

# Educating new drivers

Business and Industry Today are pleased to award Andy Hall of Nudrivers with Company of the Month. This is due to the company's hard work and commitment to learner drivers and brilliant customer service. Nudrivers will continue to provide excellent high standards of driving lessons and provide books to help learners.

Andy Hall has been a driving instructor for 7 years. He is ADI (Approved Driving Instructor) qualified, which means he has been tested by the Driving Standards Agency to become a qualified driving instructor. To become ADI qualified Andrew would have taken part in a course carried out on a part time basis, to complete this course he would have had to complete the following sections:

Personal development in which he would have had to attend external courses, he would have been tested on his advanced driving and improved instructional ability. He would also have been tested on his way of identifying faults, how to analyse those faults and a remedy. Andy's instructional techniques would have been demonstrated, the way he would demonstrate to pupils and his customer care would also have been checked to make sure he is friendly, punctual and he has a good technique and rate. It takes around 12 months to complete this course and this ensures pupils they will have a good instructor. Andy has confidence in what he is doing and that is the best quality of a driving instructor.

Andy makes sure all lessons are planned and he realises that each pupil learns differently he makes all his pupils feel at ease and makes them more confident he makes the study of his client his first objective. Good communication skills are vital. Keeping sentences short and straight to the point must be carried out with any pupil throughout the driving lesson. The correct use of 'body language' is essential to keep a pupil's interest and motivation.

Andy teaches mostly young and novice drivers, aged 17-21, in the South East corner of England

that includes Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. He runs his own independent company Nudrivers.

Nudrivers is an independent company in which Andy offers low price lessons. Above all, he is a quality teacher who enjoys his work and finds it extremely rewarding. Not only is Andy a driving instructor, but he has also written self help driving guide book, which is specially designed to help the novice motorist drive defensively, identifying risks in good time and dealing with them correctly, thereby reducing accident risk. These books are user friendly and professionally compiled.

Young and novice drivers are notorious for causing accidents and with 60% of all accidents happening within 20 metres of a junction, much debate has centred on how to improve their skills. Approved Driving Instructor, Andy Hall, is tackling this subject head on with his new book, 'Hazard Ahead', which uses real-life examples to instil road awareness and skills. The book was launched at the Schools Trade Fair Exhibition at the Ashford International Hotel in Ashford, Kent on 7 October 2008.

Driving Education is a major issue towards the reduction of accidents on roads, 18% of all accidents happen within 12 months of drivers passing their practical tests and accident liability of new driver's drops sharply after this period and it continues to fall as experience is gained. Young drivers aged 17-21 make up 7% of license holders, yet are involved in more than 14% of road traffic accidents.

By 2020 road injuries could overtake HIV and TB to rank third in the causes of premature deaths. Death from road injury currently ranks at 9th. In 2002, 1.2 million women, children and men are killed in road accidents worldwide, 50 million are injured and 5 million are disabled for life. The NHS spend at least £18 bn on traffic incidents a year, this money goes towards helicopter or ambulance pick ups and treatments. There are currently 31 million road users and 30,000 people a year are involved in road traffic incidents.



There are currently a number of issues being discussed about road safety and new drivers which include topics such as the pass plus scheme being made compulsory to all new drivers, this scheme covers motorway driving, night driving, driving on dual carriageways, driving in towns and on rural roads and also driving in all weathers. Pass Plus will build upon existing skills and also teach drivers how to anticipate, plan for and deal with all kinds of hazards, and can help you to become more confident on the roads.

Other discussions being assessed are to extend the practical test. This would mean omitting the manoeuvres (the instructors would sign pupils off once they have achieved all the manoeuvres successfully), but to concentrate on the pupils ability to use their skills in a normal drive. There is the question about changing the age of learning to drive to 18 and to introduce curfew times for young drivers during the first 12 months of obtaining a full license. It may become a mandatory requirement for novice drivers to have to attend a minimum of 100 hours of practical lessons before they can take the practical test.

Andy has recently introduced a website on detailing the purposes of roundabouts and how to

deal with them safely. One of the big advantages of having roundabouts is that they reduce pollution emissions to motorised vehicles in comparison to traffic light junctions. Roundabouts have very low maintenance requirement. Above all they reduce the risk of fatal accidents.

Andy's book details ways of approaching and exiting a roundabout safely, showing proven methods such as explain, demonstrate and practice routine. Andy recently held a launch evening where he unveiled his new book. The book makes roundabouts simple and downloadable tutorials are available online at a price of £3.50 with the first one being free. These downloads are available from the shop on [www.roundabouts-tutorial.com](http://www.roundabouts-tutorial.com).

For more information call 01892 661879 or visit [www.nudrivers.com](http://www.nudrivers.com) or [www.roundabouts-tutorial.com](http://www.roundabouts-tutorial.com)



**Hazard Ahead** PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

**1** This is a Zebra Crossing. You can identify this crossing by the yellow "blinking" beacons on poles either side of the crossing. Also the actual crossing has black and white markings on the road surface. This crossing is uncontrolled; in other words it has no traffic lights. The only control at these crossings is carried out by the pedestrian. If a pedestrian has one foot on the crossing treat it like a red light and approach to stop. Here you can see this crossing is set very close to a junction to the left. This is a place where pedestrians tend to cross the road in reasonable numbers. These crossings can be positioned almost anywhere in a built up area and are found in 30 mph speed limit zones.

**2** This is a Zebra Crossing with an island in the middle. Treat this crossing as a double crossing. In other words each half is a separate crossing. Approach at a speed you could stop safely if a pedestrian

**3** This is a Staggered Zebra Crossing. This should be treated as two crossings. The island is long enough for pedestrians to move along to the next crossing position.

**4** This is a Controlled Staggered Crossing. Again treat this as two separate crossings. You can see it is controlled by traffic lights that can be activated by the pedestrian pushing a button. It can be either a Puffin or Pelican type. A Pelican has a flashing amber light that follows a red light. That means anyone on the crossing must be allowed to continue walking to the other side. The lights controlling one side of the road are independent of the other lights.

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