



Teaching Deaf People to Drive

A Handbook for Driving Instructors

Published by The Association of Disability Driving Instructors



Teaching Deaf People to Drive

There are currently over 11 million people with a hearing loss in the UK, approximately 900,000 of whom have a severe or profound hearing loss. Of these about 50,000 are children, half of whom were born deaf and half losing their hearing during childhood. More than 40% of people over 50 have hearing loss, rising to over 70% of people over the age of 70. Action on Hearing Loss estimates that there are at least 24,000 people across the UK who use British Sign Language (BSL).

Being deaf is not a disability, it's a communication barrier; the only thing the deaf person can't do is hear. A specialist driving instructor who has already overcome this barrier will be able to communicate more easily with a deaf pupil; some instructors are fluent in BSL and this will be a definite advantage if your pupil signs, but you do not have to be a BSL signing instructor to be able to teach deaf people to drive. If your pupil relies on lip reading, a good "Deaf Aware" driving instructor, who understands the needs and requirements of deaf people, should manage to communicate effectively. But remember your pupil will need to keep their eyes on the road whilst driving so you and your pupil will be unlikely to be able to communicate using BSL on the move and it is probable that your pupil will also not be able to read your lips when they are driving.

Driving instructors are rarely asked to teach deaf people to drive, and many instructors are reluctant to attempt this as they often feel that they do not have the necessary skills. As a result, a deaf person will often struggle to find an instructor willing and able to communicate and provide the necessary tuition, they may then resort to parents or friends who have good communication skills but may not have the necessary driving or teaching skills to provide effective tuition.

This handbook is intended to help driving instructors to develop the necessary skills to communicate with deaf people and raise confidence in their ability to communicate so that they will be able to provide effective tuition. It will advise how to improve communication when explaining about driving techniques during lessons and will describe what hand gestures could be used on the move to direct the deaf driver (a common set of hand gestures that can be used both by driving instructors during tuition and also by Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) examiners when conducting driving tests is being confirmed). The handbook will also explain legal requirements, describe the types of vehicle the deaf person may want and be able to drive, give advice about studying for the theory test, explain the requirements for the theory and practical tests and offer advice on techniques that deaf people may find useful when driving.

What types of vehicles can deaf people drive?

There is no reason why a deaf person cannot learn to drive in either a manual or automatic car; an automatic may be easier but will result in being restricted to only driving automatics, if you pass your test in a manual you can drive either. An instructor with a manual and an automatic car will allow the pupil to try both to make a more informed judgement about which they prefer.

If a motorcycle is the preferred method of transport, there is no reason why a deaf person should not learn to ride and pass their test on a motorbike. Communication between the ADI and the pupil on the move during tuition is going to be more of an issue but it is not insurmountable.

Driving LGV's and PSV's is also perfectly feasible but bear in mind that deafness must be notified to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) when applying for these licenses; DVLA do not need to be notified of deafness for car and motorcycle licence applicants.

It should though be noted that for all those learning to drive in any class of vehicle, DVSA will need to be notified of a candidate's deafness when applying for a practical driving test and, if any special needs provision is required (e.g. a BSL signer), when booking a theory test.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Applying for a driving licence

Application for a first provisional licence should be made in the normal way:

- Paper application forms available from post offices or from: <https://www.gov.uk/dvlaforms> the cost is £43 when applying by post.
- On line applications can be made at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-first-provisional-driving-licence> you'll need an identity document such as a UK passport, addresses where you have lived for the last 3 years and your National Insurance number. The cost for on line applications is £34.

As previously stated, DVLA do not need notifying of an applicant's deafness if applying for a car or motorcycle licence. You would normally need to be aged 17 to hold a licence to drive a car (Category B) but if you receive the higher rate mobility component of DLA (Disability Living Allowance) or the enhanced rate mobility component of PIP (Personal Independence Payment) you may hold a licence from age 16. You can apply for your licence three months before your birthday.

Applications for vocational licences are again made in the normal way but DVLA will require notification of an applicant's deafness when applying for a lorry or bus licence.

Studying for the theory test

Many people will be able to use the mainstream study aids for the theory test but those who use BSL may find the following useful:

- **Safe Driving for Life**

DVSA have produced a series of videos to help users of BSL to learn The Official Highway Code for their safety and the safety of others – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMw4fE6sYxE>

- **Driving Theory Test Extra in BSL**

This twin pack DVD will assist all deaf driving students to pass the theory test with confidence – <https://www.scarotraining.co.uk/store/The-theory-test-extra-DVD-p316607094>

- **BSL Theory Test**

A visual based on-line learning system using illustrations to explain the standard questions and answers – <https://www.bsltheorytest.co.uk>

- **Scaro Training – On line theory test coaching with BSL signing**

Ronald Robertson, who produced the Driving Theory Test Extra DVD, has recently started providing an on line theory coaching service with BSL signing if required. Either for group sessions or one-to-one individual coaching sessions –

