

Getting around



Learner guide

Ready for work

Pre-employment skills

Getting around

Version 1.2



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Transport options

There are many ways to get around in your local area. You can walk, drive a car or motorbike, or take public transport. Public transport includes bus, train, tram and ferry.

How you travel will depend on where you are going. If you are going a long distance, where there is no public transport, it may be best to drive. If you need to go somewhere that is near a train station, taking public transport may be the best option.

This learner guide will talk about driving and using public transport as ways to get around.

Important notice for trainers and learners

The driving laws may differ between the states and territories. The laws are also often changed. The laws mentioned in this learner guide are a guide only. Please check the laws in your state or territory.



Driving

People want to drive for many reasons:

- Driving gives you freedom.
- Driving gives you independence.
- Driving provides a challenge.
- Driving can be fun.

However, driving can also be very dangerous. Every year hundreds of Australians are killed or seriously injured in road accidents. A large number of the people who die are young drivers. This is often because they haven't had much driving experience. You must always take driving seriously.

The costs involved

Before you decide to get your licence and maybe buy a car, think about how much it will cost.

When you add up all the costs for getting your licence and running your own car, it can become quite expensive.

Here is a list of the costs you should consider.

What it is	What it means
Licence fees	You need to pay a fee to get your L-plates, P-plates and full licence, including the tests and any administration fees.
Registration	Registration is a government charge that every driver must pay. This money is used to help pay for building and maintaining roads.
Insurance	If you have car insurance and have an accident, you only have to pay a set amount for the repairs. Your insurance company pays the rest. The younger and less-experienced you are, the more you must pay for insurance.
Fuel	Fuel (petrol, gas or diesel) can vary greatly depending on the type of fuel your car needs and where you purchase it from.

What it is	What it means
Servicing and repairs	Cars last longer if you maintain them well and have them serviced regularly. This is like spending money to save money in the long term. This includes your tyres, which don't last forever. By law, tyres must be in good condition to drive safely.

Research your state or territory's fees. Add all these costs together to work out the total cost of getting your licence and running your car.

Learning to drive

Once you are 16 years old you can start learning to drive. First, you must get a learner's permit. To get this permit you must:

- pass a theory test about road rules and driving
- have an eye test
- pay a fee
- provide a photograph of yourself and identification.

Once you have done these things, you are given your learner's permit. This allows you to drive when there is an adult with a full licence sitting next to you. You must also display L-plates on the front and back of the car you are driving.

Note: The rules for when you can drive differ between the states and territories. The information provided here is general. Check the rules for your state or territory.



Who can teach you?

Your teacher can be anyone who has a full licence and a good driving history. A full licence means the person is a more-experienced driver and is not on a probationary (P-plate) licence. The person may be a parent or you may use a professional driving school.

Driving schools charge money, usually per lesson. You can find driving schools in your area using the internet.

Call some driving schools to find out how much they charge. They may also be able to tell you the number of driving lessons you'll need.

Story

Kelvin's father is quite nervous about teaching him to drive, so first he sends Kelvin to a driving school. He has 10 lessons. After that, Kelvin's father feels more confident. He lets Kelvin drive him around the quiet streets in their neighbourhood. Kelvin thinks he'll go back to the driving school when he's ready to get his P-plate licence. In the meantime he has plenty of time to get more experience, as he's only 16 years old.



Licence rules and regulations

When you get your learner's permit you are given a learner kit and a logbook. The logbook is used to record the hours of driving practice you do. This must be filled in by the person teaching you to drive. You must also sign it.

As a learner driver, you must do at least 120 hours of supervised driving. When you are driving you must:

- always have a fully licensed driver with you
- always have your learner's permit with you
- display your L-plates in the front and back of the car you are driving
- never use a mobile phone – not even a hands-free phone
- always have a zero blood alcohol level – in other words, never drink any alcohol and then drive
- not tow a trailer or other vehicle.

There may be other rules depending on your state or territory, but these are the main ones.

If you are under 21 years of age, you must have your L-plate for at least one year before you can apply for your probationary licence.

To find out more information about the rules for learning to drive in your state or territory, access one of these websites.

