

Graduate Students Private Transportation

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GSA VP Services

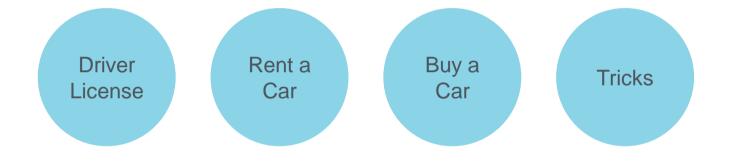
Sep. 10th 2021







Topics









Syllabus

- I. Official resources
- II. Class G
- III. Driving School
- IV. International Driving Permit



I. Official resources

- Hamilton driving test center
 - Address: 370 Kenora Ave, Hamilton, ON L8E 2W2
 - Website: https://drivetest.ca/
- Fee (excluding tax): https://drivetest.ca/tests/fees.html
- Booking G2 & G road test: https://drivetest.ca/book-a-road-test/
- Learning materials:
 - Official website: https://www.ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook
 - Paper book: https://www.publications.gov.on.ca/browse-catalogues/mto-drivers-handbook-series



Overview





G1 Computer-based Test

- Role of G1 license:
 - It is the most widely used government issued photo ID.
 - You can only drive a car companied with another driver with a full driver license for at least 4 years.
 (Usually driving instructor)
- Before the test
 - You must go to driving test center to attend the G1 test. There is no booking (first-come first-serve).
 - You must bring your passport or other government issued photo IDs.
- The test: all the questions are single choice questions, which contains two parts:
 - Part I: 20 questions about traffic signs and lights.
 - Part II: 20 questions about traffic rules.
- Note: all the parts must maintain 80% correct. Otherwise, you must pay the fee for that part to take the test again.



G2 Road Test

- Role of G2 license:
 - o It is the most widely used government issued photo ID.
 - You can drive by yourself.
- Before the test
 - You must go to driving test center to attend the G2 road test.
 - You must book the test first. Please book it as early as possible due to the long waiting line.
 - You must bring your G1 license.
- The test: The whole test is in-car test, which contains the 4 parts:
 - Part I: Left turn, right return, driving under traffic lights and stop signs.
 - Part II: Lane change.
 - Part III: Three-point turn.
 - Part IV: Pull over, parallel parking
- Note:
 - The whole test is 100 points, and the pass line is 70 points.
 - If you have serious fault, e.g., running a red light, ignoring the blind point during lane change, hitting other people or objects, you
 will fail instantly.
 - You need to prepare a car before the test. The driving test center will not provide a car for you. Since you cannot rent a car with G1, you can use the car from your driving instructor.

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G Road Test

- Role of G license: the same as G2 license.
- Before the test
 - You must go to driving test center to attend the G road test.
 - You must book the test first. Please book it as early as possible due to the long waiting line.
 - You must bring your G2 license.
- The test: The whole test is in-car test, which contains the 3 parts:
 - Part I: Everything in G2 road test.
 - Part II: Emergency stop.
 - Part III: Driving on a highway (400-level highway)
- Note:
 - The whole test is 100 points, and the pass line is 70 points.
 - If you have serious fault, e.g., running a red light, ignoring the blind point during lane change, hitting other people or objects, you will fail instantly.
 - You need to prepare a car before the test. The driving test center will not provide a car for you. Since you already have
 G2 license, you can rent a car or use the car from your driving instructor.

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Tricks & Notes

- Before you take your G1 test, you can pay the fee for both G1 & G2 test as a package to get a discount.
- There is a 1-year mandatory waiting time between G1 and G2, G2 and G test if you don't have any experience from other provinces or countries before.
- G1 & G2 licenses belong to novice class, which will expire 5 years later from the time you got your G1 license.
 - You need to get the G license in 5 years. Otherwise, you need start from G1 test.
- If you change your current address, you need to change the address on the driver license too.
 - Canadian citizen & permanent residence: https://www.ontario.ca/page/change-address-drivers-licence-vehicle-permit-and-health-card
 - International students: Only can change it in Service Ontario. Near McMaster campus: 50 Dundurn St S, Hamilton, ON L8P 4W3. Please bring your new lease.
- Driver license from other provinces: https://www.ontario.ca/page/exchange-out-province-drivers-licence



III. Driving School

- You are suggested to take the driving school to prepare for G1, G2 and G tests.
- You must check if the driving school is recognized by the Ontario government: http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/driving-schools.shtml
- If you take the in-class lesson for G1 test, you can shorten the waiting time between G1 and G2 test to 8
 months.

