

Teaching the

**MISSISSIPPI
DRIVER'S MANUAL**

Part 1

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TEACHING THE MISSISSIPPI DRIVER'S MANUAL

(This is a teaching aid, it is not intended to substitute for a full knowledge of the actual Miss. Driver's Manual)

Instructions on using this Booklet

The booklet follows, summarizes and organizes some of the information in the Mississippi Drivers Manual. It is only intended to help you learn the Mississippi Drivers Manual. Think of this booklet as an aid to learn the Manual and not a substitute. You should read, study, and learn the information in the Manual.

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PRACTICE TEST	Separate booklet
VOCABULARY WORDS	Separate booklet
DRIVING TEST PREPREATION	Separate Sheet

Vocabulary words: Take time to learn the meanings of words that may be new to you, but that you will probably see on the test. You will have a hard time passing the written test if you do not know the meanings of all the words that are used in the Manual and on the test. If you are not sure about the meaning of a word, ask your teacher.

SAFETY BELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

MDM Pg. 65

1. Mississippi law requires that drivers and all front seat passengers to wear a seat belt at all times.
2. Law requires that any child under the age of four be in an appropriate child car seat. For older children this is a booster seat, for younger children a car seat designed for their size.
3. It is recommended that all children ride in the back seat, and that ALL persons in the car wear their seat belt at all times.

ROAD SAFETY WITH LARGE VEHICLES

Large trucks and other large vehicles have limitations that most cars do not have. These are mostly large blind spots created by their length. A blind spot is a spot where a driver's mirrors nor their eyes are able to see behind them or on the left or right.

1. Remember to be aware of a large vehicle's blind spots. Try to avoid driving in a blind spot other than to pass.
2. Large vehicles take much longer to get up to speed and to slow down when compared to regular cars. Keep this in mind, especially on the interstate.
3. Remember that large vehicles make much wider turns. Do not drive to the right of a large vehicle if there is a possibility they will be making a right turn.

THE SAFE DRIVER

MDM Page 57

Remember: Just because you know how to drive does not make you a safe driver. In order to be a safe driver you must always be thinking clearly. Things like cell phones or the radio should never interfere with your driving.

Alcohol, marijuana, or any other illegal substance can greatly hinder your driving skills. It is not cool. All things like that do is cause a lot of hurt for you and for the people around you.

PART 4. LEGAL PROCEDURES AND DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

MDM Pgs. 62-66

A few legal responsibilities of any vehicle owner are:

1. Stop immediately if you are the first to arrive at an accident and call the proper emergency services (911).
2. If you are involved in an accident, provide other drivers involved with your name and show them your driver's license.
3. Every car owner is required by law to have car insurance to cover the cost of any damages to cars or medical expenses from any accidents. An insurance card must be kept in the car and can be checked by law enforcement at any time.
4. Every car is required by law to have an up to date registration sticker and inspection sticker.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CELL PHONES

MDM Pg. 64

1. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Use a hands-free speaker.
2. Dial the phone only when stopped at a traffic light or parked.
3. Use your phone's contact list to dial faster.
4. Make sure your phone is easy to reach if it does ring.

INTRODUCTION MDM-Pages 8

The Miss. Drivers Manual has two main purposes:

1. Help you get a Miss. Driver's License
2. Help you become a safe driver

Definitions: MDM-Pg 9

Highway: any road open to the public.

Intersection: place where two roads meet

Right-of-way: when you have the right-of-way that means you have the legal right to go first, ahead of the other car, if it is safe.

PART 1. YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE M-Pg 10-15

How old do you have to be?

If you are between 15 and 18 years old, you will have to be in school and have a letter from the school. You may also need your parents signature, etc,

Three test: To get your drivers license you need to take and pass the following tests:

1. An eye test – to make sure you can see O.K. If not, they will want you to get glasses.
2. A written test to see if you understand the information in the Miss. Drivers Manual
3. A driving test—to make sure you are a safe driver and you know how to safely and legally drive, turn, park, etc.

Bring with you: When you to take your test, bring...