State or territory	Website
Australian Capital Territory	http://aspirelr.link/driver-licence-act
News South Wales	http://aspirelr.link/licence-nsw
Northern Territory	http://aspirelr.link/transport-nt
Queensland	http://aspirelr.link/driving-qld
South Australia	http://aspirelr.link/licences-sa
Tasmania	http://aspirelr.link/licence-tas
Victoria	http://aspirelr.link/vicroads
Western Australia	http://aspirelr.link/licence-wa

Activity 1

Access the website listed in the table for your state or territory. Then answer the following questions.

1. Did you learn anything new about getting a licence in your state or territory? If so, what?

2. Learners must never use a mobile while driving, even one that is hands-free. Why is using a mobile phone dangerous?

3. Why do you think you must have your learner's permit with you in the car when you are driving?

[Click to complete Activity 1](#)

Driving by yourself

You can only drive by yourself when you have a probationary licence (your P-plates). You can apply for a probationary licence when you:

- have had your learner's permit for at least one year
- have had at least 120 hours of supervised driving practice
- are over 17 or 18 years of age (depending on your state or territory).

Then it is time for more tests. These may include an eye test, a hazard perception test and a driving test. Here is some more information.

Test	What it means
Eye test	The eye test will make sure you can see well enough to drive, with or without glasses.
Hazard perception test	The hazard perception test checks that you can recognise and react to different traffic hazards. These include other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and even animals. The test uses short videos of traffic situations. The test is available in many languages.
Driving test	The driving test is very strict. Some people may have to do it more than once if they don't pass the first time. The government officers taking you for the test must be sure you can drive alone safely.

Getting your P-plates

When you pass the three tests you are given a P1 licence. There are a number of restrictions with a P1 licence including the following:

- There may be a limit on the number of passengers (according to their age) you can have in the car.
- You must not use a mobile phone, not even a hands-free phone.
- You must not drive high-powered cars. These are cars with 8-cylinder or super-charged engines.

Western Australia also has restrictions on night-time driving for P-plate holders. Check to make sure you know the current rules for your state or territory.

You must stay on a P1 licence for at least one year. After that, if you have a perfect driving record, you are given a P2 licence for 1–3 years depending on your state or territory. P2 licences also have restrictions. Once you have held your P2 licence for the required time, you can apply for a full licence.



Activity 2

Many fatal crashes happen when a young driver has many passengers. Why do you think this is the case? Give at least **two** reasons.

[Click to complete Activity 2](#)

Following road signs

You must always follow the road signs when you are driving. It is important to know what the signs mean. Signs may:

- tell you what you can and can't do; for example, a stop sign or speed limit sign
- warn you of a danger ahead; for example, a railway crossing sign
- guide you; for example, tell you the name of the road.



Speed signs

You must know the various speeds at which you are allowed to drive in your state or territory. Always look out for speed signs. In most residential areas the speed limit is 50 km per hour (km/h). Some areas – such as school zones or very busy shopping areas – are only 40 km/h.

Freeways and highways may be 100 or 110 km/h, but there are often signs to slow down. This may be due to traffic conditions, an accident or road works. You must always follow speed signs to ensure you are driving safely.

Other road signs

There are many other road signs and signals to look out for. These include the following.

What the sign looks like	What it means
<p data-bbox="400 589 469 622">Stop</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 624 1294 701">A stop sign tells you to come to a complete stop before entering the intersection.</p>
<p data-bbox="373 965 496 999">Give way</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 1001 1286 1155">A give way sign tells you to let other vehicles pass or cross first, or give way to oncoming traffic. You should only go when it is safe to do so.</p>
<p data-bbox="373 1341 496 1375">No entry</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 1377 1281 1487">If you see a no entry sign, do not enter the road. If you do, you may be driving the wrong way down the road.</p>
<p data-bbox="320 1718 555 1751">Bus or tram stop</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 1753 1241 1863">A bus or tram stop sign tells you that the bus or tram will stop here. It will let passengers on or off at this place.</p>

What the sign looks like

Railway crossing



What it means

A railway crossing warns you that there are train tracks ahead. A train may be passing. Slow down when you see this sign. That way you will have enough time to stop if you need to.

