
The use of dual controls

One of the first and **most important skills** to learn is how and why to use the dual controls. Many instructors will tell you they didn't have training on dual controls, but wish they had. This section gives you the theory behind dual control use.

An incorrect use of dual controls can be dangerous - putting you, your pupil, and other road users at risk, with potentially catastrophic consequences. **DO NOT** skim over this section.

It's also important to recognise that the term 'dual control' doesn't just refer to the instructor pedals. Dual controlling means any physical action an instructor takes to control or override the car or the pupil's decision. For example, knocking off an indicator, releasing the handbrake, or taking the steering wheel, are all classed as a form of dual control.

Obviously dual controlling is a **practical** skill. We therefore strongly recommend you back up this theory based section with a practical, in car training session with a trainer or a fellow driving instructor. Spend time experimenting with using the controls and controlling the car physically from the instructor's seat **BEFORE** you start teaching. The first time you need to use the dual controls should not be the first time you've ever used them!

It's important that you become familiar with the dual controls in the car you are teaching in. All dual controls feel slightly different.

During this section you will learn more about:

- How to use dual controls properly, including when **NOT** to use them
- How to verbally communicate when taking or giving back physical control
- How to follow up the use of a dual control in response to a shown learning opportunity
- Clever ways of using a dual control to facilitate learning

Watch the accompanying video and then use this section to enhance your knowledge and understanding. Listen out for what our **BIGGEST** and most common form of dual control is!

Watch these videos:
Dual controls explained and training examples

Date: _____

► What is a dual control?

► Give 6 examples of ways you might dual control

- *Brake

- *Clutch

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- ▶ What is your biggest form of dual control?

- ▶ Why is it important to verbally confirm to your pupil that you are, or have, physically intervened?

- ▶ After physically intervening, how should you follow this up?

- ▶ Why is it VITAL you are aware of other road users before physically controlling or overriding the car?

- ▶ Why do we advise you to use your dual control brake when your pupil stalls in some situations?

- ▶ List 2 alternative ways you can use your dual control pedals to support a pupils' learning?