1. A Birth Certificate
2. A Social Security Card
3. A business letter, not personal, with you address on it

PART 2. RULES OF THE ROAD

MDM-Pg 19-47

TURN SIGNALS M-Pg 19

See the pictures and read the section on MDM-Pg 19.

Hand signals: Review hand signals as shown in the pictures and have the student demonstrate each.

Signal lights: Review how to operate signal lights and how break lights should operate.

Remember: If you are using hand signals, signal at least 100 feet before you slow down, stop, turn, or change lanes.

LITTERING M-Pg 20

Don't litter. This means don't throw trash out of the car on to the road.

The fine is between \$50 and \$200. The driver and/or owner of the car will get the ticket.

TURNING AT INTERSECTIONS M-Pg 21

Read this section and discuss

Remember: More accidents occur (happen) at intersections than any where else.

1. Know where you want to turn.
2. Give the proper turn signal
3. Get into the correct lane
4. Look around, watch out for the other guy
5. Slow down when you make your turn
6. Finish the turn in the proper (correct) lane.

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY DRIVING

Pgs 54-56

At higher speeds there are a few special considerations:

1. *Be sure that your tires are in good condition and that they are properly inflated.*
2. *Your engine will heat up faster at higher interstate speeds so check your water and oil levels prior to starting your drive.*
3. *If you're taking a long trip, be sure to take stops along the way to rest.*

When entering an interstate:

1. Obey posted ramp speed on the entry ramp.
2. As you reach the end of the ramp gradually increase your speed until you reach a cruising speed.
3. Yield to any cars already on the interstate, give the appropriate turn signal and merge into traffic. Never swerve into traffic.

Remember: At faster speeds, it is more dangerous. Be very aware of everything going on the roadway.

When driving on an interstate:

1. Use the proper lane at all times. Remember that the left lane is the "fast lane". If there is a center lane, use it for passing slower traffic. The right lane is for slower traffic, usually cars only travelling a short distance or cars about to exit.
2. If you are in the right lane, make adjustments in your speed to allow other cars to come onto the interstate. Or you may need to merge to the left lane to allow them to come onto the interstate.
3. The speed limit is always 70 miles per hour. The minimum speed limit is 40 m.p.h. These speeds apply at both day and night.

Remember: These speeds are for perfect road conditions. . If the weather is bad, or the road is in poor condition slow down to a safe speed.

4. When you change lanes, check your mirrors and your blind spot for other cars around you.

PARKING

Pgs 51-53

Remember: Cars being driven are not the only cars that can cause accidents. Being able to park effectively is very important.

PARALLEL PARKING

See Picture pg 51

Parallel parking is when you park on the side of a road and are parallel to the road. Make sure that you are always within 12 inches of the curb. Be sure to be very careful when getting out of the car. Watch for other cars coming on the road.

UNLAWFUL PARKING

Pg 53

It is against the law to park in any of the following places:

1. On a sidewalk
2. In front of a driveway
3. Inside an intersection
4. Within 10 ft of a fire hydrant
5. On a crosswalk
6. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
7. Within 30 ft of any stop sign or red light
8. Within 15 feet of any railroad crossing
9. Within 20 ft of any entrance to a fire station
10. Anywhere you may add to heavy traffic congestion
11. Beside any car parked on the side of the road. (pull behind them)
12. On any bridge
13. In any highway underpass
14. At any place where traffic sign tell you not to stop.

NOTE: *When leaving a parking space be certain that the way is clear of other cars and people. Never assume that they know you are about to pull out. Always wait for them to pass by you.*

HOW TO MAKE A LEFT TURN M-Pg 22

Read the section and discuss using the picture.

Remember: When turning left, stay close, but not too close to the center line.

Five things to remember when making a left turn

1. Well ahead of the turn, get in the left lane close to the center line
2. Put on your turn signal at least 100 feet before the turn, start slowing down.
3. Watch out for other cars. Keep your wheels straight until you actually start making your turn.
4. Enter the intersection just to the right of the center line. When turning, try to go close to the center of the intersection before turning left. This is called “Do not cut the corner”.
5. After completing the turn, gradually move to the right to the center of your lane

HOW TO MAKE A RIGHT TURN M-Pg 23

Read the section and discuss using the picture.