Limited parking times



A limited parking sign tells you how long you can park in an area. This sign says 1P. It means you can park here for 1 hour.

Resident parking permit zones



A resident parking permit zone means only people who live in that street can park there. They have a permit to do so, and they must display it in their car. This sign means that between 7.30 am and 11.00 pm, only people with permits can park in this area.

Driving safely – what to do

The following information is about the important things to remember when driving.

What to do	What it means
Wear your seatbelt	<p>By law, every person travelling in a car must wear a seatbelt. This law was made in 1970. Since this time, the number of road deaths has greatly decreased.</p> <p>Children must sit in a special child seat, suitable for their age, in the back seat. Children should not sit in the front passenger seat. It is much safer for them in the back.</p>
Keep calm and concentrate	<p>When driving, keep calm. Pay attention to your own driving, rather than getting annoyed by what other drivers do. Road rage is very dangerous and it may result in an accident.</p> <p>If you see someone driving dangerously, try to avoid them. Pull over or let them pass you. Never get out of your car to argue over a road incident.</p>
Allow space	<p>You need to leave enough space between your car and the car in front. That way if the car ahead of you stops suddenly, you won't crash into them.</p> <p>Leave at least two seconds between you and the car in front. To do this, check when the car in front passes something such as a telegraph pole. It should be two seconds before you pass it. If it is less than two seconds, you should slow down.</p> <p>When you are stopped behind another vehicle, such as at traffic lights, you should be far enough away from it to see the bottom of their rear tyres. That way if they roll back, they won't hit your car.</p>

What to do	What it means
Plan ahead	<p>Think about the route you are going to take. Work out the lane you should be in, ahead of time, to avoid crossing over many lanes at once.</p> <p>If you are going to turn a corner, change lanes or park your car, signal early – not at the last minute. This is how many accidents happen.</p>
Overtake safely	<p>Overtaking is dangerous, so do it carefully. Make sure overtaking doesn't take you over the speed limit. The road ahead must also be clear. Only overtake when you are sure you have enough space, so you don't cut off the driver you are overtaking. Never stop other drivers from overtaking you.</p>
Service your car and check your tyres	<p>Service your car regularly. This means your car will be safe to drive and should not break down.</p> <p>You should also check your tyres every few months. Make sure they have an even tread and that they are inflated to the right level for your car. Flat and worn tyres are dangerous.</p>
Stay safe	<p>When driving, lock your car doors, especially if you are stopped at traffic lights.</p> <p>Have a pen and paper in your car. You need them to take down any details if you have an accident.</p> <p>Don't get out of your car if someone approaches you angrily or if you are annoyed with another driver.</p> <p>If your car breaks down, pull as far off the road as you can. Put the bonnet up and the hazard lights on. Call someone for help. Stay with your car until help arrives.</p>

Driving safely – what not to do

There are also a number of things you should not do when driving. Remember, these rules are for your own safety and the safety of other people on the roads.

Don't drink or take drugs and drive

You should never drink alcohol and drive. Alcohol reduces your ability to:

- make decisions
- pay attention
- react quickly
- make judgments
- judge distances.

A blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test measures the amount of alcohol in your body. If your BAC is 0.05 your chances of having an accident doubles. In Victoria, 25% of young drivers killed have a BAC over 0.05. L-plate and P-plate drivers must have a BAC of 0.00.

There are very heavy fines and penalties, such as losing your licence, for driving with a BAC over 0.05.

Police now also test drivers for drugs as well as alcohol. They can test for cannabis, speed, ice and ecstasy.

If you have been sick, your doctor may give you a prescription drug. Sometimes these cause drowsiness. Ask your doctor if it is safe to drive when taking such medication.

You should also never be a passenger in a car with someone who has been drinking or taking drugs. Offer to drive them yourself, if it is safe for you to do so, or find another way home.



Don't use a mobile phone

People with an L-plate or P-plate licence are not allowed to use a mobile phone – not even a hands-free phone – when driving.