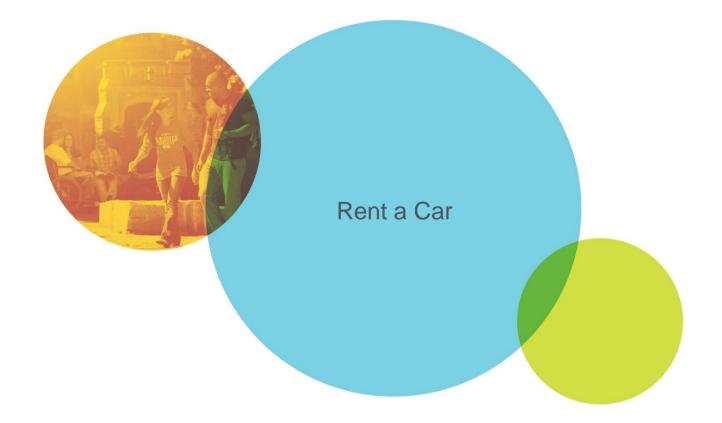


IV. International Driving Permit

- You can obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) after you get your G license.
- You can rent a car and drive a car when you travel to other countries.
- The IDP is issued by Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) and valid for 1 year.
 - You can re-apply when it expires.
- Official website:
 - https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/documents/international-driving-permit
 - https://www.caa.ca/services/travel/international-driving-permit/
- Countries that accept IDP: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsV.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XI-B-1&chapter=11&Temp=mtdsg5&clang=_en









Syllabus

- I. Car Rental Companies
- II. Price
- III. How To Rent?
- IV. Tricks
- V. Zipcar



I. Car Rental Companies

- Discount: https://www.discountcar.com/
- Enterprise
 - Website: https://www.enterprise.ca/en/home.html
 - iOS: https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/enterprise-rent-a-car/id1020641417?mt=8
 - Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ehi.enterprise.android
- Avis
 - Website: https://www.avis.ca/en/home
 - iOS: https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/avis-car-rental/id308342527?mt=8
 - Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.avis.androidapp



II. Price

Rental Price

- Rental price = basic price + optional insurances + young fee + others + tax
 - Basic price: The price shown on the website. Different levels of cars have different prices.
 - Optional insurances:
 - damage waiver (DW): You don't need to pay for any damage of the car. Check if your credit card can cover it, e.g., RBC Signature Rewards Card.
 - Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) & Personal Effects Coverage (PEC): Similar to OHIP or UHIP.
 - Roadside Assistance Protection (RAP): Services fee for key loss, forgetting to fill the gas, etc.
 - Young fee: For people under 25 years old.
 - o Others:
 - Second driver: Only the one who rent the car can drive unless you add second driver. Usually, \$10~20 per day.
 - Tax: An extra 13% of the cost of all the above items.
- The companies have already paid the auto insurance. Thus, you don't need to pay again.



II. Price

More about Rental Price

- The rental fee is usually calculated based on every 24 hours.
 - o If you rent for 25 hours, the price is the same as that for 48 hours (2 days).
- The rental prices are different at different locations of a company.
 - Example: the price of Enterprise Rent-A-Car at Rymal road is cheaper than that in Hamilton downtown.
- Costco members have more discount when renting at Enterprise and Avis.
- Rental price during weekends is usually cheaper than that in weekdays.
- Early return: Usually car rental companies will refund the cost of the remaining days.
 - For example: https://www.enterprise.ca/en/help/faqs/early-return.html
 - Note: If the returning day is a statutory holiday and the rental location is closed, the cost will continue for another day.



III. How To Rent?

- Rent a car on the company website many days before.
 - Compare with different companies and choose the one with lowest price.
 - Do not try to go to the rental location directly without booking. They may not have available cars.
- Bring the driver license and credit card with you. Pay the cost at the rental location.
- Return the car before the deadline.
 - Please fill the gasoline to the level when you return the car.
 - You can put the key at "Key Drop" box at outside of the location if you return during after hours.