Remember: Do not swing out to the left into the oncoming lane before or during your turn. See the picture, it shows this wrong driving style.

Four things to remember when making a right turn

1. Well ahead of the turn, get in the right side of the road.
2. Put on your turn signal at least 100 feet before the turn, start slowing down.
3. Watch out for other cars. Do not swing out to the left before you turn right, this could put you into another car’s lane. (See the picture)
4. As you make your turn, stay close to the right of the road or the right of your lane.

TWO VEHICLES—BOTH TURNING LEFT M-Pg 24

Read the section and discuss using the picture.

ONE-WAY STREETS M-Pg 25

Read the section and discuss using the pictures.

- When turning off of a one way street on to another street, always turn from the lane closest to the curb, I.e. (in other words) if you are making a left turn, get into the left lane, by the left curb, and if you are making a right turn get into the right lane by the right curb.
- When entering or turning into a one-way street, always turn into the lane nearest you.
- When you are traveling straight, you may use any lane except the extreme (far) right or left lane, which are turning lanes. Do not jump from lane to lane. Just change lanes when necessary.

DRIVE IN THE PROPER LANE M-Pg 26 (for a 2 lane, 3 lane & 4 lane road)

This page shows pictures of how to operate a car in a 2 lane, 3 lane, and a 4 lane highway or road. Just start with the picture of the 2 lane road on the left side of the picture and discuss the pictures and the words. Then move on to the 3 lane and then to the 4 lane road.

RIGHT-OF-WAY M-Pg 27

*Ask the student what they think “Right-of-way” means.
Ask & talk about what the word “yield” means.*

Read and discuss this section.

Right-of-way is about who goes first and who goes second, or yields, when cars, people, or bikes meet at an intersection. These rules tell the drivers who should go first. But if you think you should go first and the other person goes first, simply let them GO and then you go when it is clear.

ACCIDENT MAKERS

Pg 49

The following could possibly cause an accident. Watch for these and be very careful when you do see them:

- Kids in or near the street, especially kids playing with a ball.
- Another car pulling out onto a busy road
- Sudden turns or stops by other drivers on the road
- Someone getting out of a car parked on the side of the street.
- Other drivers who are driving recklessly (crazy). Watch for people who are swerving in and out of traffic.

EQUIPMENT FOR SAFE DRIVING

Pg 50

Having a well maintained car is very important to being a safe driver. Your car should have all of the following:

- Brakes—you must have a foot brake and a hand brake or emergency brake.
- Lights—you must have two headlights and at least one tail light.
- Horn—you horn must be able to be heard 200 ft away.
- Muffler—you must have a muffler to keep your engine from being too loud and to also prevent any dangerous gases from entering the environment.
- Windshield Wipers
- Rear view mirror
- Tires—good tires are a must for all weather conditions.
- Registration plates—you are required by law to mount your car tag on the back of your car. It can not be covered up in anyway.

PART 3. SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

MDM Pgs 48-61

Drivers cause 85% of all accidents

Remember: You do not become a good driver just through driving experience. You need to practice all the time so that you can improve your driving skills.

Acting out your emotions when driving can easily lead to car wrecks. Try to stay focused when driving. Being distracted by your thought or even by other drivers or your passengers can be very dangerous.

10 TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING

Pgs 48-49

Remember: Wear your seat belt!

1. Adjust your seat to a comfortable position so that you can reach the steering wheel and pedals easily and can see the road well.
2. Drive with both hands on the steering wheel. Discuss what “10 and 2” means.
3. Never drive while wearing stereo headphones or with your car stereo playing too loudly. You will be unable to hear sirens or other drivers warning you of dangers.
4. Don’t smoke when driving. Statistics show that smokers have more wrecks than non-smokers
5. Keep your windshield and all windows clean.
6. When you back up, turn your head so that you can see through the back window. Don’t just rely on your mirrors.
7. If you have a flat or a blowout don’t slam on the brakes. Slowly press the brakes and direct the car to a safe place off the road.
8. If your car starts to skid, turn the wheel in the direction of the skid...as long as you aren’t about to run into something.
9. Be especially careful when driving in the rain. Slow down!
10. When there is water on the road for any reason, slow down.

