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Essential Driver Training
(EDT)



What is Essential Driver Training?

Essential Driver Training (EDT) is a mandatory training course that teaches fundamental driving skills to learner car drivers. It is part of the RSA's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) scheme and is intended to improve road safety.

EDT is only part of the learning process, you will need lots of practice and may need more lessons to become a safe driver.

Why do I need EDT?

Studies show that young drivers and inexperienced drivers are more likely to die or be seriously injured in collisions, and EDT is one of several measures introduced by the RSA to help improve critical driving knowledge, skills and behaviours of new drivers.

If the issue date of your first B category (Car) learner permit is on or after 4 April 2011, in order to be able to sit your full driving test, you must first complete all EDT lessons.

If you are **not** required to complete EDT, you may still choose to take an EDT course, as it can help increase your chances of passing the driving test and will help make you a better safer driver.

What does EDT involve?

EDT is a course of **12 one-hour lessons**. These lessons are designed to cover certain critical driving skills and improve your practical driving skills.

As you complete each lesson, your **Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)** will record your progress in a specially issued logbook.

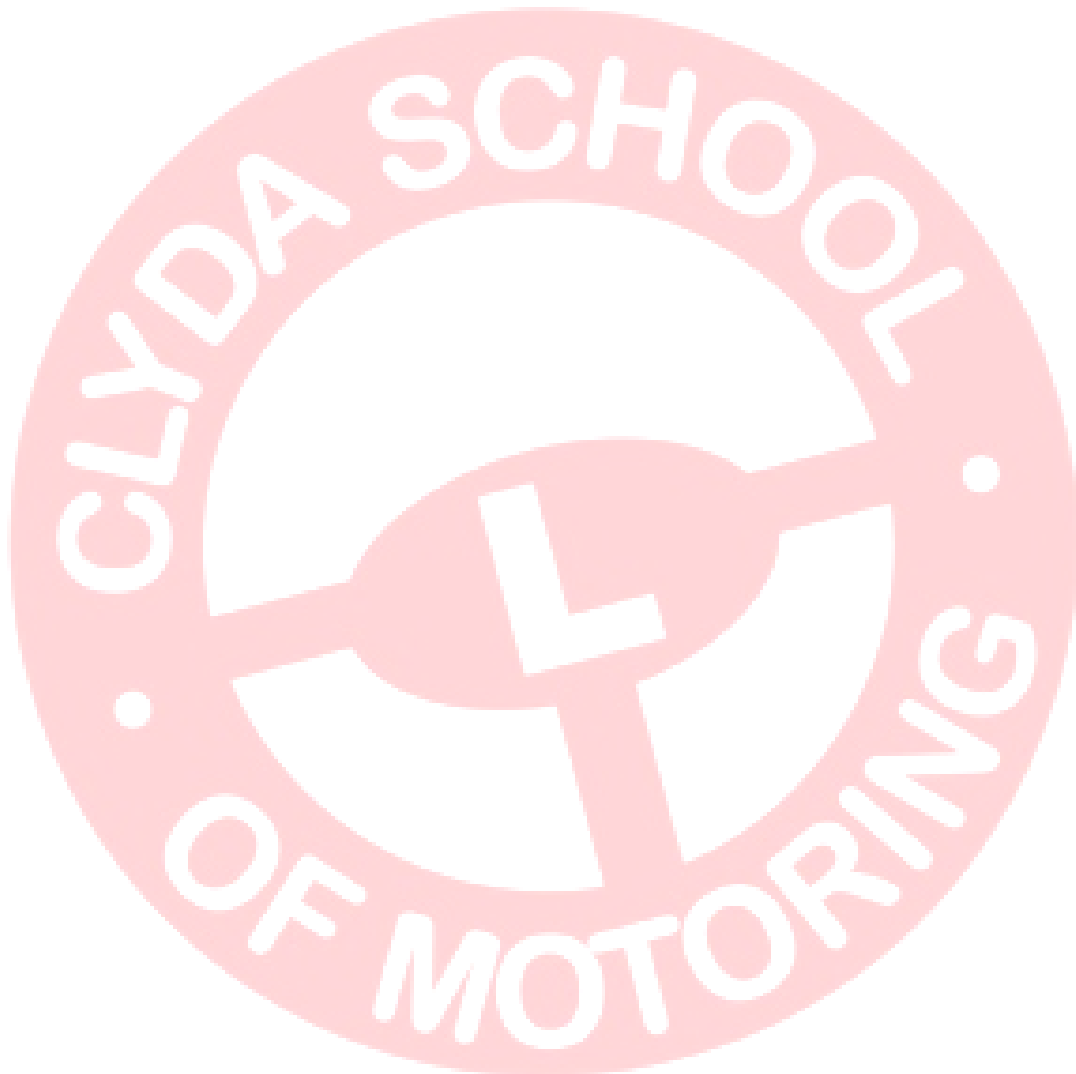
You should also have a **Sponsor, an experienced driver** (many learner drivers choose a family member) who will supervise your driving practice outside of lessons, and will also track your progress in your logbook.

