

# SAFE ROADS SAFE CAIRNS

## MENTOR PROGRAM GUIDE

*Supporting Multicultural Driving Mentorship*





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Welcome Message</b>	<b>01</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Mentor Role &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>02</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Pre-Drive Vocabulary &amp; Car Parts</b>	<b>04</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Pre-Drive Checklist for Learners</b>	<b>05</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Clear Rules of Priority in Queensland</b>	<b>07</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Common Aussie Driving Slang &amp; Clear Alternatives</b>	<b>10</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Unique or Unfamiliar Australian Road Signs</b>	<b>11</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Unique or Unfamiliar Australian Road Markings</b>	<b>13</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Common Similar-Sounding Driving Terms That Confuse Learners</b>	<b>14</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Top Tips for Teaching Low-English Learners</b>	<b>15</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Script Examples for Common Driving Scenarios</b>	<b>17</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Multilingual Driving Glossary</b>	<b>19</b>
<hr/>	

# Welcome Message

Welcome to the Safe Roads, Safe Cairns Mentor Program. This manual was created to support mentors working with multicultural learner drivers. In Cairns, our diverse communities bring with them unique driving experiences and language challenges.

This guide is designed to help you:

- Build your confidence as a mentor
- Improve communication skills
- Deliver effective, safe driving sessions with learners from different cultures and language backgrounds

Driving is more than just a skill—it's a pathway to independence, employment, and community connection. As a mentor, you play an important role in helping learners gain that independence.



**ARISA BINZAIN**  
WRITER AND DRIVING  
INSTRUCTOR – CAIRNS  
LINKED INC.

“Over the past several years of teaching multicultural drivers in Cairns, I've witnessed how deeply language barriers affect learning. Many learners arrive with strong driving skills—but struggle to follow instructions because the words we use are unfamiliar.

This booklet comes from real experience. It is for you, the mentors, who step up to help others build independence and confidence. I hope these tools support your work and make every driving session clearer, safer, and more empowering.”

**TOGETHER,  
WE ARE CREATING  
SAFE ROADS,  
SAFE CAIRNS AND  
STRONG FUTURES.**

Through this program, we are working together to:

- Reduce language barriers
- Improve understanding of Queensland road rules
- Create safer, more inclusive roads

This booklet gives you:

- Simple language you can use for clear instructions
- Examples of what not to say (common Aussie slang and confusing terms)
- Culturally sensitive advice
- Translations of key driving words
- Visuals and diagrams based on real-life situations

Thank you for being part of this community project. Your time, patience, and guidance are deeply appreciated—by learners, by other mentors, and by the Cairns community.



**JACINTA TAM**  
CONSULTANT – NATIONAL JOBLINK (NJL)

“At NJL, we work closely with volunteers and multicultural learners every day. I've seen firsthand the challenges mentors face when giving instructions to learners who don't speak much English.

This manual is a fantastic resource—not only for improving understanding, but also for strengthening the bond between mentor and learner. Thank you for being part of this important work. You are helping to build safer roads and stronger communities.”



# Mentor Role & Purpose of This Manual

As a volunteer mentor, your role is to support multicultural learner drivers by helping them build confidence, understand Queensland road rules, and develop safe driving habits. Many of the learners you will work with come from different countries, cultures, and driving backgrounds. Some may have never driven before, while others may have experience but are unfamiliar with the rules and expectations of driving in Australia. Many learners also have limited English, which can make learning to drive even more challenging.

Your job is not to act as a formal driving instructor, but to guide, encourage, and reinforce what learners are practising. You help them apply what they've learned in lessons and support them through real-life driving situations. Your calm presence, patience, and clear communication make a big difference in how they learn and feel during the session.

This manual was created to make your job easier. It provides you with:

- Clear, plain English alternatives to complex instructions
- Simple explanations of car parts, road signs, and driving terms
- Tips on how to avoid confusion caused by slang or informal language
- Common mistakes migrant learners make—and how to help them correct these safely
- Scripts to explain tricky road situations like roundabouts, merging, and turning
- A glossary of driving words translated into Swahili, Nepali, Arakanese, and Kinyarwanda

By using this guide, you'll be more confident and better equipped to support learners from different cultural backgrounds. You are helping them not only pass their driving test—but also become safe, independent members of the community.





