



Building Better Drivers, One Teen at a Time.

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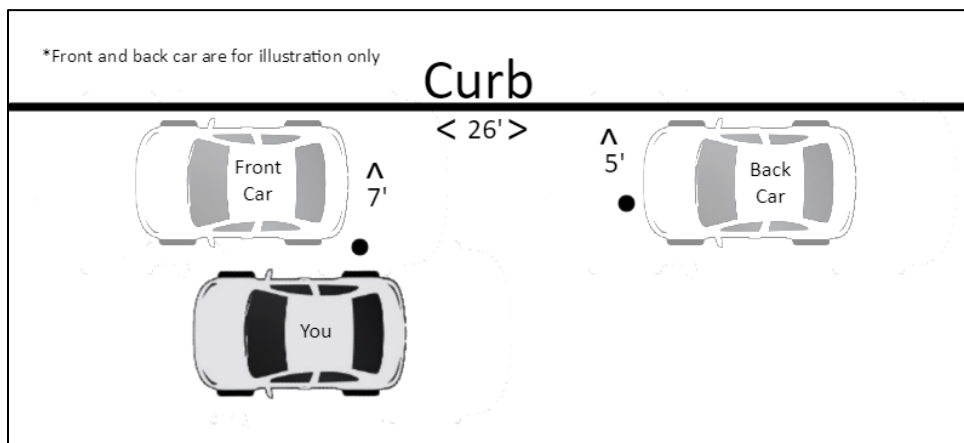
Parallel Parking

The Set Up:

- Poles are set 26 feet apart
- The rear pole is 5 feet from the curb
- The front pole is 7 feet from the curb
- Use anything that you have at home to simulate a pole setup. A wastebasket with a broom or mop or a folding chair with a broom or mop between the seat and seatback so the handle stands up straight. (Do not use siblings, family members, or any other human being as poles).

Points: Parallel parking is worth 9 points on the road test.

- Turning on right turn signal 10 feet before you get to the first pole.
- Final position being 6-18" from the curb.
- Turning on left turn signal before exiting.
- Checking left blind spot just before exiting.

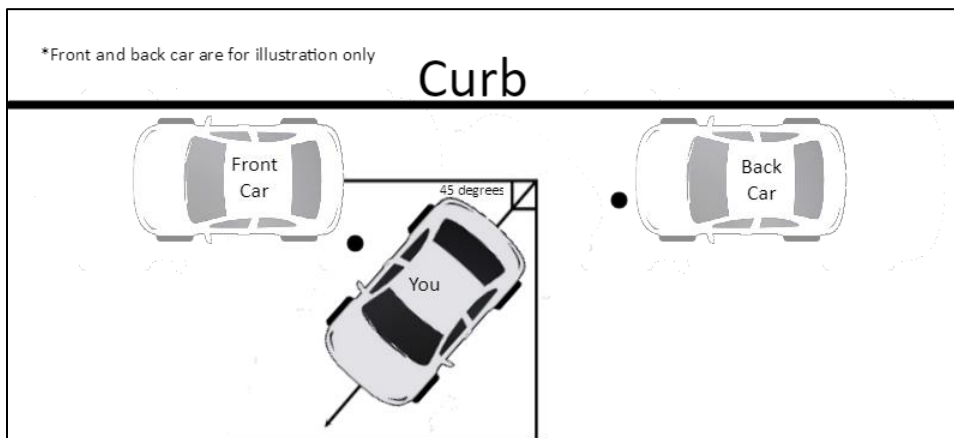


The Approach:

- **BEFORE** you get to the back pole (10 feet before), turn on your right turn signal.
- Approach **VERY SLOWLY** (1-2 miles per hour), parallel with the curb.
- Your **right mirror** should be 4 inches from the front pole.
- Maintain a **VERY SLOW** speed (1-2 miles per hour) and proceed to a starting position so that the front pole is at the rear axle of the vehicle. (To determine where the rear axle is and where you will see it from your perspective, it is suggested that when practicing at home you, under safe circumstances, get out of the vehicle and visually inspect where the pole lines up with the rear axle.) **STOP**

The Maneuver:

- **Step One:** Turn the steering wheel all the way to the right, put the vehicle in reverse, and ease up on the brake pedal to begin backing in. Slight pressure should be applied to the brake pedal to maintain a **VERY SLOW** speed.
- Back the vehicle to a 45 degree angle from the curb. At this point the front pole should be visible at the midway point of the front, passenger window. **STOP**
- **Step Two:** Turn the steering wheel all the way to the left and ease up on the brake pedal to continue backing in. Slight pressure should be applied to the brake pedal to maintain a **VERY SLOW** speed.
- When the curb appears parallel with the vehicle in the right mirror **STOP**, straighten the wheel (turn the steering wheel 1 ½ turns to the right), and put the vehicle in park.
- At this time the evaluator will open the passenger door and look for 6-18" from the curb.



The Exit:

- Turn on the left turn signal.
- Put the vehicle in Drive.
- Turn the wheel all the way to the left.
- Just before easing off the brake, look over your left shoulder at your blind spot.

Troubleshooting:

- It is important for the starting position (distance from the front pole and how far forward the vehicle is in relation to the pole) to be consistent.
- There are two ways to assess how far to back into the spot, initially:
 - Choose a landmark to measure 45 degrees (draw an imaginary line down the middle of the car that extends to this landmark)
 - Put a sticker or Post-It Note (sticky book tabs work well) on the door to line up with the pole as they back in on the first step of the maneuver. If after the second step you are too close to the curb, move the sticker back on the door. If after the second step you are too far from the curb, move the sticker forward on the door to get deeper in the spot.
 - The sticker may be left on the door during the road test.
- The most common error is going too fast. The foot should be applying brake pressure throughout the entire maneuver.
- Practice makes perfect. The more the student practices, the higher their confidence level will be when taking the test. We recommend practicing 2-3 times every 7 days until the test is taken. This way it is fresh in the student's minds and they are in the habit of going through the process.