

## Top Tips for Maximizing Your Private Practice Driving Sessions

Embarking on private practice driving sessions can significantly enhance your skills and boost your confidence behind the wheel. Whether you're preparing for your driving test or simply aiming to become a more proficient driver, these strategies will help you make the most of your practice sessions:

**Select the Right Partner:** When seeking assistance, approach a family member or friend who is comfortable and patient with teaching. Avoid enlisting the help of nervous individuals, as their unease might hinder your progress.

**Be prepared to teach them what you have learnt:** Bad habits creep into people's driving over the years and driving

**Get your accompanying driver to read your progress book:** Your driving instructor will write down the points you need to work on, at the end of each lesson. Before you start your private practice, get them to read what you need to work on and improve. This gives the drive a goal and a purpose, rather than just driving around.

**Familiarize Yourself with Your Vehicle:** Before hitting the road, take time to become well-acquainted with your car's controls. Spend a quiet moment getting a sense of the clutch, brakes, and other vital functions. Master the operation of lights, signals, and wipers to ensure you're fully in control.

**Plan Your Routes:** Begin your practice sessions in areas familiar to both you and your mentor. Start with roads you've covered in your formal lessons, as you're honing skills you've already acquired. Get the person with you, to give you precise directions – eg. At the roundabout go straight ahead 3rd exit – Rather than “Lets head towards Tesco”

**Don't attempt to learn new concepts before they've been taught in your lessons.**

**Gradual Progression:** Begin with short drives lasting around 20 minutes, gradually extending the duration as your confidence grows. This step-by-step approach helps you build competence without becoming overwhelmed.

**Utilize the MSPSL System:** Employ the MSPSL (Mirrors, Signal, Position, Speed, Look) system consistently during your practice sessions. By adhering to this approach, you'll cultivate driving habits that will serve you well throughout your life.

**Minimize Distractions:** Maintain a focused environment within the vehicle. Avoid overcrowding the car with family members, as unsolicited advice can be counterproductive. Concentration is key to refining your driving abilities.

**Handle Conflict Constructively:** Driving situations can occasionally induce stress. If tensions rise, refrain from engaging in arguments. Instead, find a safe spot to halt and communicate openly to resolve any issues.

**Document Your Progress:** After each practice drive, document your experience in the Private Practice Log. Take note of both successes and areas that require improvement.

Regularly reviewing your log will help track your advancements effectively.

By adhering to these expert tips, you'll harness the full potential of your private practice driving sessions. Enhance your skills, build your confidence, and set the stage for a lifetime of safe and adept driving.

## **FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DRIVER**

**What are the goals for today's driving practice?** (what are you going to focus on)

**What route are you going to take to help with this**

What time of day are you going to be going out? – Has the learner driven in busier traffic yet or driven in the dark?

What are weather conditions - Has the learner driven in them?

If the learner says "My driving instructor has told me to do it this way" be prepared to follow that instruction, over the years styles of driving change, road rules change and what is expected from learners can change beyond what we learnt when we were learning to drive.