No-one is allowed to use a hand-held phone while driving. Full licence holders can use a hands-free phone. However, this is still thought to be dangerous. Talking on the phone may distract you when driving. It is very hard to concentrate on a conversation as well as the road.

Texting is also strictly forbidden for everyone when driving. There is no safe way to watch the road and write a message at the same time.



Don't drive when you are tired

It is estimated that tired drivers cause about 25% of fatal accidents. If you are going on a long trip here are some tips:

- Be sure you have had a good sleep before setting off.
- Take regular breaks; for example, every two hours.
- Share the driving with another person and swap over regularly.
- Take a break if you start to yawn, daydream or have sore eyes – these are signs of tiredness.



Activity 3

1. Use the following table to list **three** things you should do and **three** things you should not do to stay safe when driving.

What you should do	What you should not do

2. Have you ever seen someone talking on their mobile phone or texting when driving? How did it make you feel?

3. What would you do if a friend with a full licence offered to drive you home when they are obviously drunk?

[Click to complete Activity 3](#)

Using public transport

In Australia, public transport includes buses, trains, trams and ferries. Using public transport may save you money and time.

To use a public transport system you need to know what ticket or travel card to have. You also need to plan your time well by using a timetable.



Before you travel

There are a few things to find out before you travel. For example, do you need a ticket or travel card?

The ticket systems in Australia are different in each state and territory. For example, in Melbourne (Victoria), you need a travel card called a Myki to use on trains, buses and trams. You first need to top up the card with money to make sure you have enough for your trip. Then, when you get on or off public transport, you 'touch on' or 'touch off'. This means you place your travel card near a machine that reads your card. It then knows how far you have travelled, so you can be charged for the trip.

In some cases, you may need to buy a paper ticket or pay with cash. Make sure you have the correct change for paying smaller amounts.

You may be able to get a cheaper ticket if you have a student card or concession card. Make sure your card is valid and keep it with you when you travel.

Trips may also be cheaper if you buy a multiple-trip ticket. For example, it may be cheaper to buy a weekly or monthly ticket if you travel each weekday.



Useful information

For more information about the public transport system in each state, access the following websites. They tell you the:

- cost of tickets
- best way to get from one place to another
- types of public transport available.

State or territory	Website
Australian Capital Territory	http://aspirelr.link/transport-canberra
New South Wales	http://aspirelr.link/transport-nsw
Northern Territory	http://aspirelr.link/transport-nt
Queensland	http://aspirelr.link/transport-qld
South Australia	http://aspirelr.link/transport-adelaide
Tasmania	http://aspirelr.link/transport-tas
Victoria	http://aspirelr.link/transport-vic
Western Australia	http://aspirelr.link/transperth-wa

Google Maps also has information about public transport for many cities.

Activity 4

Access the website for your state or territory from the previous list. Pretend you want to travel from where you live to a place you haven't been before. Find out how you could get there.

- What number bus, train, tram or ferry would you take?
- What times could you go?
- How much would it cost?

[Click to complete Activity 4](#)

Benefits of using public transport

There are many benefits of using public transport. Here is some more information.

Benefit	What it means
<p data-bbox="336 562 504 595">Saving time</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 600 1286 674">You may save time using public transport as:</p> <ul data-bbox="687 689 1267 987" style="list-style-type: none"> • you can plan your trip and know exactly when you will arrive because the transport is set to a timetable • you don't need to spend time looking for a parking space • in a car you may be held up in traffic jams, by accidents or by road works.
<p data-bbox="323 1046 517 1079">Saving money</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 1084 1214 1200">It can cost a lot of money to buy and run a car. You need to pay for petrol, insurance, servicing and repairs.</p> <p data-bbox="679 1229 1267 1303">If you travel by public transport, you just need to pay for your ticket.</p>
<p data-bbox="331 1429 512 1503">Saving the environment</p> 	<p data-bbox="679 1464 1286 1827">Public transport is much better for the environment than driving a car. Buses, trains and trams and ferries produce much less pollution than a car. Even if you only use public transport a few times a week you are helping the environment. For example, Yarra Trams in Melbourne says that one full tram means 140 fewer cars on the road.</p> <p data-bbox="679 1861 1254 2018">Buses, trains and trams also use less energy and are more fuel-efficient than many cars, so public transport saves resources, such as oil, as well.</p>

Activity 5

What would be the most important benefit for you of using public transport? Why?

