Driving Theory — the Foundations

Dave's Driving School — All vehicles

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A plain safety word. Driving law and test rules differ by country, and they change. This book teaches general driving knowledge only. It is not an official manual of any country. Always follow your own country's current official rules, the signs and instructions on the road in front of you, and the guidance of your qualified instructors.

Imprint

This book was written by the house for Dave's Driving School and is sealed under the name of **David Apana Takwi**, David Apana Takwi · dave.48hourrfprescue.com · info@dave.48hourrfprescue.com. It may be shared freely for learning. It teaches general driving knowledge only.

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How to use this book

Read a chapter, talk it over, then practise its lesson with your instructor in a safe place. Answer the review questions in your own words. Keep the checklists until they become habits. Where this book and your country's current official rules differ, the official rules win — always.

Chapter 1 — The Driver, the Vehicle and the Road

Driving is a system of three parts that must work together: the driver who decides, the vehicle that obeys, and the road that sets the conditions.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: attention is the driver's first tool; a vehicle in good order answers predictably; the road speaks through signs, markings and surface. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

Begin where every good driver begins: with understanding. Driving is a system of three parts that must work together: the driver who decides, the vehicle that obeys, and the road that sets the conditions — that is not a slogan but a description of what safe drivers actually do, journey after journey. Watch for it in drivers you admire. Notice how early they act, how calm their hands are, and how rarely they are surprised. Surprise, on the road, is usually the price of looking too late or assuming too much.

Then look closer. Attention is the driver's first tool; a vehicle in good order answers predictably; the road speaks through signs, markings and surface. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

Step by step

Work through this chapter's practice in order. One: read the chapter and say its main idea aloud in your own words. Two: watch the manoeuvre or situation as a passenger or observer, and name what the driver does and when. Three: practise it yourself at the lowest safe speed, in the safest place, until it feels ordinary. Four: practise it again on a different day, because a skill kept overnight is a skill truly learned. Five: ask your instructor to test you without warning, the way the road will.

Common mistakes

Learners most often rush this stage, copy the faults of impatient drivers around them, or practise only when conditions are easy. Another common mistake is silence: not asking the question that feels too simple. In a driving school there are no foolish questions — only unasked ones that the road later asks at speed. Name your difficulty early; that is what teachers are for.

A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because attention is the driver's first tool; a vehicle in good order answers predictably; the road speaks through signs, markings and surface, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and forgotten by the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

Checklist

Before you count this chapter as learned, be able to say yes to each of these: I can explain the main idea in my own words. I have practised it in a safe place with guidance. I know the common mistakes and can spot them in others. I know what my country's current official rules say about it. I can stay calm when it goes imperfectly and correct myself safely.

Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

Now take the lesson out of the book and onto the road, in the safest conditions you can choose. Tell your instructor beforehand which chapter you are practising, and agree together how it will be judged. Afterwards, while the journey is fresh, write down three things: what went well, what surprised you, and what you will do differently next time. This small habit of honest review, kept after every practice, is how ordinary learners become careful drivers — not by one great lesson, but by many small corrections willingly made. Repeat the practice on at least three separate days before you call the chapter finished: once in quiet conditions, once in ordinary traffic, and once when conditions are less kind, always with guidance and always within your country's rules. If any part still feels uncertain, that feeling is information, not failure — bring it back to your instructor and to this chapter, and practise again. The road rewards the driver who would rather practise once more than presume once too often.

Chapter summary

Driving is a system of three parts that must work together: the driver who decides, the vehicle that obeys, and the road that sets the conditions. Attention is the driver's first tool; a vehicle in good order answers predictably; the road speaks through signs, markings and surface. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 2 — How a Vehicle Moves and Stops

Every vehicle obeys the same physics: grip between tyre and road is what lets it steer, accelerate and stop.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: stopping distance grows with speed far faster than most new drivers expect, because thinking distance and braking distance both grow. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

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Then look closer. Stopping distance grows with speed far faster than most new drivers expect, because thinking distance and braking distance both grow. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

Step by step

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A worked example

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Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

Now take the lesson out of the book and onto the road, in the safest conditions you can choose. Tell your instructor beforehand which chapter you are practising, and agree together how it will be judged. Afterwards, while the journey is fresh, write down three things: what went well, what surprised you, and what you will do differently next time. This small habit of honest review, kept after every practice, is how ordinary learners become careful drivers — not by one great lesson, but by many small corrections willingly made. Repeat the practice on at least three separate days before you call the chapter finished: once in quiet conditions, once in ordinary traffic, and once when conditions are less kind, always with guidance and always within your country's rules. If any part still feels uncertain, that feeling is information, not failure — bring it back to your instructor and to this chapter, and practise again. The road rewards the driver who would rather practise once more than presume once too often.