IV. Tricks

- Pick up customers: Car rental companies can pick up customer to the rental location and return the customer after renting. Please note that this is not guaranteed.
 - Example: https://www.enterprise.ca/en/help/faqs/pick-up.html



V. Zipcar

Another Way to Rent a car

zipcar

- Zipcar is a company to rent cars with memberships.
- All the users must pay the membership first. Then rent their cars for hours or days.
- Website: https://www.zipcar.com/en-ca
- Price: membership + rental
 - o Membership: Annual or monthly membership fee
 - Rental: Cost per hour or per day

Becoming a Zipcar member

Applying is as easy as 1,2,3. All you need is to be 21 or older (18 if a student) and have a valid driver's license.



Dick a plan

Select the membership plan that's best for you to get started.



2. Verification
We verify your driver license, which
typically takes 1 business day but in
some cases may take a bit longer.



Receive your Zipcard
 Once approved, get a Zipcard by mail in 3-7 days. Once you activate it, you're ready to hit the road.

Starting your trip

To unlock and lock your car, use the app or tap your Zipcard to the reader on the driver's side of the windshield of the car. Remember, the keys to the car should always stay in the



Membership includes:

- ✓ Insurance for all trips
- ✓ Free gas for all trips
- Maintenance and 24/7 roadside assistance
- 200 kilometers per day (\$0.50 per km after that)

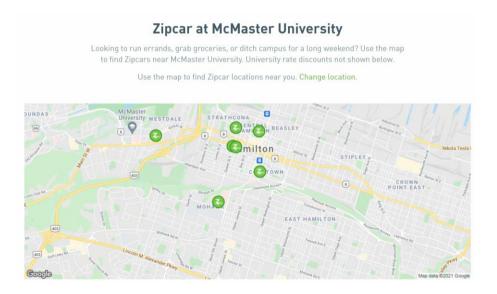


V. Zipcar

Another Way to Rent a car



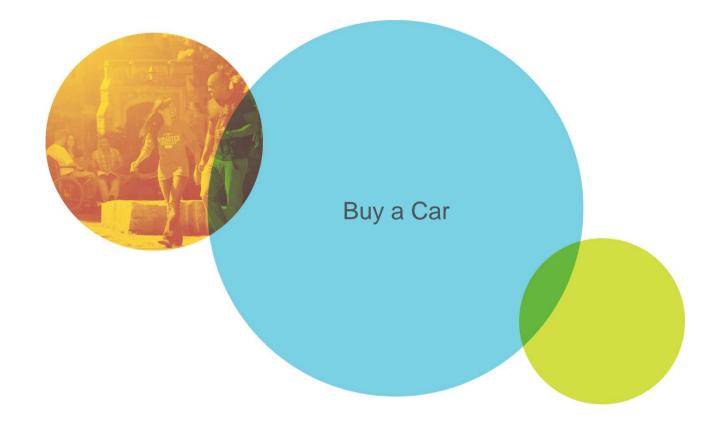
Discount for McMaster University: https://www.zipcar.com/en-ca/universities/mcmaster-university













Syllabus

- I. Introduction
- II. Models
- III. Choose a Car
- IV. Try a Car
- V. Buy a Car
- VI. Tricks



I. Introduction

Overview

- After we introducing the above 2 topics, we are now familiar with some basic ideas of the traffic and transportation.
- We begin to talk about how to buy a car.
 - We only focus on those who have no idea about the details of a car, e.g., techniques, performance.
 - We only talk about the whole process based on its appearance and comfort.
- We first introduce different models of cars, then talk about the purchase.



Condition

- There are different ways to classify cars. One of the most important ways is its condition, i.e., new car or used
 car.
- New car: Cars are bought directly from dealers, e.g., Fort, Toyota, etc.
 - The number of the odometry is very small. Only staffs of the dealer or testers have driven it before.
 - New cars have many good warranties:
 - Power train: 10 years
 - Other parts: 5 years
 - Roadside Assistance: 5 years
 - New cars are really good for novice buyers.