<https://www.scarotraining.co.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/passyourtheory/>

For those people with learning or reading difficulties, the following book may be useful:

- **Colour Academy Theory Test Educational Colouring Book**

This innovative new book makes learning the theory of driving more engaging and fun. The process of colouring in helps you understand and memorise faster –

<https://www.colouracademybooks.com/>

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Applying for and taking the theory test

You can take the Theory Test using an on-screen BSL, the interpretation will run alongside the standard test questions and answers; you need to request this when you book the test. Be aware there have been reported problems with people not understanding the on-screen interpretation due to regional differences and the variety of different BSL signs in common use. Some candidates also report that the interpreter is signing too fast and the small size of the screen window used for the interpreter makes it difficult to see what they are signing and remember that although you can replay the question/answer you can't ask what it means.

If you don't use BSL or are worried about understanding the on-screen interpretation, DVSA will provide a face-to-face interpreter when you take the Theory Test. This must be requested when you book the test; there is no extra charge for this service.

You should book your theory test on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/book-theory-test>

If you need a BSL interpreter, either on-screen or face-to-face, you should tick the box for additional support on the on-line application form and when asked what test support you want, tick either 'On-screen using British Sign Language' or 'An interpreter next to me using sign language'; extra time to take the test is also available (if you have a learning difficulty), if you need this tick 'Extra time'.

If you are requesting the on-screen BSL you will be able to complete the on-line application and book your test once you have completed the form but if you are requesting a face-to-face BSL interpreter or if extra time is needed you will not be able to complete the initial on-line application to actually book a test; fill in your contact details on the application form and you will be given an application reference number, DVSA staff will then contact you by phone or email to confirm the additional support and complete the booking for a test.

Proof of learning difficulty will be required by DVSA before extra time is allowed but no proof of hearing difficulty is needed for a BSL interpreter.

DVSA Theory Test Booking Service:

- Theory test bookings: <https://www.gov.uk/book-theory-test>
- email: theorycustomerservices@dvsa.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0300 200 1122
- Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm

NB be aware that there is currently no dedicated phone line for deaf people to use when contacting the theory test booking service and there is no textphone service.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Applying for and taking the practical driving test

When booking the practical driving test you must declare any hearing difficulty on the booking form or when booking by phone you should discuss the difficulties with the booking clerk; details will then be passed on to the examiner and extra time will be allocated if it is needed. Extra time allocation does not mean the test candidate will be driving for any longer or doing any additional tasks but merely allows extra time at the start of the test for the examiner to confirm the hand gestures that they will be using for directions on the move and allows time for stopping part way through the test to confirm directions and/or explain exercises and manoeuvres. DVSA allow extra time for “candidates who are deaf without speech or who have declared a severe degree of deafness” but for this to be arranged the hearing difficulty must be declared when booking the test. Book the test on line at www.gov.uk/book-driving-test or use the DVSA Trainer Booking Service. For telephone bookings ring: 0300 200 1122. There is currently no Textphone facility for booking the practical test or discussing special needs provisions with the booking centre.

The candidate may take an interpreter in-car on test if they use sign language; the interpreter must be over 16 and they could use their driving instructor as an interpreter/communicator. This must be arranged, and any fees paid, by the candidate; they can though claim these costs back after the test, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-refund-for-use-of-a-british-sign-language-interpreter> Even if an interpreter is not required in-car during the test it may be advantageous for the ADI to be present to interpret for the ‘tell me question’ and for the initial discussion before the drive. If the candidate is non verbal or if they have difficulty reading the need for an interpreter may be greater.

No matter how severe the hearing loss might be, all deaf candidates still have to take the same driving test as other test candidates. Special provision may be made to allow additional time to be allocated; this ensures the examiner has time to communicate with the candidate using whatever means is best for them. Before starting the drive the examiner will explain what will happen during the test with the aid of the prompt cards in the Deaf Candidate Support Pack (an up to date copy of the Deaf Candidate Support Pack can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/xxxxxxx>) and the use of an interpreter if one is being used; they will look at the candidate to help them lip read if they find this useful. Be aware that BSL signers think and read using BSL so may struggle reading written English especially the complicated language on the prompt cards.

Directions on test, given as hand gestures by the examiner, should be the same as those described later in this handbook; the examiner should confirm these with the candidate before the start of the test. Driving instructors are advised though to confirm with examiners, in advance of the test, what hand gestures have been used during tuition to ensure that those used on test will be the same; if the candidate struggles reading the written English on the prompt cards this should also be confirmed with the examiner. If multiple instructions are needed in advance for more complex road layouts, this may require the examiner to ask the candidate to pull up so that written instructions can be used, or instructions given with the help of the interpreter (needs confirmation with DVSA).

