 30mph you must also leave your side lights or parking lights on.



After parking, before you open your door, look at your side mirror and over your shoulder to check for other road users.



Pass your test with:

Wycombe Driving School

01494 718888

www.wycombedrivingschool.co.uk



Pulling over on the left-hand side of the road

- Check your rear view mirror to see how close any following vehicles are.
- Look ahead and find somewhere to stop that is safe, legal and convenient.
- Check your middle and left mirror and indicate left then slow down gradually while maintaining your normal road position.
- When you are at walking pace steer closer to the kerb - you need to be less than half a metre away from the it by the time you stop. Handbrake, neutral.
- When pulling off, use the POM routine.

Pulling over on the right-hand side of the road

- Check ahead and behind for traffic.
- Look for somewhere to stop that is safe, legal and convenient.
- Check your middle and right mirror and blind spot, indicate right and move towards the centre of the road. If there is a safe gap in the traffic ahead, drive diagonally towards the right-hand kerb, straighten up and keep driving forward until your car is parallel with the kerb and the front wheels are straight. Handbrake, neutral.
- If you have to wait for oncoming traffic to pass, position just left of the centre of the road as you would if you were waiting to turn right into a side road. Stop well back from where you intend to park so you will have enough room to straighten up on the other side of the road. Before driving across, make your observations again.
- On your driving test you will then be asked to reverse for about two car lengths. In real life you may have to do this if there is a parked vehicle in front of you that is restricting your view. As you reverse, mainly look through the rear window but also over your right shoulder to check driveways and for pedestrians on the pavement and use your right mirror to check your position. Keep checking for traffic and stop when a vehicle, cyclist or pedestrian passes you.
- Before pulling off again, check your middle and left mirror and left blind spot and when it is safe to, indicate left and drive immediately to the correct side of the road. If there is a parked vehicle in front, try to look through its windows for oncoming traffic, lean your body to the left to improve your view and pull out more slowly.