

DRIVING SKILLS CHECKLIST

Student Driver	Never	Sometimes	Always
1. Knows location of gauges and safety devices and checks them before driving			
2. Adjusts seat, mirrors and seat belt			
3. Always wears seat belt			
4. Judges and maintains a safe following distance (three seconds) Count "1 - 1,000, 2 - 1,000, 3 - 1,000" between the time the back of a car in front of you passes a stationary object and the time the front of your car reaches the same spot.			
5. Demonstrates ability to back straight and turn while backing			
6. Is aware of other drivers' blind spots, especially large trucks			
7. Checks mirrors and blind spot (by looking over shoulder) before changing lanes			
8. Is aware of tailgaters and safely manages their own driving behaviors			
9. Anticipates and reacts properly to changing traffic lights			
10. Checks mirrors frequently			
11. Signals properly in advance of turns and lane changes			
12. Anticipates braking situations in time to avoid an emergency braking situation			
13. Appears relaxed and comfortable, yet alert and aware when driving			
14. Is comfortable driving at night			
15. Uses high and low beam headlights correctly			
16. Adjusts speed to road, traffic and weather conditions			
17. Is aware of and properly yields right-of-way to pedestrians			
18. Demonstrates smooth braking and acceleration techniques			
19. Demonstrates smooth movements and coordination while turning			
20. Demonstrates proper staging and yielding during unprotected left turns involving oncoming traffic			
21. Demonstrates ability to identify and interpret road signs			
22. Properly assesses intersections and right-of-way (no longer asks, "Is it OK to go?")			
23. Demonstrates ability to safely merge onto and exit from freeways			
24. Demonstrates ability to safely control vehicle on a variety of road conditions, including wet, snowy, and icy			