After you finish your EDT course, you may still need additional lessons with an ADI to improve your driving skills. Additionally, you should practice with your Sponsor as much as possible to get comfortable behind the wheel.

On the day of your driving test, you should bring your completed logbook on the appointed test date, as you may be required to show it to the examiner.

What does EDT cost?

There is no set charge for EDT lessons and **each ADI sets their own fees**. The RSA recommends that you ring several ADI's to enquire about the fees and also to see if the ADI is right for you. Recommendations from family and friends may also prove useful in helping you to make your choice.



Find an ADI

EDT can only be delivered by an RSA-approved instructor, an ADI. To find an available ADI, look on the ADI register. You may switch ADIs during the EDT course, but remember to get your current ADI to sign off on your completed lessons before you make any changes.

Benefits of EDT

Completing your essential driver training course will help you to:

- understand what it means to be a better safer driver.
- practice your driving skills in a structured way that is focussed on your own learning needs.
- develop lifelong skills that will make you a better safer driver.

The Lessons

The Essential Driver Training course is made up of 12 one-hour lessons, which you must complete before taking your Driving test.

Preparation for your first lesson

Once you've found an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI), ask them for advice on how to prepare for the course of EDT lessons. They should let you know what lessons, practice and background reading you should do before starting the course.

At your first EDT lesson, and each lesson thereafter, **your ADI will check your learner permit**, and if you are using your own car, will check to make sure your **insurance, motor tax, NCT and the roadworthiness** of the vehicle are all in order.

Your ADI will give you a logbook with your name, address, date of birth and learner permit driver number. You should bring this logbook to each lesson and make sure all the appropriate sections are filled out after each lesson.

EDT lessons timeline

- Lessons **1-8 must be taken in sequence**, but lessons **9-12 may be taken in any order**.
- Each of the 12 lessons in EDT lasts about **one hour**.
- We recommend that you leave at least **two weeks** between each EDT lesson to allow for further instruction, practice and learning.
- The EDT course is best spread out over **six months**.

What do the lessons cover?

Each of the EDT lessons has particular objectives. You should prepare for each lesson using the EDT Course Syllabus. The 12 lessons are titled:

- ☐ LESSON 1: CAR CONTROLS AND SAFETY CHECKS
- ☑ LESSON 2: CORRECT POSITIONING
- ☑ LESSON 3: CHANGING DIRECTION
- ☑ LESSON 4: PROGRESSION MANAGEMENT
- ☑ LESSON 5: CORRECT POSITIONING
- ☑ LESSON 6: ANTICIPATION AND REACTION
- ☑ LESSON 7: SHARING THE ROAD
- ☑ LESSON 8: DRIVING SAFELY THROUGH TRAFFIC
- ☑ LESSON 9: CHANGING DIRECTION (MORE COMPLEX SITUATIONS)
- ☑ LESSON 10: SPEED MANAGEMENT
- ☑ LESSON 11: DRIVING CALMLY
- ☑ LESSON 12: NIGHT DRIVING

You can read more about the lessons in the EDT Learner Driver Information Booklet and the Sample Learner Logbook

How the logbook works

When you start your first EDT lesson, you will be given an **official logbook by your ADI** to record the details of your training and progress, as well as necessary preparation for your next lessons

When you complete an EDT lesson, your ADI will **stamp the relevant section of your logbook and record some feedback** on how well or whether you met the lesson objectives. To meet the lesson objectives you must prepare properly, practice with a Sponsor and you may need to take additional instruction.

An ADI can only sign the lessons they have given, so be sure to get your logbook updated by your ADI after each lesson. If you change ADIs, your new ADI will not be able to fill out your logbook for lessons you have already taken.

The logbook also provides **space for both you and your Sponsor to assess your performance** in your EDT lessons. This evaluation will help you understand what you need to practice to become a safer driver and how best to prepare for your next lesson.

If a learner fails the driving test must they repeat EDT?

There is no requirement to repeat EDT. There is one exception; this is where the learner permit has lapsed for more than 5 years.

