



# Parallel Park

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## Generally

You must finish:

1. Reasonably close to the kerb (no wider than about 25cm)
2. With a gap no bigger than a cars length between you and the vehicle in front
3. Without hitting the kerb
4. Parallel to the kerb
5. Having performed effective observation throughout and stopping if people or cars are within 5 seconds

How you choose to park is up to you; some prefer reference points, others just 'know' – both are fine.

If you make a mistake, you are allowed to make corrections but always look around before moving the car.

You are likely to fail your driving test if:

1. You mount the kerb or bounce off it with force
2. You fail to notice people or vehicles passing near you and don't stop for them
3. You fail to comply with point 1 to 5 above
4. You take too long to park and are a hindrance to others

## A Technique to Park

1. Ensure there is room to park behind your target vehicle (2 car lengths is maximum allowed)
2. Pull alongside with a gap of approximately ½ a metre between the sides of both vehicles
3. Stop, into reverse
4. 360 degree looks for movement, look over left shoulder
5. Reverse to turning point (when the rear of your vehicle is beyond the target vehicle)
6. 360 degree looks for movement, turn full left lock (1¼ turns)
7. Get vehicle to approximately 30/35 degrees to the kerb
8. 360 degree looks for movement, straighten up (1¼ turns to the right)
9. Drive to kerb, **getting slower the nearer you get** to your turning point, all the time 360 degree looks for movement
10. At the turning point (roughly 4 kerb widths away from the kerb or when the kerb lines up the bottom of the door handle in the small mirror), turn full right lock (1¼ turns)
11. As the vehicle is nearly parallel, start to straighten your steering so that you finish straightening as you get parallel to the kerb
12. Finish far enough away from the target vehicle to allow room to pull out again without having to reverse first but don't go further than 1 cars length away from it

## Problems

If you kiss the kerb whilst parking, go forward to the left to peel your rear tyre off the kerb. Then reverse to the right again and follow point 11 above (360 observation throughout please).

If you finish too far away from the kerb, pull back out the right and stop, reverse straight at the kerb and turn right later than you did last time, you should now finish nearer (360 observation throughout).