



ADDITIONAL DRIVING PRACTICE – VISUAL SEARCH & MEMORY EXERCISE

Learning Objective

During this exercise, you will practice visual awareness skills:

- To be visually aware of what is going on around you
- To scan 360 degrees around your vehicle
- To remember where objects are located when prompted

What's the Game Plan?

This exercise is based on what you learned in Module 2, Before You Start Your Engine and Module 3, Visual Search. During the drive, the teen driver should comment on what is in the six zones around the vehicle: 1) ahead: front view, 2) behind rear view, 3) left side mirror, 4) right side mirror 5) left blind spot and 6) right blind spot.

Remember; it all starts with proper mirror adjustment to minimize your blind spot and increase what can see in your mirrors.

Give Me Some Examples:

- I am passing a car on my right and they just passed into my right blind spot. I should be able to see the car in my right mirror soon.
- I can see a car hanging out in my left mirror and blind spot. I cannot change lanes to the left and I should adjust my speed so I can better see that car and create some space.
- I see traffic starting to bunch up a quarter mile up the highway.
- I see pedestrians crossing the road one block ahead.
- That white car just rolled through a red light ahead.
- I see a car in my rear mirror changing lanes and speeding through traffic.
- I remember without looking that the motorcycle is still hanging out in my right blind spot.
- It is dusk and the glare is limiting how far I can see.
- I am giving a quick glance over my right shoulder before changing lanes to the right.

Two or three times during the drive, when it is safe, the observer should ask the driver where an object is. (Example: without looking, where is the pickup truck now?) Try to pick an object like a big rig truck or motorcycle or sport car, pedestrian, bicyclist, ambulance, sedan, pickup truck or police car. To avoid confusion, try to time your question when there is only one of the same type of object in the driver's view.

Don't let the driver take their eyes off of the road ahead for more than a second. Make sure they are choosing a safe time when they do look in the mirrors.

During the driver, the adult should note the driver's comments on the Observer In-Car Worksheet and keep track of his/her responses to the observer's questions.

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Guidelines for Being the Driver

- Rule #1 is **drive safely**. Don't get so wrapped up in describing what you are doing that you forget to follow the rules of the road. If you get overloaded or stressed, discontinue the exercise and then find a safe opportunity to pull over and stop the car.
- Remember to watch where you are going at all times and do not stare in the rear or side mirrors. Practice a one second glance at mirrors and then mentally note what you just saw.
- Stress the following:
 - How you are using your mirrors to see things going on around your car.
 - How you choose a safe time to look in the mirrors
 - How you are looking far ahead and close by
 - How you are remembering objects around your vehicle.
- When you are listening to feedback from the observer, accept it with good grace, even if you may not agree. It's best to listen and try not to argue. Focus on what the observer is saying, and take away what you can use to improve your driving.

Guidelines for Being the Observer

When you are the observer, you want to give feedback to the driver in a way that is helpful and constructive. To assist you, we have developed a worksheet you can use to document and provide feedback.

- **Wait until you are out of the car before starting to give feedback.** That way you can both concentrate safely on what's being said.
- **Begin by saying two or three positive things about what the driver did right.** We all like to hear something good up front. Try to make this a meaningful compliment.
- **Ask the driver for his/her own brief take on what went well and not so well.** By giving the driver the chance to express his/her own feelings first you'll reduce any sense of confrontation, and it will be easier to cover everything without repetition.
- **When you give corrective feedback, concentrate on just two or three things.** The more you criticize, the less the driver will hear or remember. So pick out two or three things that are really important.
- **Focus your feedback on driving skills or how you felt during the drive.** It's better to say, "You should concentrate on maintaining adequate space cushions," or "I was feeling a little scared when we got close to that red car, because there was a chance we might hit it," than to say, "Are you trying to rear-end someone?"
- **End on a positive note.** To wrap things up, remind the driver of some of the good things he/she did. You don't want things to end with too much emphasis on what went wrong. By returning to the positive feedback, you'll make sure the driver feels encouraged and responsive.

One last word: You may be getting the idea that the observer isn't supposed to talk while the car is in motion. In general, this is a good idea. You don't want to distract the driver or interrupt his/her comments. If you do see something dangerous or threatening, you should speak up! You'd hate to have an accident and then say, "Well, I saw the truck coming, but I didn't think I was supposed to say anything!"



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OBSERVER WORKSHEET: IN-CAR NOTES

Route you are driving _____

In the chart below note what the driver says he/she is seeing and doing to react to changing driving situations. In the Observer comments not what the driver did well or what you would have done in addition or differently. Also note if the driver correctly identified location of the object you asked about. Use this chart at the end of the drive as a reference for both positive comments and constructive feedback.

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Driver Comments: | Observer Comments: |
| Driver Comments: | Observer Comments: |
| Driver Comments: | Observer Comments: |
| Driver Comments: | Observer Comments: |



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OBSERVER WORKSHEET: SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Refer to your in-car notes and rate how the driver did on each of the various driving skills. Complete this chart once the drive has ended as a reference for both positive comments and constructive feedback.

| Driving Skills | Did Well | Needs Improving | Notes/ Examples |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Visual Awareness: Recognized what was going on around the vehicle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Visual Scanning: Chose appropriate times to scan around the vehicle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Visual Scanning: Observed objects both far away and nearby. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Remembering: Identified correctly what the type of object. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Setting Priorities: Based on your notes above, select the 2 or 3 things that the driver should concentrate on practicing and improving right now.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Overall Feeling:

On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable/safe did you feel during the drive (circle one)?

1 = Scared to death / 2 = Uncomfortable / 3 = Mostly okay / 4 = Pretty comfortable / 5 = Completely safe and secure

When did you feel most comfortable? Why?

When did you feel least comfortable? Why?