# SUPPORTING LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

## What this means

As a mentor, you'll work with people from many cultural backgrounds. Every learner brings their own experiences, beliefs, and ways of learning. What feels "normal" in Australia may be very different for them.



## Why it matters

Understanding these differences helps build trust and confidence. It also makes your teaching more effective and respectful. Learners who feel understood are more likely to succeed and stay engaged.

## Common Differences You May Notice

- **Understanding of rules** – In some countries, road rules are flexible or lightly enforced. In Australia, rules are strict and consistent. Learners may take time to adjust and trust the system.
- **Driving history** – Some learners have driven for years overseas and may feel discouraged when told they need to re-learn. They may not understand why things are so different here.
- **Comfort with authority** – Learners may hesitate to ask questions or disagree with a mentor's instructions.
- **Gender dynamics** – In some cultures, working with a mentor of the opposite gender may feel uncomfortable at first.
- **Attitudes to time** – Some learners may see time more flexibly. Gentle reinforcement of session start/finish times may be needed.

## Mentor Tips for Cultural Sensitivity (Key Takeaways)

- **Don't assume — ask politely** if something is unclear.
- **Speak slowly and clearly**, using simple English. Avoid slang or jokes that rely on local culture.
- **Always explain "why," not just "how."** Understanding reasons builds trust.
- **Stay calm and encouraging.** Mistakes are part of learning.
- **Respect silence.** Learners may need time to listen, translate, and respond.
- **Allow repetition and gentle correction.** Give space for practice and patience.
- **Remember every learner is different.** Don't assume they know what you know — even the "obvious" may be new.



# ► Pre-drive vocabulary & car parts (Mentor-friendly)

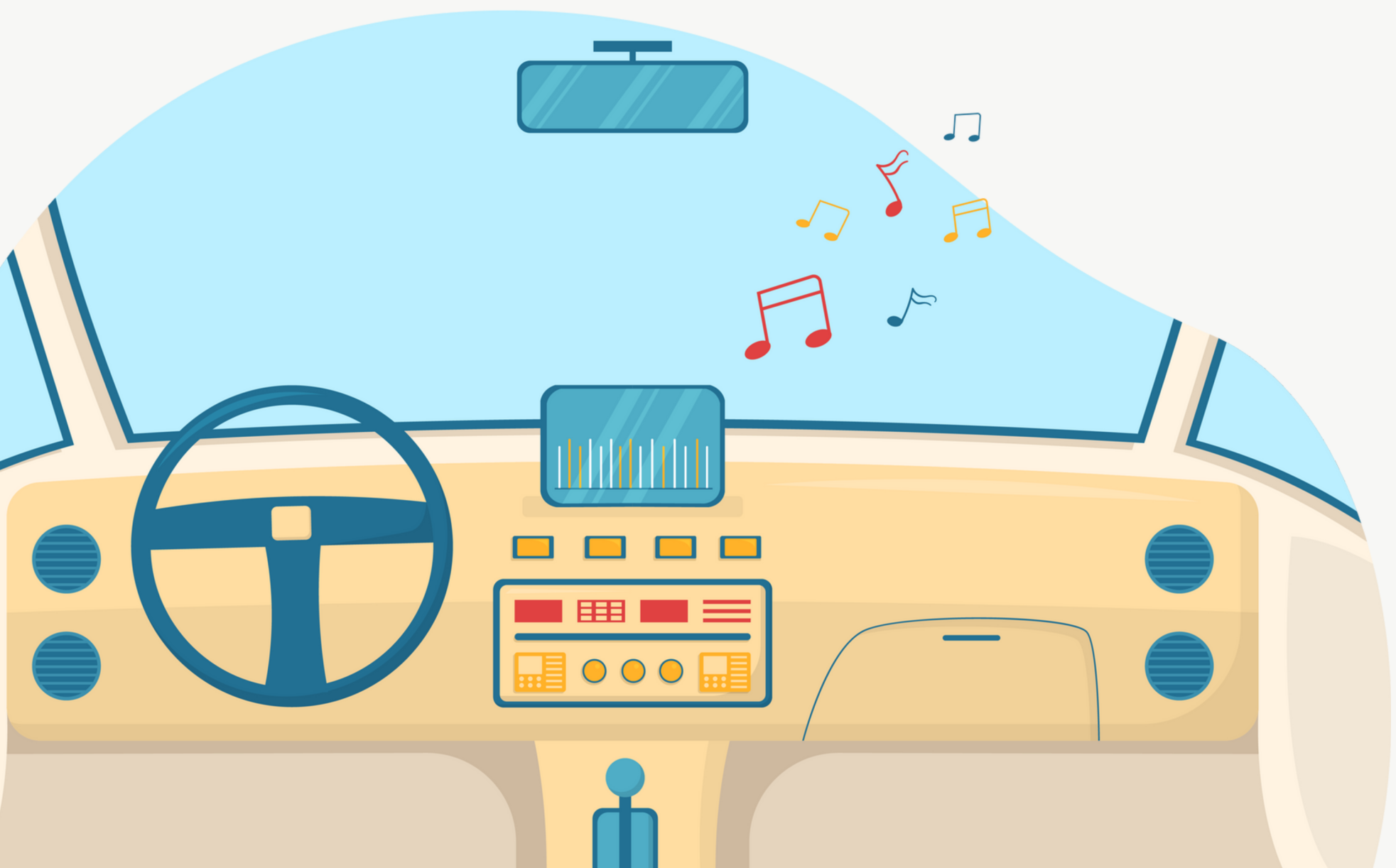
In Queensland, every learner driver is expected to do a pre-drive safety check before driving. These checks are not just for test preparation—they build awareness, confidence, and safe habits.