For more detailed instructions, e.g. when asking the candidate to carry out a manoeuvring exercise, the examiner should use the prompt cards from the Deaf Candidate Support Pack after asking the candidate to pull up at the side of the road. The request for the candidate to carry out a task for the “show me” question should also be made after the candidate has pulled up, the request would then be made (with the help of prompt cards or by using the interpreter if necessary) and they would then be asked to move off and demonstrate the operation of the control on the move. Candidates will not be asked to do an emergency stop unless they have first pulled up and been prepared for doing the exercise, the examiner will explain what is required and demonstrate the hand gesture once they have stopped; it should be emphasised to the candidate that a request for an emergency stop will never be made without explaining it first.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Before starting the drive the examiner should ensure that they recognise how the candidate will communicate that they do not understand an instruction and need it repeating or explaining in more detail. The candidate should be advised to pull up at the side of the road in a safe place if necessary when they need an instruction explained in more detail.

It is possible that candidates with hearing difficulties may struggle with one or other option used for independent driving; if there is a difficulty either using the sat-nav or following road sign directions this should be discussed by the ADI at the test centre well in advance of the start of the test. The examiner would then discuss this with the candidate and use the most appropriate option. If the option of following road sign directions is chosen then it should be confirmed how changes in destination will be notified, the examiner should ask the candidate to pull up at the side of the road at an appropriate point to explain any change of destination.

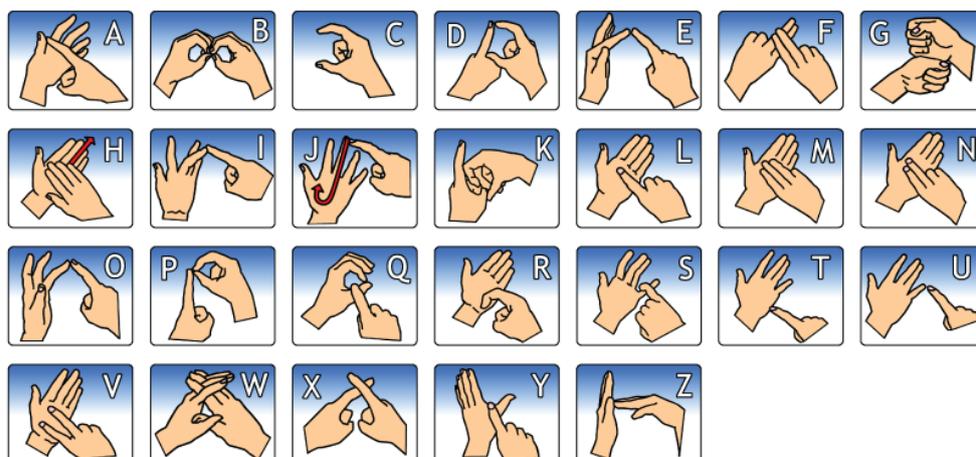
What is the best way to communicate?

Find out how your pupil normally communicates and then adapt the methods that you are capable of using to meet their needs. Remember that not all deaf people use BSL, many lip read or may use Sign Supported English (SSE) – a method of signing and speaking at the same time. If the instructor is a BSL or SSE user this will obviously be an advantage if your pupil also signs, but instructors do not have to be BSL signers or SSE users. BSL is a fully functional and expressive language that uses hand gestures, facial expressions and body language to convey meaning; SSE is described as a form of ‘contact signing’ which uses finger spelling, hand gestures and mouthing to describe English phrases.

You may not interact with many deaf people but deaf people generally have no choice but to interact with hearing people on a daily basis. This means that deaf people can be very adept at adjusting their communications in order to be understood. It is also worth bearing in mind that we use more body language, hand gestures and facial expressions when we communicate by speaking than we are aware of; don't be afraid to use this to help get your point across.

If your pupil is a BSL signer it would be polite to learn how to introduce yourself using BSL, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpeGmAqhQo>

BSL - FINGERSPELLING ALPHABET



Teaching Deaf People to Drive

A good Deaf Aware instructor will probably be able to communicate effectively, but remember:

Deaf people don't always use sign language, some use hearing aids and some may lip read.

Eye contact is so important when communicating.

Always make sure you have the person's attention before speaking.

Facial expressions also help other people to see what you are talking about.

Always talk clearly but don't over emphasise your lip movements and don't mumble.

When a deaf person is tired, following conversations may be more difficult.

Always take your time and be patient, try not to get frustrated if you are not understood.

Repeat or rephrase what you have said if you need to, some words may be difficult to make out.

Everyone's communication methods are different.

Communication cont'd

Getting a deaf persons attention: It is common within Deaf Culture for people to tap each other to get attention. This is not regarded as being rude and should be encouraged but it must be agreed in advance and the place(s) you may tap (e.g. the forearm or shoulder) should be discussed in advance.

Difficulty following conversation when tired: as well as the deaf person finding it more difficult when tired, the instructor will probably also find it more difficult to follow conversations when tired; both pupil and instructor will often need regular breaks during the lesson.

Taking your time and being patient: If you get frustrated it may well show in your body language and facial expression, this could cause concern in your pupil because they may think that they have done something wrong.