- Saving time
- Saving money
- It's better for the environment

[Click to complete Activity 5](#)

Safety on public transport

Travelling by public transport is actually safer than travelling by car. One British study found that people are nine times more likely to die travelling by car than by train. An American study found that travelling by bus is 79 times safer than travelling by car.

It has also been found that people who travel by public transport may be healthier. This is because they often need to do some walking to and from the bus stop or train station.

One thing you do need to think about is staying safe when you are travelling alone. It is best to make sure there are other people in the train carriage with you. If you are on a bus or tram, sit up near the driver.

Try not to travel alone late at night or in deserted areas. It is also a good idea to have someone waiting to pick you up at your stop, so you don't have to walk home in the dark.



Reading timetables

When you use public transport you need to know how to read a timetable so you can plan your trip. You need to know when you can catch your transport and what time it reaches your destination.

By reading a timetable carefully you can work out how long your trip takes. If you have to be somewhere at a particular time, you can decide which train or bus to catch.

Timetables may differ. If your trip is for a long journey, the timetable may just give the departure time and the time you arrive at your destination. If you are travelling by bus, tram or train around a city, the timetable may list the time you reach each stop.

Timetables are displayed at train stations and bus depots. You can also get paper copies or access them on the internet. Sometimes they also appear on a notice at each bus stop or train station.

Here is an example of part of a bus timetable.

Bus 86 – From Smithton Station to City Place						
Bus stops	Monday to Friday					
Smithton Station	7.00 am	7.15 am	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am
Hill Street	7.15 am	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am
Morse Road	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am	8.45 am
Lang Road	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am	8.45 am	9.00 am	9.15 am
Ray Place	8.10 am	8.25 am	8.40 am	8.55 am	9.10 am	9.25 am
King Street	8.30 am	8.45 am	9.00 am	9.15 am	9.30 am	9.45 am
Clyde Road	8.35 am	8.50 am	9.05 am	9.20 am	9.35 am	9.50 am
City Place	8.50 am	9.05 am	9.20 am	9.35 am	9.50 am	10.05 am

The left column lists each place where the bus stops; for example, Hill Street or Ray Place.

Then, the times listed next to each stop are when the bus stops there, from Monday to Friday.

The timetable shows that buses leave Smithton Station every 15 minutes from 7.00 am.

Using a timetable

It is a good idea to work backward when reading a timetable. This means using the time you need to be somewhere to calculate what time you need to leave. For example, using the previous timetable, if you need to be at Clyde Road at 9.30 am, which bus should you take from Smithton Station?

Look at the times the bus arrives at Clyde Road. Move your finger along the times for Clyde Road. There is one bus arriving at 9.20 am, and one at 9.35 am. The one arriving at 9.35 am would arrive too late. You would need to take the bus that gets to Clyde Road at 9.20 am. Place your finger on this time, then trace it back up the times, until you get to the Smithton Station time. This tells you that if you need to be at Clyde Road by 9.30 am, you would need to catch the 7.45 am bus from Smithton Station.

Timetables are often different on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. On these days, fewer people travel, so there may be fewer buses running. For example, buses may run every 30 minutes on a public holiday, rather than every 15 minutes. When you are checking a timetable, make sure it is for the right day.

Activity 6

Use the timetable to answer the following questions.