Many multicultural learners may:

- Come from countries where these checks are done by family
- Know how to use tools by habit, but not know the English word
- Struggle when mentors use unfamiliar Australian terms

This section helps mentors:

- Use simple and clear English (plain English)
- Point, show, and allow practice
- Recognise when learners know the function but not the word
- Gently guide with repetition and visual support





# Pre-Drive Checklist for Learners

(with Simple English, Slang to Avoid, and Cross-Cultural Differences)



## Seat Adjustment

“Move your seat forward or backward until your feet can press the pedals easily. Your knees should bend a little.”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)



Avoid: “Slide up till you’re comfy”

## Misunderstanding or Difference in Other Countries

In some countries, adjusting the seat isn’t common. Some learners may drive in positions that are unsafe or too far from the pedals.



## Mirrors

“Adjust the side mirrors so you see a little of your car and mostly the road beside you.”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)



Avoid: “Fix your mirrors so you’ve got eyes everywhere”

“Adjust the rear-view mirror to see the whole back window — you should see the road behind you.”



In some countries, drivers only use the rear-view mirror. Side mirrors may be folded or ignored. Learners may not know how to set the correct angle.



## Seatbelt

“Pull the seatbelt across your chest and make sure you are clicked in. It should be flat, not twisted”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)



Avoid: “Strap in or you’ll cop a fine”

In many countries (e.g., parts of Southeast Asia or Africa), only the driver or front passenger uses a seatbelt. Rear passengers may never use one.



## Handbrake

“Use this when the car is parked. Pull it up to lock the car. Push button on top of the arm and then push it down to release, so the brake lets go”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)



Avoid: “Yank it so it doesn’t roll”

In Southeast Asia and parts of Africa, drivers may leave the handbrake off so parking attendants can move the car. This is not safe or allowed in QLD — cars must not roll without the driver inside.





# Pre-Drive Checklist for Learners

(with Simple English, Slang to Avoid, and Cross-Cultural Differences)



## Indicators

“Use this lever to signal left or right before you turn or change lanes.”

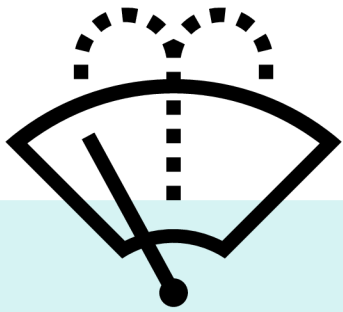


Avoid: “Chuck your blinker on”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)

## Misunderstanding or Difference in Other Countries

In some countries, drivers don’t use indicators regularly. Weaving or changing lanes without signalling is common. Learners may also come from places where 2 cars share one lane.