You can also communicate by writing down what you want to say: it is suggested that you keep a separate spiro pad for each deaf pupil so you can easily refer back to previous notes and diagrams. Remember though that the average reading age for people born deaf and using BSL may well be less than hearing people of a similar age. This is not a reflection of the person's intelligence but is more likely due to the fact that hearing people not only read in English from an early age but they also think in English, Deaf people do not think in the same way, they are more likely to think in BSL. Keep written sentences clear, simple and to the point, start with a subject headline e.g. "changing gear" or "using the clutch" in order to give context to the information that follows.

Lots of stopping and starting will be required: remember if your pupil cannot hear the spoken word some form of visual communication will be required, if you need to discuss anything this will be difficult to carry out on the move. Pulling up at the side of the road to sign, write down instructions or use pre-prepared written lesson plans and diagrams will be necessary. A picture paints a thousand words and there are many commercial visual aids packages that can be very useful (e.g. apps, videos and laminated road layouts). Practical demonstrations are often used by an ADI and can be especially useful when teaching a deaf pupil. Try to give a clear brief, explain what you would like the pupil to watch out for before starting the demonstration e.g. road positioning or use of mirrors.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Ensure that the signs on the move for: good (thumb up) and bad (thumb down) are understood and that the pupil can express that they understand (nod of the head) and that they don't understand (shake of the head); remember they may understand but not necessarily agree.

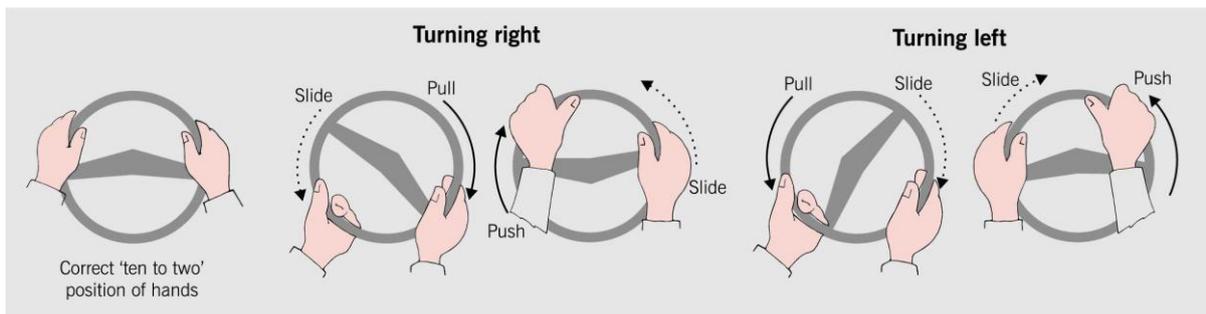
Before starting a drive ensure you recognise how the pupil will communicate on the move, especially if they do not understand an instruction and need it repeating or explaining in more detail.

Hand gestures given on the move

Apart from giving directions, there are certain tasks that will require hand gestures on the move to back up the initial instruction. The following hand gestures are suggestions, based on BSL but instructors should work with their pupil to develop a series of hand gestures and/or signs that you both understand. This is especially important for instructions that may be needed on the move such as "stop" "slow down" or "go faster"; instructions to alter position may also be needed. Initial instructions to explain the basic operation of the controls will be needed by novice pupils and hand gestures for directions at junctions will also be required as tuition progresses.

Steering:

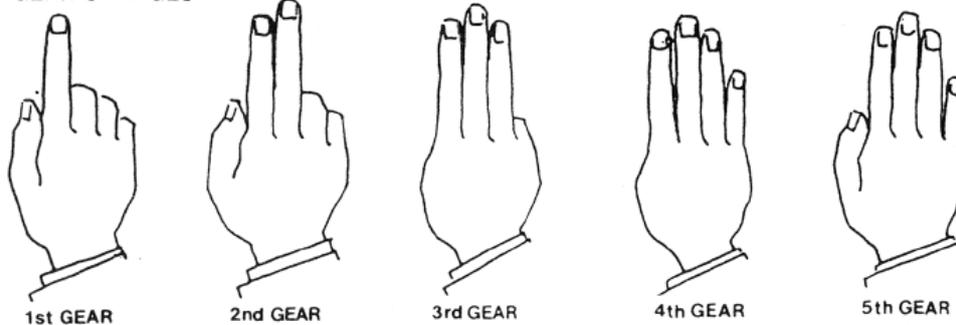
Demonstration, as normally shown to hearing pupils, should be made. If the pupil wishes to use their own preferred method of controlling and turning the steering let them do this, if it is considered that teaching the pull/push method of steering is preferable then visual aids may help. Ensure that the gestures for "right/left hand to the top of the wheel" in preparation for a turn are understood.



Gears:

The following hand gestures are examples of what may be used to identify the required gear. The instructor needs to explain the positions of each gear and when the different gears are needed, you need to establish how to communicate which gear needs to be selected when on the move.