Bus 86 - From Smithton Station to City Place						
Bus stops	Monday to Friday					
Smithton Station	7.00 am	7.15 am	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am
Hill Street	7.15 am	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am
Morse Road	7.30 am	7.45 am	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am	8.45 am
Lang Road	8.00 am	8.15 am	8.30 am	8.45 am	9.00 am	9.15 am
Ray Place	8.10 am	8.25 am	8.40 am	8.55 am	9.10 am	9.25 am
King Street	8.30 am	8.45 am	9.00 am	9.15 am	9.30 am	9.45 am
Clyde Road	8.35 am	8.50 am	9.05 am	9.20 am	9.35 am	9.50 am
City Place	8.50 am	9.05 am	9.20 am	9.35 am	9.50 am	10.05 am

1. What time does the first bus leave Smithton Station?

2. What time does the 7.30 am bus from Smithton Station get to Lang Road?

3. If you lived in Hill Street what time is the first bus you could catch on a Monday?

4. How long does it take the bus to get from Smithton Station to City Place?

[Click to complete Activity 6](#)

What you have learnt

Put a ✓ in the box when you have learnt these things.

- There are many ways to get around in your local area. You can walk, drive a car or motorbike, or take public transport. Public transport includes bus, train, tram and ferry.
- Before you decide to get your licence and maybe buy a car, think about how much it will cost.
- Once you are 16 years of age you can start learning to drive, once you have a learner's permit.
- You can only drive by yourself when you have a probationary licence (your P-plates).
- There are four stages to getting a full licence: an L-plate for one year, then a P1 licence, then a P2 licence, then a full licence.
- At each stage there may be tests, and there are restrictions.
- You need to know and understand the road rules, signs and regulations for the state or territory where you live.
- Some important rules are:
 - wear your seatbelt
 - don't use a mobile phone
 - don't speed
 - don't drink alcohol or take drugs
 - remain calm.
- Before you travel, you need to have the right ticket or travel card.
- Using public transport may save you time and money and is better for the environment.
- Be alert when travelling alone on public transport. Try not to travel by yourself late at night.
- A timetable tells you what bus, tram or train to catch, when it will arrive and how long the trip will take.

Check your learning

1. Think about the things you should **never** do when you are driving.

Think about the things you should **always** do when you are driving.

Now, use what you know to:

Give a short talk to your classmates about safe driving.

OR

Create a poster or brochure about driving that would be useful for new drivers. You can use drawings, pictures, words or diagrams on your poster. Try to make it as eye-catching as possible.

OR

Write about experiences you have had in cars that show good or bad driving.

2. Create a poster to let people know about the benefits of using public transport. You can use drawings, pictures, words or diagrams on your poster. Try to make it as eye-catching as possible.

OR

Write and give a short speech to encourage people to use their cars less often.

[Click to complete](#)

Answers

Answers to activities

Activity 1

Answer to Question 1

Answers will vary depending on where the learner lives, and how much they already know about getting a licence. For example, a young person may learn that you can get your P1-plates at age 17 in Queensland.

Answer to Question 2

It is dangerous because you can't concentrate on the road as well as use a phone. You need to concentrate fully on driving to be a safe driver.

Answer to Question 3

You need to have it to prove you are allowed to drive while being supervised. It also provides proof of identification.

Activity 2

Passengers can distract the driver. The more passengers there are, the more the driver could get distracted.

People in groups can get carried away and might encourage the driver to do silly things, which may lead to an accident.

Activity 3

Answer to Question 1

Here is an example answer.

What you should do	What you should not do
Take regular breaks	Drink alcohol or take drugs
Wear a seatbelt	Speed
Plan ahead	Talk or text on a mobile phone

Answer to Question 2

Answers may vary. Here is an example answer.

It made me very angry, as they are putting themselves and others at risk by doing this.

Answer to Question 3

Say no. I would tell them not to drive at all, and find a different way for us to both get home safely.

Activity 4

Answers will vary greatly depending on the place chosen, and the state or territory in which the person is travelling.

Activity 5

Answer should demonstrate that the learner has visited the site for their state or territory and found the travel information listed in the activity.

Activity 6**Answer to Question 1**

7.00 am

Answer to Question 2

8.30 am

Answer to Question 3

7.15 am

Answer to Question 4

1 hour and 50 minutes

Answers to check your learning

Answer to Question 1

Answers should demonstrate that learners have understood what you should and should not do when driving. Information should be clearly expressed.

Answer to Question 2

Answers should demonstrate that learners have understood that using public transport can save you money and time, may bring health benefits from increased walking, and is better for the environment. Information should be clearly expressed.