## Wipers & Washers

“Wipers clear the rain. Washers spray water to clean the window.”



Avoid: “Give it a squirt if it’s messy”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)

In some countries, cars may not have working washers, or drivers rely on wiping manually. Wipers may be rarely used.



## Headlights

“Turn on the headlights when it’s dark, raining, or foggy. Normal lights are also called low beams. There is also high beams that you only use when travelling a long way and no traffic coming towards you, like on the highway to Townsville. “



Avoid: “Whack the lights on if its dodgy outside”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)

In some countries, people drive with only one headlight or use only low-beam lights. Headlights may only be used at night — not in rain or fog. Learners must check that both headlights work properly.



## Demister

“Press this button to remove fog or steamy look from the front or back window. It’s also called a window heater”



Avoid: “Smack the fog zapper if it’s cloudy”

What to Say  
(Use Simple English –  
Avoid Slang)

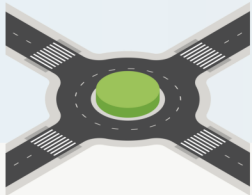

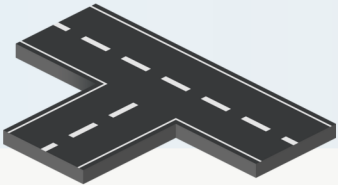
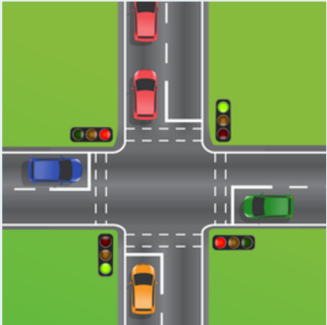
Learners may not know this word or function. In some countries, drivers don’t use demisters. Drivers may wipe with clothes instead.



# ➡ Clear Rules of Priority in Queensland



## Key Point for Mentors

Never assume a learner understands when and who to give way to. In many countries, "give way" means "whoever goes first", or "fastest goes first." In Queensland, it's based on law, not instinct.

Scenario	Explanation for Learners (Plain English)	What Drivers from Other Countries Might Do or Expect
<b>Roundabout</b> 	Always give way to the cars on the roundabout. Be extra careful with the ones on your right heading towards you.	May enter without checking or ignore roundabout rules.
<b>Uncontrolled intersection</b> 	Always give way to the car on your right. If a car is coming from in front of you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If they go straight → you wait.</li><li>• If they turn left → you wait.</li><li>• If they turn right → you go.</li></ul>	May follow "first come, first go" or give way based on size/confidence.
<b>T-intersection</b> 	Stop and wait for cars on the main road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Left turn = wait for right.</li><li>• Right turn = wait for everyone.</li></ul>	May assume arriving first means they can go.
<b>Turning right at green light intersection</b> 	Wait for all oncoming cars and pedestrians to pass before turning. If you are not the first car, you must stay behind the stop line until they go. Then you can move up. When it is your turn, wait for cars coming toward you and for people crossing the road. Then turn when it is safe. You may need to stop in the middle of the intersection while waiting. If the light turns yellow or red while you are there, turn when it is safe so you don't block other cars that are about to move.	In some countries, drivers only turn when there's a green arrow. They may freeze at a green light or not turn when it turns yellow or red. Others may turn too fast or ignore pedestrians.

Scenario	Explanation for Learners (Plain English)	What Drivers from Other Countries Might Do or Expect
<b>Stop vs Give Way</b> 	Stop = complete stop; wheels do not move. Give Way = slow down and check; wheels can move.	In some places, people treat stop signs like Give Way.
<b>Slip lane turn</b> 	Give way to people crossing the road. You must also give way to the cars already on the road you are joining. Only enter the road when it is safe.	May ignore pedestrians or assume they have the right of way.