GEAR CHANGES



Explain in advance how to use the speedometer and rev counter to help establish when gear changes are needed and feel for the different vibrations to get an indication of when to change. Use

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

the necessary hand gestures as prompts after pointing to the speedometer/rev counter. Describe in advance how to anticipate the need for selecting lower gears on approach to uphill gradients, when needing to slow down for bends/junctions or when traffic ahead is slowing down; also explain how to anticipate the need for lower gears to accelerate away after passing the hazard.

For gear changes you may wish to move the raised hand/extended finger(s) in the same direction required to move the gear stick to the position for the intended gear e.g. forward, then right, then forward again to go from 2nd to 3rd gear.

When using sign language it is common to use something called “placement”; in simple terms this is placing the hands in positions to show one item’s position relative to another. This might be showing the required position of the pupil’s feet on the pedals or it could be the position of your car in relation to another when parking.

It is very important to be clear about what you are referring to and to replicate the movement accurately, so if for instance you are using your hands to illustrate the operation of the clutch don’t use your right hand – you use that for operating the accelerator and brake. If you are indicating that you wish the pupil to go around a roundabout by circling your finger, do not circle it anti-clockwise!

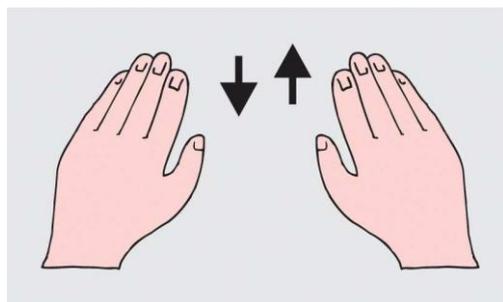
Clutch control

To demonstrate using the clutch pedal with the left foot and the accelerator with the right, to explain co-ordinated use and operation (you could also use the dual controls or other visual aids):

- For the clutch, left hand becomes the left foot. Hold the hand, palm down at 45°, towards the dashboard. Flex from the wrist, as you would your ankle, moving the hand down to demonstrate depressing the clutch pedal or moving it up to illustrate releasing it. Move it at the same speed as your foot would move to give a clear example of what is required.
- For the accelerator, use your right hand, arm extended, wrist bent at 45° and in the correct position relative to your left hand (as your foot would be on the pedals) – don’t forget to leave space for the brake pedal in between. Use your hand to mimic the right foot movements on the accelerator.
- Then use the see-saw movement to illustrate the co-ordination of applying acceleration and releasing the clutch.

Establish the hand gestures for operating the clutch on the move: using finger spelling for the letter ‘C’ and then moving the right hand, then move it up and down.

Demonstration



Left hand (clutch)

Right hand (accelerator)

On the move



Finger spell the letter ‘C’, then move it up & down

Braking

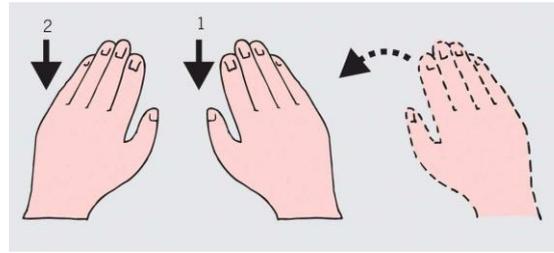
Finger spell the letter ‘B’ and demonstrate how to “cover the brake” with the right foot by moving your right hand to the central position between the accelerator and clutch in the same way as you would move your right foot. Again, show how and when to brake and how to co-ordinate applying the brake with depressing the clutch by moving your hands as you move your feet.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Braking (cont'd)



Finger spell letter 'B' for braking

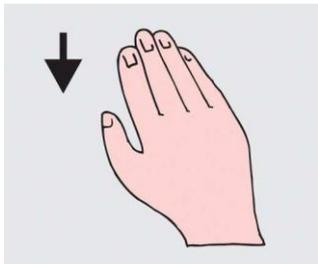


Left hand (clutch) Right hand moving to cover the brake

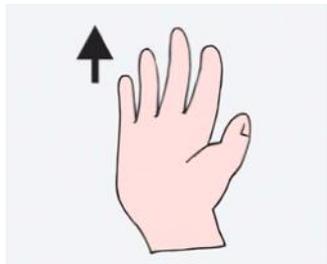
Slow down or Speed up

To slow down, extend your right hand palm down above the centre of the dashboard and move your hand down, bigger movement to indicate slower.

To Speed up, extend your right hand in front of you palm up and lift your hand up, again a bigger movement to indicate faster (the same gesture is used to move off from stationary).