Condition

- Used cars also contain 2 different types: Certified Pre-Owned and Used.
- Certified Pre-Owned: Used car bought from dealers.
 - This kind of cars are from the leased or traded-in cars. Dealers will clean, fix and upgrade them, then sell
 to new customers.
 - Usually, those cars have been used for several years. Its performance and experience may be out of date.
 - The price is lower than the new one of the same model and you don't really need to worry about some obvious and inner defect. So, it is still good for novice buyers.
- Used: This kind of cars are traded on some 3rd-party platforms or directly between 2 persons.
 - There is no guarantee of the quality. Although it looks good from outside, it may contain severe problem of its engine or other systems.
 - o Once the transaction is done, you are the only one who is responsible for any loss and damage.
 - Please do not make decisions by yourself if you have no experience on this. You can bring some very experienced friends to help you.

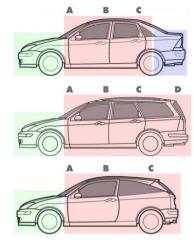


Body Style

- Sedan: a passenger car in a three-box configuration with separate compartments for engine, passenger, and cargo. (1st image of the top-right figure)
- Hatchback: a car body configuration with a rear door that swings upward to provide access to a cargo area. (3rd image of the top-right figure)
- Coupe: a passenger car with a sloping or truncated rear roofline and two doors. Usually, this kind of cars belongs to high end. (bottom-left figure)
- Sport utility vehicle (SUV) / Crossover: a car classification that combines elements of road-going passenger cars with features from off-road vehicles. Usually, this kind of cars is bigger and higher than the above three kinds. (bottom-right figure)









Brand

US:

- Ford: https://www.ford.ca/
- Chevrolet: https://www.chevrolet.ca/en
- Dodge: https://www.dodge.ca/en
- Buick: <u>https://www.buick.ca/en</u>
- Germany:
 - Volkswagen: https://www.vw.ca/en.html
 - Audi: https://www.audi.ca/ca/web/en.html
 - Mercedes-Benz: https://www.mercedes-benz.ca/en/home
 - BMW: https://www.bmw.ca/en/home.html

Japanese:

- Toyota: https://www.toyota.ca/
- Nissan: https://www.nissan.ca/
- Honda: https://www.honda.ca/
- Mitsubishi: https://www.mitsubishi-motors.ca/
- Mazda: https://www.mazda.ca/
- Subaru: https://www.subaru.ca/
- Korea
 - KIA: https://www.kia.ca/home
 - Hyundai: https://www.hyundaicanada.com/



Power

- Gasoline: The most common one till today. The powertrain is an internal combustion engine (ICE).
- Electricity: The most environmentally friendly. The powertrain is an electric motor.
- Hybrid: combines a conventional ICE system with an electric propulsion system.
 - It uses both gasoline and electricity.
 - o It will charge the battery when the engine is idle, or the car is going downhill. So, it is can save fuel.



Transmission

- Transmission system is only for engines. Pure electric car does not have it.
- Automatic Transmission (AT): The throttle positions include "P", "R", "D", "N", etc.
 - Hydraulic Automatics Transmission (HAT or just AT): The price is low, but it has obvious feeling when the transmission is working.
 - Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT): It can change seamlessly through a continuous range of gear ratios. But it may take a while to change to a higher speed.
 - Dual-clutch transmission (DCT): It combines the advantages of HAT and CVT. But the price is higher.
 - Automated Mechanical Transmission (AMT): A very conventional automatic transmission. You can assume that the whole system is like Manual Transmission, but the transmission procedure is done by the computer.
- Manual Transmission (MT): The throttle positions include "R", "1", "2", "3", etc.



