



LEARNER DRIVERS, LISTEN UP!

Everyone gets to a certain age where they want to enjoy their own freedom and drive the open roads without a care in the world! For anyone starting their driving journey, **it is important to remember that there are a lot of rules and regulations you must follow in order to ensure you and everyone else on the road stay safe, this is the law!**

Let's take a look at what is expected of people looking to start driving, from the second they complete their theory test to as soon as they become a licensed driver.

First things first....

To start driving, there are a couple of things expected of you before you even sit behind the wheel of a car. **The first of these things is a theory test. Anyone above the age of 15 can sit their theory test, this is an exam based on the rules of the road and theory behind driving, which you must score a minimum of 35/40 to pass.** Once you have passed your theory test you are eligible to receive a learner's permit. From here on, you can partake in lessons with an experienced qualified driving instructor. You can only drive in a car you are insured in with the company of a licensed driver who is no longer a novice. **You must wear L plates** on whichever car you are practicing in until you no longer require them.

What next?

You are expected to **complete 12 lessons with a driving instructor.** Once all 12 lessons have been carried out, you are ready to apply for a driving test. The examiner will take you on a route around the town you have been practicing in, the test usually amounts to 35 minutes, and at the end you will be informed as to whether you passed or not.

Once you have passed your driving test, you can receive a driver's license. **You will be expected to place N plates on whatever car you are insured on and are driving, for 2 years.**

The Big Bucks...

A big concern for new drivers can be the cost. Driving is far from cheap and there is a lot of things to be aware of before starting the process. Initially, **the theory test costs 40 euro to sit, if you pass, you can go on to get a learner's permit which amounts to 35 euro, plus 15 extra euro for the eye test that has to be carried out in order to get a license.** If you fail your theory test, you will have to pay another 40 euro in order to sit it again.

Driving lessons can range from anything between 30 to 50 euro per lesson, bare in mind 12 of them have to be done! Insurance on cars depends on the model, year, engine size and length of time you wish to be insured for. Tax must also be paid on your car and the vehicle will have to pass an NCT. **And then you must also account for petrol/diesel money!**

To take an actual driving test, you will be charged 80 euro. If you need to take the test in an instructors car, you will also have to pay a fee to rent the car for that time. If you have passed, you must pay again to get a driving license.

So yes, **it definitely does burn a small hole in your pocket, but this is all to ensure the safety of you while driving, and to protect everyone you may come into contact with on the road.**

Finally....

There is a lot to consider when thinking about starting to drive, but it definitely is worth it! You can travel at your own free will with the ability to drive, so no longer having to pull your hair out at home when Mam or Dad refuse to give you a lift into town!

We hope this blog post helped anyone who is thinking of becoming a learner, and remember, the road can be a very dangerous place, **always proceed with caution when driving, it's not just your life at risk, it's the lives of everyone else too!**