Slow down



Speed up (or move off)



or

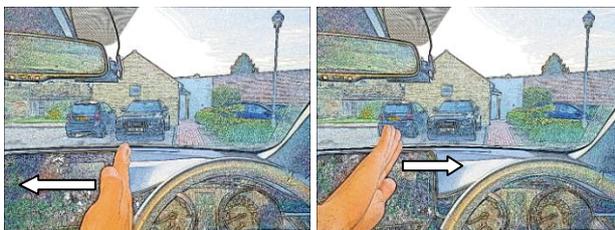
Finger spell 'F' for faster

Vehicle positioning

This time your right hand becomes your vehicle by extending your hand horizontally in front of you with fingers outstretched, palm down. (You could do the same with your left hand to represent the position of a car parked on the left and the required position for safe clearance when passing).

To indicate the need for moving your vehicle further to the right or the left move the hand to the right or the left.

If you twist your left hand 90° until your palm faces the pupil (to represent the edge of the road) you can now show positioning relative to the kerb or wall.



Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Directions & instructions on the move (both during lessons and on test)

It is more important to achieve standardisation with these gestures to ensure that instructors and examiners both use the same “language” when on lessons and on test.

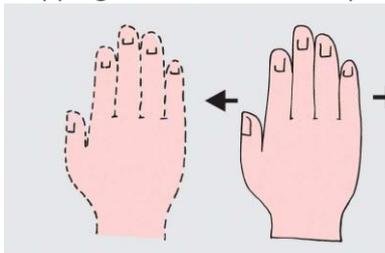
Moving away from a parked position (normal start, angle start or move off from the right)

Extend your right hand in front of you palm up and lift your hand up (same signal as for speed up).



Pull up on the left at the side of the road

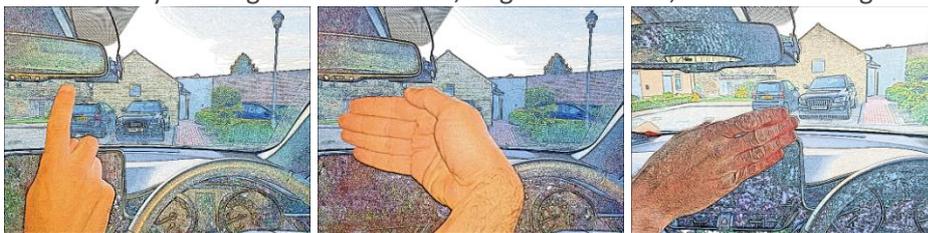
Use the placement signals described previously, to show the kerbside with the left hand open palm towards the pupil, then use the right hand palm down moving closer to the left to show the car stopping at the kerbside; emphasise the stop by closing the fingers of the right hand.



Picture needs amending

To take the first road on the left or right:

Extend the right hand close to the dashboard and the forefinger pointing upwards, immediately follow this by moving the whole hand, fingers extended, to the left or right.



To take the second road on the left or right:

Extend the right hand close to the dashboard and two fingers pointing upwards, immediately follow this by moving the whole hand, fingers extended, to the left or right.



Teaching Deaf People to Drive

At the end of the road turn left or right:

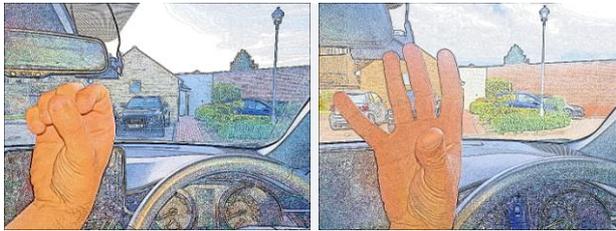
Extend right hand on edge and put left hand in front of it forming a T



Then give the directions in the normal way

Traffic lights

Arm extended with palm towards you and fingers closed, “explode” the fingers outwards to describe the light coming on then quickly repeat twice more moving downwards to represent three lights.

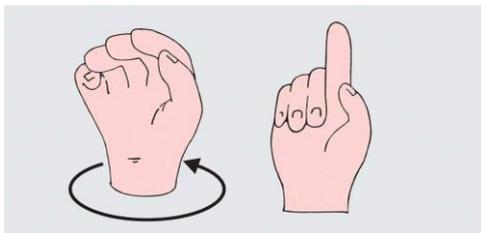


Then give the directions in the normal way

Roundabouts

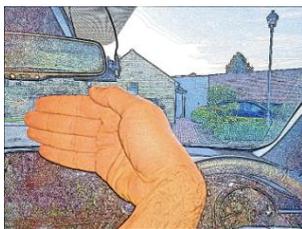
Use the same order as you would give as a verbal instruction.

Make a clockwise circular movement with your forefinger pointing down and then raise the number of fingers required to indicate which exit to take.



(NB needs arrow reversing to make it clockwise)

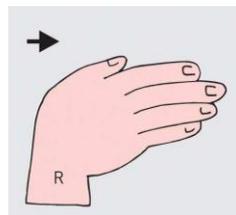
In addition you could point to the left, to the right or follow the road ahead



or



or



road ahead (amend 3rd

picture)

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Change lane to the right or to the left

With your hand flat, palm up, raise 2, 3 or 4 fingers to represent the number of lanes available and touch the relevant finger with your left hand to represent the lane you wish the pupil to take.