Remember: The law says you should treat a bicycle just as if it were a car.

Remember: Slow down when you come to an intersection to make sure it is clear to cross the intersection, **but do not slow down in the intersection** unless there is a good reason and block other traffic.

CROSSING AN INTERSECTION M-Pg 27

Bottom of Page 25 Read and discuss.

Remember: If traffic is blocked, or backed up, when you approach (come to) an intersection, do not go into the intersection or block the intersection. Stop before you reach the crosswalk lines until the traffic / cars have moved out of the intersection and you are clear to go all the way across.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AT INTERSECTIONS M-Pg 28

(where there are no traffic signals)

Read and discuss.

If there are no traffic signals, such as stop signs, etc., then slow down and yield or let the traffic go first that is already crossing the intersection. Only cross when it is safe to do so.

If you and another car arrive at the intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right. The driver on the left must let the driver on the right go first.

If a small road like a one lane road comes into a larger road, like a 2 or 4 lane road, normally the larger road would have the right-of-way if there are not traffic signs or signals.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AT STOP STREETS M-Pg 28
(Streets where there are stop signs)
Read and discuss

Remember: You must bring your car to a complete stop at a stop sign. Not to a “rolling stop” where you just slow down but do not completely stop.

A 2 way stop: If you have a stop sign and the other street does not, you have to come to a complete stop, look both ways, and then you can cross only when there are no cars coming toward you on the other street.

A 4 way stop: If it is a “4 way stop”, which means that both streets have stop signs, then all the cars must come to a complete stop at their stop signs. Then:

If one car gets to the intersection before the other car, the car that gets to the intersection first has the right of way and can go first.

If two or three cars get to the intersection at the same time, the car to the right has the right-of-way and can go first.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THROUGH STREETS M-Pg 29
(when one of the cars is trying to make a turn)
Look at the picture

What to do when you come to a 4 way stop and the car coming toward you wants to turn in front of you?

- If he arrives first and/or if he has already started to make his/her turn, be courteous, and let him go first.
- If you both arrive at the same time, the car that wants to go straight should go first.

BREAKING DISTANCES M-Pg 38
Read the section and look at the chart on the
Top of Page 38

The numbers at the bottom of the chart are how fast the car is going when it tries to stop. Look at the bar that says 60 at the bottom of it. This graph or bar is saying that if your car is going 60 miles per hour (mph) and you see an object in the road and have to stop, you will travel about 66 feet (the dark section) before you can finish thinking about it and get your foot on the break, and then you will travel another 198 feet before your car comes to a complete stop. So you have traveled a total of 264 feet before you come to a stop.

If you are traveling at 70 mph, you will travel 347 feet before you can stop. That 10 miles per hour increase in speed adds another 83 feet to your stopping distance. This is one reason why speed kills. Only drive at high speeds when it is legal and safe to do so.

TRAFFIC CONTROL M-Pg 39

TRAFFIC OFFICERS: Read the section on the top of Page 39

When an officer is directing traffic (a policeman, sheriff, highway patrol, etc.) you do what he/she motions for you to do, since he/she has taken over control of the intersection. So if the traffic light is green but he holds up his hand for you to stop, then you stop and do not go until he signals for you to go. If the light is red, but he/she signals for you to go, then you can go.

They may also use a whistle. At night he/she may use a flashlight to signal for you to go or stop.

If you meet a vehicle at night with bright or blinding headlights, the safest thing to do is to dim your lights and keep your eyes on the right side of the road. (This way you can see where the right side or edge of the road is and you are not looking right into bright or blinding headlights of the oncoming vehicle.)

You should not use your parking lights when driving on highways, If you need lights, turn on your headlights.

USING YOUR HEADLIGHTS M-Pg 36

Read the section and look at the picture on the bottom of Page 36

Remember: If you are using your headlights on high beam and a car is coming toward you, change to low beams when the oncoming car is within 500 feet of you. (A football field is 300 feet long, so this is about 1 and 2/3 rd football fields.)