## Common Misunderstandings

Learners give way to everyone, even when they shouldn't, causes confusion or unsafe hesitations


Learners may wave other drivers through, when they are not confident on their priority, which isn't always safe or expected



### Tips:

*Get the learner driver to pull over somewhere safe to talk about how we can do better.*





## Other Important Cultural Differences to Note

Driving Habit or Belief	Why It Might Be Confusing in Queensland
Using the horn frequently	In some countries, honking is normal — to say thanks, warn others, or ask someone to move. In QLD, it's only allowed to avoid danger, not for greetings or pressure.
Flashing headlights to give way	This is used in some countries to signal “you go first.” In QLD, it can confuse or alarm drivers, and does not officially mean “go ahead.”
Driving in gaps without signalling	In busy cities overseas, weaving between cars is common. In QLD, drivers must always indicate and check blind spots and very common that theory are pushing into traffic without waiting
Ignoring pedestrian crossings	In some countries, drivers don’t stop for pedestrians unless forced. In QLD, drivers must stop at zebra crossings.
Over-giving way to pedestrians	In contrast, some learners come from places where drivers must give way to pedestrians anytime — even when the pedestrian signal is red. This may cause unsafe hesitation.
Not fully stopping at STOP signs	Rolling stops are common overseas. In QLD, a complete stop is the law.
Driving with only one working headlight	In some countries, this is tolerated. In QLD, both headlights must work properly — it’s is against the law to drive with just one.
Not using headlights during rain or low light	Learners may not understand that headlights are needed even in the daytime if it’s raining, cloudy, or foggy.



# Common Aussie Driving Slang & Clear Alternatives

## Aussie Phrase

## What It Means in Plain English

**Stalled it**

The engine stopped because something went wrong when using the clutch or gears

**Take it easy**

Drive slowly and carefully

**Bit dodgy**

Unsafe or not in good condition

**Mate cut you off**

Other driver moved in front of you suddenly - dangerous!

**Give it a squirt (wipers)**

Spray the windscreen with washer water

**Bang on the brakes**

Stop the car quickly

**Jump on the freeway**

Enter the highway

**Get in the right-hand lane**

Change to the right lane

**Get it up to speed**

Drive a bit faster to match traffic








**Give it a go**

Try it / Have a try





# Unique or Unfamiliar Australian Road Signs to Explain to Learners

	Plain English Meaning	Why It's Confusing for Learners from Other Countries
 <b>Keep Left</b>	Stay on the <b>left side</b> of the traffic island or barrier — do not turn.	Learners often think it means “ <b>Turn left now</b> ”, which can cause dangerous turns.
 <b>Wombat / Kangaroo (Animals) Crossing</b>	Wild animals may cross the road. <b>Slow down and stay alert.</b>	Most countries don't have wildlife crossing signs. Learners may ignore or not believe animals roam onto roads.
 <b>Floodway</b>	This road may <b>flood during rain</b> . Never drive through water.	The word "Floodway" doesn't exist in many languages. Learners may not realise it means danger, especially if the road looks dry.
 <b>Give Way</b>	<b>Let others go first.</b> Check and wait if needed.	Some countries don't follow priority rules. Learners may be used to forcing their way in or relying on gestures or car size.
 <b>Shared Zone</b>	Cars and pedestrians <b>share the road</b> . Drive <b>very slowly</b> and <b>give way to people walking</b> .	Learners may expect people to walk only on footpaths. They may not slow down or might honk at pedestrians.
 <b>End School Zone</b>	The <b>40 km/h school zone ends</b> here. Return to normal speed.	The layout may be unfamiliar. Learners may miss this sign and stay too slow, or not realise the slower speed zone has ended.
 <b>Stop Sign with White Line</b>	<b>Come to a full stop before</b> the white line.	In many countries, stop signs exist <b>without lines</b> . Learners may stop <b>past</b> the line, causing risk to others.





# Unique or Unfamiliar Australian Road Signs to Explain to Learners



**Without U-Turn Permitted Sign**

## Plain English Meaning

**Not allowed to turn around** at this point

## Why It's Confusing for Learners from Other Countries

U-turns are often allowed anywhere in some countries. Learners may do one without checking for signs.



**Speed Camera Ahead**

You are being watched. If you speed, you will be fined.

Speed cameras may not exist in some countries — learners may not believe the signs are real or enforceable or heavily fine applies



**Slip Lane / Left Turn Lane**

A **separate left-turn lane**, often with a pedestrian crossing.

Slip lanes don't exist in many countries. Learners might turn without checking or use the lane to go straight. It is common for left turning cars to go first in some countries.