III. Choose a Car

Initial Idea

- There are so many different models of cars. You may not have enough time to have a look and try each of them. So, you must have an initial idea about your next car. Here are some tips:
- What is the condition of the car?
 - New or certified pre-owned: Go to the official website of the dealers. Better to choose the website of the dealer in your city or nearby cities.
 - Used: Go to some large 3rd party car trade websites, e.g., Autotrader https://www.autotrader.ca/. Or ask your friends if they have such info.
- How much budget do I have, how to pay the bill? Usually, dealers have 3 kinds of payment methods.
 - Cash: You are going to pay the whole bill at once when you get the car. Dealers usually give customers extra discount if they use this way. You can make a bank draft instead of carrying real cash.
 - Finance: You are going to pay a part of the bill and pay the rest month by month. Usually, there is no interest if you can finish the payment in 7 years.
 - Lease: You are going to lease it instead of buying it. You will pay the bill every week, every other week, or every month.
 - Please note that it is different from car rental company where you just rent it for one day or several days. Here, you must lease for at least 2 years.
 - You can own the car by paying the rest cost of the car when the lease ends.



III. Choose a Car

Initial Idea

- What are necessary functions? Many of our students are also novice drivers. So, some accessibility functions could be a must.
 - AT/CVT/DCT/AMT
 - Rearview Camera
 - Android Auto & Apple Carplay + Smartphone Link Display: Connect to the phone and show the route planning.
 - Power Windows: use a button to control the windows.
 - Power Door + Remote Keyless Entry: The key can lock/unlock the car as a remote control.
- Higher end functions:
 - Blind Spot Monitor, Bird's Eye View or 360-degree view
 - Lane Departure Alert
 - De-icing or heated mirrors, Seat heating
 - Push button start: disengage the immobilizer and activate the ignition without inserting a key.



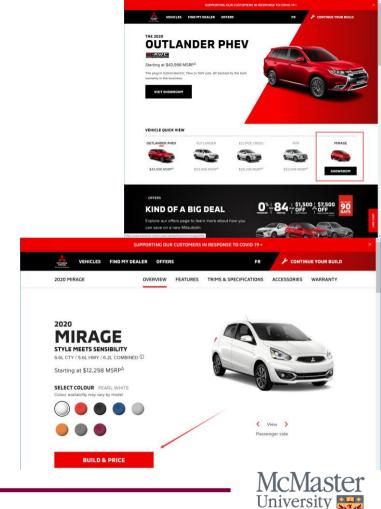
III. Choose a Car

Example

Let's use Mitsubishi Mirage as an example

Step 1: Open Mitsubishi Canada website: https://mountainmitsubishi.ca/ and find Mirage. Mirage belongs to hatchback model.

Step 2: Click "Build & Price".

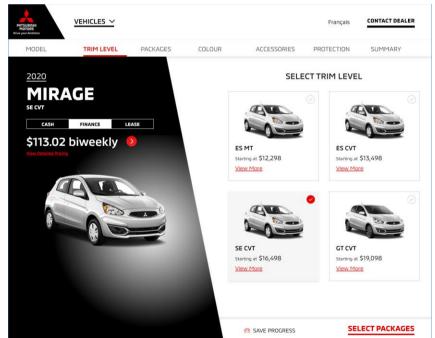


III. Choose a Car

Example

Step 3: Except the first model, the other 3 models use automatic transmission, i.e., CVT.

Here, we choose the "SE CVT", which has all the necessary functions we mentioned before, e.g., rearview camera, Carplay, etc.

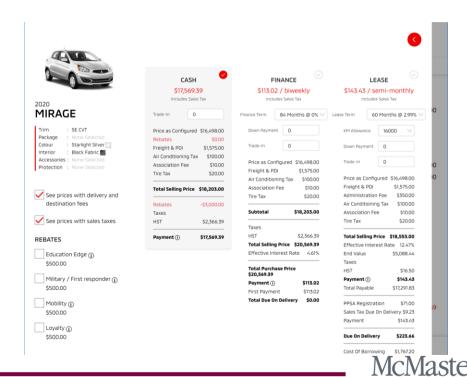


III. Choose a Car

Example

Step 4: After finishing all the remaining procedures, we get a list of summary and payment options.

- Price as Configured: The original price of the car.
- Rebates: 4 different rebates listed on the left. Usually, we can use "Education Edge" which is applied to new graduated students.
- Freight & PDI (Pre-Delivery Inspection): The shipping cost from Japan to Hamilton.
- Air Conditioning Tax: The tax required by the government.
- Association Fee: May have other names. Ask the dealer the meaning.
- Tire Tax: The processing of disposed tires.
- Rebates ("-\$3,000.00"): The discount if you pay by cash.
- HST: an extra 13% of the total above cost.