If you are following a car within 500 feet, use your low beams unless you are on a two lane road and you are trying to pass the car in front of you.)

When driving in a fog, use your low beams. (The high beams tend to hit the fog droplets and reflect back into your face. Hopefully the low beams will shine on the road and under the fog and not reflect back toward you.)

Remember: Summary: use the low beams when

1. Another car is coming toward you
2. You are following a car
3. You are driving in a fog.

RIGHT-OF-WAY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES & FUNERAL PROCESSIONS M-Pg 29

Look at the picture

Emergency vehicles: (ambulance, police, fire engine) with flashing lights or siren, etc. always have the right-of-way. If possible, pull your vehicle over to the right side of the road. If you are already in the middle of an intersection, go on through the intersection and then pull over to the right.

Funeral Processions: Yield right of way to a funeral procession. Let them continue to go through the intersection even if the light has turned green for you. Sometimes, on a two lane road, if a funeral procession is coming toward you, cars will slow down and pull off the road to the right while the funeral procession goes by. (The above rules are not a law, but it is a common courtesy and shows respect for the family and friends of the person who is being buried.)

RIGHT-OF-WAY TO SCHOOL BUSES M-Pg 30

Look at the picture

YOU MUST STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS, regardless of your direction, whenever the bus is stopped and kids are getting on or off. Don't go until the children are safely across the street and the school bus has pulled in its stop signs and has started to move forward.

Do this even if the school bus is on the other side of a four lane highway.

RIGHT-OF-WAY TO PEDESTRIAN M-Pg 30

Look at the pictures

A “**Pedestrian**” is a person who is walking along the side of or across a road.

A “**crosswalk**” is usually a place marked by lines across on the road, showing a person where they should cross the road. It may not always be marked. It is usually at the intersections, corners, or places where a sidewalk crosses a street.

Remember: The pedestrian, in a marked or unmarked crosswalk, always has the right-of-way.

A person walking across a street within a crosswalk, whether or not the crosswalk is marked, always has the right-of-way.

Remember these rules:

1. Always keep your vehicle under control.
2. Never try to anticipate (guess) the movements of a pedestrian. Be careful, and slow down, especially around children. Watch for children or people walking across the road between cars.

A BLIND PERSON M-Pg 31

Look at the picture

Be able to recognize a blind person, a blind pedestrian: A blind person walking along the side of a road or trying to cross a road will usually have a walking stick, this may have a red tip on it. They may have a seeing eye dog with them, a dog especially trained to help a blind person.

Remember: A person walking with a stick with a red tip is probably a blind person.

Do everything you can to protect a blind person trying to cross a road. Come to a complete stop if you need to in order to let them get across.

FOLLOWING ANOTHER VEHICLE M-Pg 34

Read the section on page 34.

Remember: When following another vehicle, allow or stay back at least one car length for every 10 mph of speed.

This means, that if you are traveling behind a car and your speedometer reads 30 mph, then you need to be at least 3 car lengths back or behind the car you are following. (30 mph divided by 10 mph = 3, or 3 car lengths).

If you are traveling at 60 mph, then you should stay back 6 car lengths from the car in front of you.

TURNING AROUND M-Pg 35

Read the section and look at the picture on Page 35

DRIVING AT NIGHT M-Pg 36

Read the section and look at the picture on the top of Page 36

Consider reducing your speed: Since you can not see as far at night, or as good as on a clear day, you may need to reduce your speed.

Remember: Don't “overdrive” your headlights. This means that if your headlights only let you see 200 feet down the road, then you need to reduce your speed so you can stop within 200 feet if you need to.

For example, if the speed limit is 60 mph, it would take you about 264 feet of distance before you could stop your car. However, at night, if your headlights only let you see 200 feet down the road, then you are “overdriving” your headlights. If a tree is laying across the road and you can only see it when you are 200 feet away, but it will take you 264 feet before you can stop, then you will hit the tree. Under those conditions you should slow down to about 50 mph. Then you could stop within 186 feet and not hit the tree, or worse yet, a child who may be crossing the road.