Picture needs amending

Manoeuvres and exercises

The following should be explained after pulling up to stop and securing the car. The use of laminated diagrams could therefore be able to be used to illustrate what is required.

Examples of the DVSA pre-printed diagrams can be found in the Deaf Customer Support Pack at:

<https://www.gov.uk/xxxxxxxx>

Emergency stop

It should be emphasised both on lessons and at the start of the test that both the instructor and the examiner will never ask for an emergency stop to be carried out without pulling up and preparing the pupil in advance of asking them to carry out the exercise. The normal hand gesture for an emergency stop should be used.



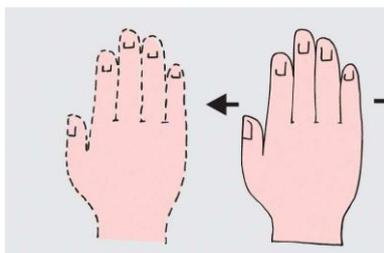
“When I give you this signal, stop the car as quickly as possible keeping it under full control at all times”.

After completing the emergency stop:

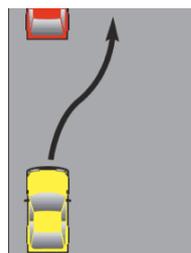
“I will not ask you to do that exercise again”

Pull up on the left just before the next parked car on the left (to do an angle start)

Use your left hand, fingers outstretched palm down to represent the parked car and your right hand fingers outstretched palm down to represent your vehicle. Move your right hand up behind the “parked car” and emphasise the stop by closing the fingers of the right hand.



or use the diagram



Pull up just behind the next car on the left

Then move off when safe

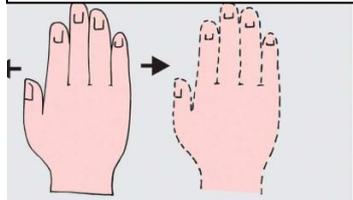
Teaching Deaf People to Drive

On test, before any of the manoeuvres, the examiner should ask the candidate to pull up normally and then explain with the aid of prompt cards, and/or using the interpreter, what they would like the candidate to demonstrate:

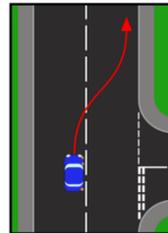
Pull up on the right at the side of the road and then reverse back two car lengths

Right hand open, palm away from pupil to show the right kerb, then use the left hand palm down moving closer to the right to show the car stopping at the kerb; emphasise the stop by closing the fingers of the left hand.

(Picture needs amending)



or use the diagram

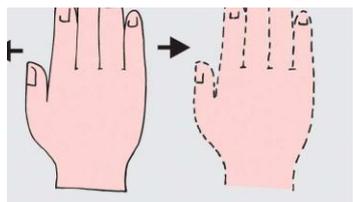


**Pull up
on the right**

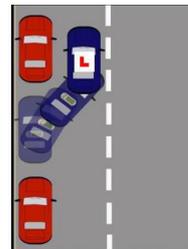
"Thank you. Now I'd like you to reverse back for about 2 car lengths, please keep reasonably close to the kerb".

Parallel park

(Picture needs amending)



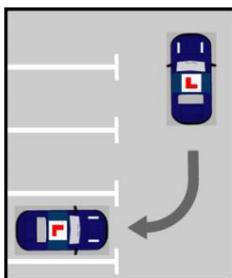
or use the diagram



**Reverse
park**

"Pull up alongside the parked car and then reverse back and in towards the kerb so that you end up parallel and reasonably close to the kerb, stopping within 2 car lengths".

Reverse Bay Park



Bay park

"Pull forward and then reverse into a parking space of your choice (either on the left or right) so that you end up parked neatly in the bay within the white lines".

Forward Bay Park



Forward into a bay

"Drive forward into a parking bay of your choice, either to the left or the right, so that you end up parked neatly within the white lines".

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Additional subjects required for the DVSA practical driving test:

“Tell me” questions at the start of the test

The examiner should use laminated cards in the Deaf Candidate Support Pack to ask the question required for this. The ADI could act as an interpreter for this or the candidate may use an independent interpreter:

“Show me” questions on the move

The examiner should ask the candidate to pull up normally at the side of the road and then explain which control they would like them to demonstrate whilst driving, with the help of pre-printed cards and/or by using the interpreter if necessary. The candidate would then be asked to move away and demonstrate the operation of the control on the move.

“Independent driving” – either using a satnav or following destinations on road signs / markings

It is possible that candidates with hearing difficulties may struggle with one or other option used for independent driving; if either using the sat-nav or following road sign directions causes difficulty this should be discussed by the ADI at the test centre well in advance of the start of the test. The examiner would then discuss this with the candidate and use the most appropriate option.