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IV. Try a Car

Introduction

- There is no fixed steps of how to try a car. But some preparation is still necessary.
 - Call the dealer and make an appointment if you are going to try their cars. Then, there will be a staff to serve you specifically when you arrive.
 - You must bring your G2 or G license with you. Then, the staff can let you to drive their cars. They will also copy your driver license.
 - For Certified Pre-Owned and Used cars only: Let them prepare a vehicle history report (usually issued by Carfax or other companies). You can have a look at the maintenance history of the car. This shows if the car has some inner defects due to severe accidents.



IV. Try a Car

Have a try!

- Don't feel embarrassed when you drive their cars, even though you may not want to buy it, or the car is very expensive.
 - In fact, it is the job of the staff in the dealer to serve you! They can serve up to ten customers everyday.
 - The dealer has bought insurances for the car. Don't be afraid and drive as usual. Please note that if you break the car on purpose, they may sue you.
- Try all the functions of a car, e.g., all the buttons, the control screen or Carplay screen, etc. You can take
 photos for later comparison in case that you may forget it.
- Don't buy it instantly unless you encounter a very good deal. Try all the prospective cars first.
 - Let the staff give you a quote sheet to show you the detailed cost.



IV. Try a Car

Deposit

- Similar to house renting, you must pay a deposit to the car if you have made a decision. Otherwise, the car you want may be bought by other people. And the model (e.g., specific color) you want could be out-of-stock.
- Note: once you paid the deposit, it is nearly impossible to get it back. So, think about it carefully.
- After the deposit has been paid, the staff will ask you how to pay the rest money and when you decide to take the car.
 - It is impossible to get the car soon. Because you and the dealer need to prepare the license plate, auto insurance, etc. The date can be delayed to several weeks later.
 - If you are going to pay by cash, you can pay the rest of the cost on the day you take the car.



V. Buy a Car

Preparation

- Now, you are entering the last step to drive the car home. Before that, you still have a lot of work to do.
- Register a vehicle: All the cars must be registered before running on a road. Otherwise, there will be a huge fine. The registration including vehicle permit, license plate and license plate sticker.
 - Website: https://www.ontario.ca/page/register-vehicle-permit-licence-plate-and-sticker
 - Vehicle permit: a paper showing Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), plate number, owner's information of the car. If you change your current address, you must update vehicle permit in 6 days in Service Ontario or online.
 - License plate: two metal plates mounted in front of and at the back of a car. If you want to customize it, please refer https://www.ontario.ca/page/personalized-licence-plate. License plates only related to a single owner. If you buy a used car, you still need to get a new one.
 - License plate sticker: a sticker on the back license plate. You must renew it every year or every other year.
 Please refer to https://www.ontario.ca/page/renew-licence-plate-sticker
- Auto insurance: Also called "Liability", is a must to a car. You must prepare it before you get your new car.
 - TD Insurance: https://www.tdinsurance.com/affinity/mcmasteralumni. A very popular discount for McMaster students.



V. Buy a Car

The day

- On the day to drive your car home, you still need to finish a series of procedures.
- · Bring all the necessary documents:
 - Vehicle permit, license plate and license plate sticker (If you buy it from dealers, dealer will do this job for you)
 - Driver license
 - Auto insurance card
 - Other financial document, e.g., bank draft, to make the purchase.
- Make the purchase! You also need to sign a lot of legal documents.
- Check the gasoline level. It be full when you get it.
- Book the next maintenance if you buy from a dealer. This is a must to maintain the validity of the warranty.