Chapter summary

Every vehicle obeys the same physics: grip between tyre and road is what lets it steer, accelerate and stop. Stopping distance grows with speed far faster than most new drivers expect, because thinking distance and braking distance both grow. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 3 — Seeing, Thinking, Acting

Good driving is a rhythm: look far ahead, judge what may develop, decide early, and act smoothly.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: the driver who sees a hazard early almost never needs to brake hard. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

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Then look closer. The driver who sees a hazard early almost never needs to brake hard. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

Step by step

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A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because the driver who sees a hazard early almost never needs to brake hard, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and

forgotten by the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

Checklist

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Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

Now take the lesson out of the book and onto the road, in the safest conditions you can choose. Tell your instructor beforehand which chapter you are practising, and agree together how it will be judged. Afterwards, while the journey is fresh, write down three things: what went well, what surprised you, and what you will do differently next time. This small habit of honest review, kept after every practice, is how ordinary learners become careful drivers — not by one great lesson, but by many small corrections willingly made. Repeat the practice on at least three separate days before you call the chapter finished: once in quiet conditions, once in ordinary traffic, and once when conditions are less kind, always with guidance and always within your country's rules. If any part still feels uncertain, that feeling is information, not failure — bring it back to your instructor and to this chapter, and practise again. The road rewards the driver who would rather practise once more than presume once too often.

Chapter summary

Good driving is a rhythm: look far ahead, judge what may develop, decide early, and act smoothly. The driver who sees a hazard early almost never needs to brake hard. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 4 — Sharing the Road

The road belongs to everyone on it: pedestrians, cyclists, riders, cars, buses and the heaviest trucks.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: courtesy is not weakness; it is how strangers keep each other safe at speed. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

Begin where every good driver begins: with understanding. The road belongs to everyone on it: pedestrians, cyclists, riders, cars, buses and the heaviest trucks — that is not a slogan but a description of what safe drivers actually do, journey after journey. Watch for it in drivers you admire. Notice how early they act, how calm their hands are, and how rarely they are surprised. Surprise, on the road, is usually the price of looking too late or assuming too much.

Then look closer. Courtesy is not weakness; it is how strangers keep each other safe at speed. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

Step by step

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Common mistakes

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A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because courtesy is not weakness; it is how strangers keep each other safe at speed, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and

forgotten by the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

Checklist

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Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

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Chapter summary

The road belongs to everyone on it: pedestrians, cyclists, riders, cars, buses and the heaviest trucks. Courtesy is not weakness; it is how strangers keep each other safe at speed. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 5 — Speed and Space

Speed is chosen, never suffered: the careful driver picks a speed for the road, the weather and the view ahead.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: a generous gap ahead is the cheapest safety device ever made. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

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Then look closer. A generous gap ahead is the cheapest safety device ever made. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

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Common mistakes

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A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because a generous gap ahead is the

cheapest safety device ever made, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and forgotten by the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

Checklist

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Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

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Chapter summary

Speed is chosen, never suffered: the careful driver picks a speed for the road, the weather and the view ahead. A generous gap ahead is the cheapest safety device ever made. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 6 — Weather, Light and the Road Surface

Rain, dust, fog, glare and darkness each change what the vehicle can do and what the driver can see.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: the first minutes of rain are the most slippery, when oil and dust lift from the surface. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

Begin where every good driver begins: with understanding. Rain, dust, fog, glare and darkness each change what the vehicle can do and what the driver can see — that is not a slogan but a description of what safe drivers actually do, journey after journey. Watch for it in drivers you admire. Notice how early they act, how calm their hands are, and how rarely they are surprised. Surprise, on the road, is usually the price of looking too late or assuming too much.

