

# ROAD TEST PARKING

The one part of the skills test that seems to create the most concern is the dreaded "Parallel Parking" Nothing could be simpler if you understand a few principles. You will parallel park if there is a car parked on the street in the test area, otherwise, the examiner will have you either do angle or perpendicular parking to meet the requirement. During a skills test you will normally not be asked to park between two cars.

There is a very basic procedure which will not necessarily get you into a real parking space but it will get you past the examiner.

1. Signal, check your mirrors and over your shoulder (blind spot) as you approach the car you wish to park behind.
2. Stop so that your shoulder is even with the back bumper and about three (3) feet from the car you intend to park behind.
3. Leave the right signal on and shift to reverse as soon as you stop to inform any drivers behind of your intentions - If they know what you are going to do they will go around you.
4. Turn the wheels all the way to right (towards the curb) while you are waiting for them to pass.
5. The front of your car will swing out towards the center of the road so check again for traffic coming from behind before you start to back into the space.
6. Look out the rear window, back the car to a 45° angle and stop.
7. Turn the wheels all the way to the left - the turn signal will cancel itself.
8. Check the right front corner to make sure you will clear the car you are parking behind.
9. Look out the rear window and slowly roll the car into the space.

The factors that determine where the car is positioned at the end of the process are controlled by where you start. How far behind the car you stop is determined by whether or not you started with your shoulder even with the car in front. How close you get to the curb is determined by how close to the curb you start (regardless of how wide the car in front is) and whether or not you can judge a 45° angle.