If the sat-nav is to be used the examiner would need to explain how they will intervene if any “anomalies” with the sat-nav directions require additional instruction. Explanation is also needed regarding going “off route” to complete the manoeuvre if this is being requested during the independent drive (e.g. to direct candidate to a car park to carry out a forward bay park).

If following road sign directions is chosen, then it should be confirmed by the examiner that if a change in destination is required the candidate will be asked to pull up at the side of the road and will then be given a new destination before being asked to move off again.

More complex directions especially if instructions for double junctions are needed

This may require the examiner to get the candidate to pull up at the side of the road so that the directions can be given, using pre prepared diagrams or with help from the interpreter, as necessary.

Practicing using the required hand gestures

ADIs are advised to work with their pupil to ensure that they are fluent in giving the necessary hand gestures, that their pupil is fully familiar with them and that they can respond appropriately. This may be achieved by spending some time consulting with the pupil to agree at the start of their training the hand gestures that will be used throughout the training.

DVSA examiners should have access to this booklet and will hopefully be using it as a basis for standardisation of the hand gestures used on test. If driving instructors are standardising the hand gestures they use during training in the same way, it will be easier for pupils when taking their test; we at DDI and the DVSA are working towards a more seamless transition from training to testing.

Mock Tests

ADIs are encouraged to conduct mock tests with Deaf candidates using the Deaf Candidate Support Pack to familiarise their pupils with the format of the test using this pack.

Illustration of the hand gestures used for teaching and directing

A YouTube video is being produced to illustrate the hand gestures described in this handbook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/watch/xxxxxxxxxxxxx> to view the video.

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

BSL Training courses:

Although not an essential pre-requisite for ADIs teaching deaf people to drive, knowledge of BSL would often be advantageous. There are many UK training establishments providing BSL courses:

Signature

Signature is the leading awarding body for deaf communications qualifications in the UK.

Since beginning our work to promote and teach British Sign Language (BSL), we have supported more than 430,000 people to learn the language.

We create qualifications that provide our students with the skills they need to build successful careers. As a charitable organisation, we work tirelessly to improve communication, by creating learning opportunities for every stage of life.

We have over 500 colleges, universities, schools, deaf clubs and community groups throughout the UK and Ireland that teach our qualifications.

Now you have chosen a Signature qualification that you want study for, find your nearest course provider at Start Learning Today (<https://www.signature.org.uk/where-can-i-learn>). For information, times and prices you will need to contact the course provider directly.

Deaf Awareness and BSL training for ADIs:



Disability Driving Instructors will be running a series of on-line training courses covering the three main areas of disability tuition, starting in summer 2022.

These will cover:

- Teaching people with physical disabilities to drive.
- Teaching those with Specific Learning Difficulties and Special Educational Needs.
- Deaf Awareness training for ADIs.
 - This is intended as an introduction to Deaf Awareness and will introduce you to basic BSL (British Sign Language) and SSE (Sign Supported English).
- Basic BSL for ADIs.
 - There will be 5 levels for this course run as separate modules.

For details of these courses contact us:

- email – admin@disabilitydrivinginstructors.com
- Tel – 0844 800 7355
- Web – www.disabilitydrivinginstructors.com

Teaching Deaf People to Drive



QEF provide a range of specialised training courses for Health Care Professionals, Approved Driving Instructors, Suppliers, Car Dealers, Hotels, Airline companies, Leisure Industry, FE Colleges, Road Safety professionals and other charities from all over the country.

These professional courses have been running for over 25 years and are provided by our qualified and expert trainers who have had hands on invaluable experience.

Teaching people with disabilities to drive

For: Approved Driving Instructors - giving you the skills you need to teach disabled people to drive; this course includes a module on Deaf Awareness.

Date: 21st -23rd January 2020 (further course planned for 2021)

Venue: QEF Mobility Services, 1 Metcalfe Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4AW

Duration: 3 days

Cost: £450 inc VAT, course materials, refreshments and lunch

The Deaf Awareness module may also be available as a stand-alone course.

For more information call us on **020 8770 1151** or email mobility@qef.org.uk

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Notes

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

Teaching Deaf People to Drive

This handbook has been produced by the Association of Disability Driving Instructors to give guidance to ADI's who wish to instruct deaf people to drive.

It is based on a booklet of the same name produced by the Institute of Master Tutors of Driving (IMTD) that was originally formulated by the late Elwyn Reed MBE, fellow of IMTD and past ADINJC Chairman.

John Rogers

Disability Driving Instructors

February 2022

The Association of Disability Driving Instructors CIC

A Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee – Company No 8570552

Tel: 0844 800 7355 email: admin@disabilitydrivinginstructors.com

Disability Driving Instructors – helping disabled and deaf people learn to drive by providing an independent on-line information and advice service which includes a register of specialist deaf aware and BSL signing driving instructors.

If you are an ADI specialising in this area of tuition and are interested in joining us take a look at the website at: www.disabilitydrivinginstructors.com