PASSING ON THE LEFT M-Pg 34

This section is talking about passing on the left on a two lane road. In other words, you are going to have to pull out into the lane of the oncoming traffic to pass. This can be very dangerous, because if you make a mistake, it could cause a head on crash. You can do it, but you just have to be careful and follow all the rules and good common sense.

Read this section and discuss it. Look at the picture on the top of page 32.

Points to remember:

Only pass when it is safe to do so, when:

- There are no cars coming toward you.
- There is no solid yellow line on your side of the road.
- There are no hills or curves ahead of you that could hide an oncoming car from your sight.
- You are not within 100 feet of bridges, overpasses, railroad crossing, cross walks.
- Do not pass if there is an intersection ahead of you. A car could pull out in front of you.

When it is safe to pass, follow these steps:

1. Do not tailgate the vehicle that you intend to pass. Drop back far enough so you can see around it before you try to change lanes.
2. Turn on your left turn signal.
3. Make sure there are no cars trying to pass you before you move into the left and into the oncoming traffic lane. Look in your side view and rearview mirror.
4. If all is clear, pull out into the left lane. Accelerate and drive pass the car.
5. Do not pull back into the right lane and in front of the car you have just passed until you can see the vehicle that you have just passed in your rearview mirror. Then pull back in front of the car and resume a safe speed.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN M-Pg 31

You must use extreme caution wherever children are playing or gathering. This means not only around schools and playgrounds, but in neighborhoods, where the playground may be the street.

Watch carefully for children riding on bicycles. Most have not been taught that the bicycle is a vehicle and must follow the same laws and rules as a car. A child on a bike should, but may not stop for a stop sign and may ride out right in front of you.

Remember: A bicycle is a vehicle, and should follow the same rules as a vehicle, a car.

LEGAL SPEEDS M-Pg 32

Remember, the faster you are going, the more likely you are to get into an accident and the more likely it is that someone may get killed.

Remember: The posted speeds, speed limits, are for ideal conditions, on a dry road on a clear day. If it is foggy, rainy, a lot of people around, dark and you can't see to far ahead, your windshield is fogged up, etc. slow down to a speed that is safe for those conditions.

Slow down around curves, when coming up to an intersection, etc.

SPEED LIMITS M-Pg 32

Key speed limits to remember are given below.
You may also review the chart on page 30.

Vocabulary words:

Interstate: A special highway system built to move cars quickly across the United States and through cities. You can get on and off of a interstate highway only at specially marked interchanges, places. I 59, Interstate 59 is the interstate highway that goes through Hattiesburg.

Rural: This word means away from the city, where there are fewer houses and buildings. Out in the country.

Interstate (rural): That section of the interstate highway that is outside of the city area and in the country. The speed limit in this section of the interstate may be faster than the speed limit in the city where there will be more traffic on the interstate highway.

Natchez Trace Parkway: this is a special scenic and historic two lane road that starts in Natchez Mississippi and goes up into Tennessee. It is like driving through a park with historical sights you can stop at and look at.

Maximum: The fastest or largest, etc. When talking about speeds, it is the fastest speed that you can legally drive at.

Minimum: the slowest, smallest, etc. When talking about speeds, it is the slowest speed that you can legally drive at.

mph: this means or is an abbreviation for “miles per hour”. If you drive at 70 mph that means that you would go or travel 70 miles per hour or 70 miles in one hour.

Speed Limits		
These speed limits are for driving on highways out in the country, not in the city.		
AUTOMOBILES	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM
Interstate (Rural)	70 mph	40 mph
U.S. Roads, 4 Lane, if posted	65 mph	40 mph
U.S. Roads, 2 Lane	55 mph	30 mph
State Roads	55 mph	None
Natchez Trace Parkway	50 mph	None

SCHOOL ZONE

Inside City 15 mph
Outside City as Posted

PASSING ON THE RIGHT M-Pg 33

You may pass a vehicle on the right when:

1. When the vehicle you are passing is making or about to make a left turn.
2. When you are on a four lane highway.
3. When you are on a one-way road of two or more lanes.

Under no circumstances are you allowed to drive off the pavement or on the shoulder of the road to pass on the right.