Then look closer. The first minutes of rain are the most slippery, when oil and dust lift from the surface. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

Step by step

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Common mistakes

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A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because the first minutes of rain are the most slippery, when oil and dust lift from the surface, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and forgotten by the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

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Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

Now take the lesson out of the book and onto the road, in the safest conditions you can choose. Tell your instructor beforehand which chapter you are practising, and agree together how it will be judged. Afterwards, while the journey is fresh, write down three things: what went well, what surprised you, and what you will do differently next time. This small habit of honest review, kept after every practice, is how ordinary learners become careful drivers — not by one great lesson, but by many small corrections willingly made. Repeat the practice on at least three separate days before you call the chapter finished: once in quiet conditions, once in ordinary traffic, and once when conditions are less kind, always with guidance and always within your country's rules. If any part still feels uncertain, that feeling is information, not failure — bring it back to your instructor and to this chapter, and practise again. The road rewards the driver who would rather practise once more than presume once too often.

Chapter summary

Rain, dust, fog, glare and darkness each change what the vehicle can do and what the driver can see. The first minutes of rain are the most slippery, when oil and dust lift from the surface. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 7 — Tiredness, Health and the Mind

A tired driver reacts like a slow driver, and a distracted driver reacts like a blind one.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: never let a phone, an argument or pride take the wheel from you. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

Begin where every good driver begins: with understanding. A tired driver reacts like a slow driver, and a distracted driver reacts like a blind one — that is not a slogan but a description of what safe drivers actually do, journey after journey. Watch for it in drivers you admire. Notice how early they act, how calm their hands are, and how rarely they are surprised. Surprise, on the road, is usually the price of looking too late or assuming too much.

Then look closer. Never let a phone, an argument or pride take the wheel from you. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

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A worked example

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Chapter summary

A tired driver reacts like a slow driver, and a distracted driver reacts like a blind one. Never let a phone, an argument or pride take the wheel from you. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

Chapter 8 — The Journey, Planned Whole

A safe journey begins before the engine starts: route, fuel, load, rest and a vehicle checked over.

The heart of the matter is simple to say and a lifetime to master: arriving a little late is a small thing; not arriving is everything. In this chapter we take it slowly, in plain words, the way Dave's school teaches everything — first the idea, then the habit, then the practice.

First, understand

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Then look closer. Arriving a little late is a small thing; not arriving is everything. Break the skill into its small parts and practise each part separately, in a quiet and safe place, with your instructor beside you. Small parts learned well join together into smooth, whole driving; small parts skipped return later as faults that are much harder to unlearn.

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A worked example

Picture an ordinary journey — a market day, traffic building, weather turning. The driver who has learned this chapter well does nothing dramatic. Because arriving a little late is a small thing; not arriving is everything, the difficulty is met early, handled gently, and forgotten by

the next junction. That quietness is the mark of real skill: passengers arrive relaxed, other road users are never startled, and the vehicle comes home unmarked.

Checklist

Before you count this chapter as learned, be able to say yes to each of these: I can explain the main idea in my own words. I have practised it in a safe place with guidance. I know the common mistakes and can spot them in others. I know what my country's current official rules say about it. I can stay calm when it goes imperfectly and correct myself safely.

Review questions

1. In your own words, what is this chapter's main idea? 2. Why does it matter for safety? 3. Describe a real road situation where it applies. 4. What is the commonest learner mistake here, and how is it avoided? 5. What do your country's official rules say? Answer honestly; where you cannot answer, that is tomorrow's lesson.

Practise it on the road

Now take the lesson out of the book and onto the road, in the safest conditions you can choose. Tell your instructor beforehand which chapter you are practising, and agree together how it will be judged. Afterwards, while the journey is fresh, write down three things: what went well, what surprised you, and what you will do differently next time. This small habit of honest review, kept after every practice, is how ordinary learners become careful drivers — not by one great lesson, but by many small corrections willingly made. Repeat the practice on at least three separate days before you call the chapter finished: once in quiet conditions, once in ordinary traffic, and once when conditions are less kind, always with guidance and always within your country's rules. If any part still feels uncertain, that feeling is information, not failure — bring it back to your instructor and to this chapter, and practise again. The road rewards the driver who would rather practise once more than presume once too often.

Chapter summary

A safe journey begins before the engine starts: route, fuel, load, rest and a vehicle checked over. Arriving a little late is a small thing; not arriving is everything. Learned patiently and practised honestly, this chapter's lesson will serve you on every journey you ever make.

A last word from the school

Driving is freedom with responsibility attached. Learn patiently, drive carefully, and arrive — every time. Dave's Driving School is proud of every learner who chooses care over hurry.

A plain safety word. Driving law and test rules differ by country, and they change. This book teaches general driving knowledge only. It is not an official manual of any country. Always follow your own country's current official rules, the signs and instructions on the road in front of you, and the guidance of your qualified instructors.

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