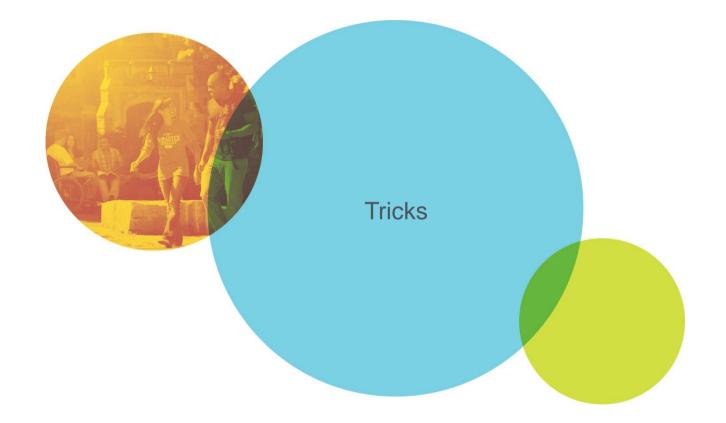


VI. Tricks

- Buy car related products: floor mat, luggage tray, snow brush.
- Buy CAA membership for road assistance if it is not a new car. Please refer to https://www.caasco.com/auto/roadside-assistance.
 - Out of battery: engine cannot start
 - Forget to fill the gasoline
 - Flat tire









Syllabus

- I. Traffic Rules
- II. Parking



Demerit points

- Although we have already passed G1, G2 or even G test, we may still make some mistakes during daily driving. The penalty will also cost us a lot of money.
- Demerit point is a score to measure how many mistakes you have made.
 - Website: https://www.ontario.ca/page/understanding-demerit-points
- It will accumulate points based on mistakes. Once you reach 15 points, you will lose you driver license and start to learn it again.
 - o 7 points: Failing to remain at the scene of a collision.



No Turning Left

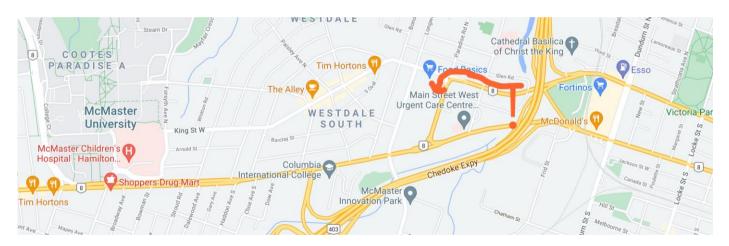
- This case always happens when there is a green light, and you are driving quickly. There is no time to look at each traffic sign.
- Solution: Use Google Map! It can prevent it from happening unless there is a new sign.
- There are 2 signs on the south the campus.





Speeding

- Website: https://www.ontario.ca/page/speeding-and-aggressive-driving
- Do not drive in a speed 10% higher than the maximum speed!
- Please note that the following road limits to 40km/h. Many students got tickets here.





No parking

- No Parking (left): You cannot park except to load or unload passengers or merchandise.
- No Standing (middle): You cannot park except to load or unload passengers.
- No Stopping (right): You must not stop your car for any reason. You must keep your car moving.
 - Usually, this happens on a very narrow road or very busy road.









Running a Red Light

- Of course, we will not run a red light on purpose.
- In most situation, we are running a yellow light, but we miscalculate the length of the yellow light. And the traffic light turns red before we go across the stop line.
- The fine for running a red light is \$325.



II. Parking

Parking at Home



- You must make sure you can park at your home once you get a car.
- If you are living in a house, you can park your car on the driveway.
- If you rent a room in a house, the landlord may not allow you to park there, or the driveway have been possessed. You need to consider how to park on street.
 - Website: https://www.hamilton.ca/streets-transportation/tickets-parking/street-parking
 - According to a by-law of Hamilton, unless there is no restricted parking sign on the street, the landlord, tenants and other people cannot park on the street in front of their house.
 - If there is a time restricted parking, you must move your car when time expires.
 - The only way to solve this problem is to buy on-street parking permit from City of Hamilton. Send an Email to parking@hamilton.ca. The cost is a little bit more than \$100 per year.
- If you live in an apartment, you cannot buy on-street parking permit. You must pay the parking fee.



II. Parking

Parking at McMaster

- Website: https://parking.mcmaster.ca/
- The designated parking lot for students is Lot M.
- Rate: https://parking.mcmaster.ca/rates/. Lot M is a little bit more than \$50 per month.
 However, Lot M is far from the campus. If you live near campus, you should walk.
- Application: Send an Email to parking@mcmaster.ca.
 - You also need to buy a transponder: https://parking.mcmaster.ca/transponder/
- Temporary parking: Free for the first 15 min for any parking lot.

