

## Steering

- ✓ The secret to successful steering is to look at what you are aiming for. It is natural to steer towards what you are looking at, so if a car is approaching on the other side of the road, look at the space you are heading for, not the car! It's just like walking through a door - you look at the space, not the door frame, right?
- ✓ To keep a steady course, it is important to look a long way ahead, mainly at the middle of your half of the road, but you must also scan the whole scene to look out for hazards and to help your brain with positioning. (Ask your instructor to demo a commentary scan).
- ✓ It's also important to relax. If you are gripping the wheel tightly and have stiff arms, it will be difficult to steer smoothly. When on a straight course, hold the wheel as gently as you would an egg and hang your arms loose, like they are coats on a peg.
- ✓ Remember your car has lots of windows, so use them all! Turn your head to look through the side windows before negotiating corners.

Here are some steering errors you should avoid:

**Crossing hands:** When taking one hand off the wheel to cross over, the other will be holding the wheel at an acute angle and might slip

**Freewheeling:** Letting the wheel spin back in your hands after turning reduces your control.

**Dry steering:** Turning the wheels when the car is stationary damages the tyres and strains the steering mechanism.

**Driving one-handed:** Keep both hands on the wheel for optimum control. And you never know when you might need to steer suddenly.

Pass your test with:

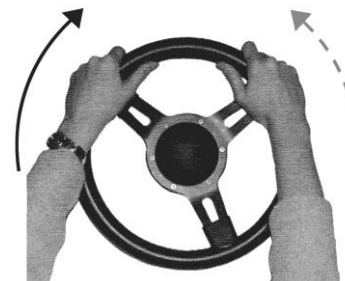
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## Pull push steering technique



### 1. Normal position

If you imagine your steering wheel as a clock face, your hands should normally be at ten to two or quarter to three. It is better to have your hands above the centre bar, rather than below it, because if you need to steer suddenly, it is easier to pull down than it is to push up. For small alterations in course, such as negotiating a bend, you should shuffle the wheel from hand to hand, using only the middle third of the wheel. However, for sharp steering, such as into a side road, the whole wheel should be handled - as explained below.

### 2. Leading hand

In our picture, the model is about to steer right so she has moved her right hand to the top of the wheel ready to pull down. (If steering left, her left hand would be at the top, etc).

### 3. Pull and slide

As the right hand pulls the wheel down, the left hand slides down on the other side. The two hands remain level as they move downwards and meet at the bottom of the wheel.

### 4. Push and slide

If more turn is necessary, the left hand then grips the wheel and pushes up while the right hand slides up and they remain level as they move towards the top of the wheel. These movements need to be repeated until sufficient turn is achieved.

### Straightening up

To straighten up, the wheel should be fed back through the hands using opposite movements to those used for the turn. The wheel should not be allowed to spin back through your hands.