**Children Crossing (School Zone)**

**Slow down during school hours** (e.g., 7–9 AM). Watch for kids crossing. Fines apply.

School zones are rare in many countries. Learners may expect to only slow down **if children are visible or a guard is present**.



**Merge Sign**

**Two lanes are becoming one.** You must check your blind spot and merge safely with traffic in the next lane.

In some countries, merging drivers must wait for traffic to fully clear. Learners may **stop completely**, even if they have right of way, causing confusion or danger.



**No Stopping / No Parking**

Do **not stop** or **park** here even briefly.

In many cultures, it's common to stop for a few seconds, even if it's illegal. Learners may ignore this or think it's OK "just for a bit."



**Bike Lane / Shared Path**


This space is for **cyclists unless**:  
**Turning left** into a street or driveway, or  
**Passing another vehicle** that is turning right.  
You can only drive in a **bike lane for up to 50 metres**.  
In other special purpose lanes (like a **Bus Lane** or **Transit Lane T2/T3**), you may drive for **up to 100 metres** to enter or leave a road or property.

Cyclists are often not given road space overseas. Learners may drive over the lane or stop in it without understanding it's illegal. Moreover, In most Southeast Asian countries, **bike lanes don't exist** or are often ignored. Roads are shared informally. So, they may assume cyclists must give way to cars.



# Unique or Unfamiliar Australian Road Markings to Explain to Learners

**Important Note for Mentors:** Please emphasise these markings during lessons, especially for learners from countries where such rules or road markings may not exist or may differ significantly. Some learners may have never encountered certain road lines, colours, or shapes on roads back home. Help them understand how these affect safety and legal driving behaviour in Queensland.

	Plain English Meaning	Why It's Confusing for Learners from Other Countries
 <b>Solid White Line</b>	Do not cross. It separates lanes going in the same direction, often near corners, exits, or intersections.	In many countries, people cross any line if it's clear. Learners may not know it's illegal or unsafe to cross even if no car is coming.
 <b>Broken White Line</b>	You can change lanes across this line if it's safe.	This rule is more universal, but learners may not realise that checking mirrors and blind spots is still required before changing lanes.
 <b>Double Solid White Line</b>	Do not cross at all — from either side.	Learners may think it's okay to cross slowly or for overtaking. In some countries, this marking is rare or ignored.
 <b>Solid Line Next to Broken Line</b>	The side with the broken line can cross; the solid line side cannot.	This marking is especially confusing. Learners may not understand that which side they're on changes what they can do.
 <b>Keep Clear</b>	Do not stop in this box — even in traffic. It allows other cars to turn in or out of side roads or driveways.	In many countries, this marking is ignored. Learners may stop in it without realising it causes blockages or traffic jams.
 <b>Arrow Markings</b>	Show the only directions allowed from that lane — for example, only left, or straight or right.	In some places, arrows are advisory rather than enforced. Learners may ignore them or turn the wrong way from the lane.
 <b>Pedestrian Crosswalk (Zebra Lines)</b>	Stop and give way to pedestrians waiting or walking across the striped lines.	Learners may be used to ignoring zebra crossings, or only stopping when a person is already in front of the car.
 <b>Painted Traffic Island</b>	A white striped or chevron area where cars must not drive or stop — it's not a real lane.	In many countries, drivers use these spaces to overtake or wait. Learners may treat it like a lane or shortcut.
 <b>Bus Lane Markings</b>	Lanes marked for buses (and sometimes taxis or bicycles) only — other cars must not use them unless if your vehicle is specifically permitted	In other countries, all vehicles may use bus lanes freely. Learners may drive in them without checking the signposted time limits or legal use.





# Common Similar-Sounding Driving Terms That Confuse Learners

Confusion from similar-sounding terms is a common challenge for multicultural learner drivers, especially when English isn't their first language. These misunderstandings often come from:

- Words that sound alike but mean different things
- Words that sound similar when spoken quickly
- Words that learners associate with different meanings in their home languages

Term Learners Hear	What It Actually Means	What Learners Often Confuse It With	Why It's Confusing
"You turn"	"You are turning" (instruction)	"U-turn" (a complete turn-around)	Sounds exactly like "U-turn" — learners may incorrectly attempt a full turn-around
"Slow down"	Gently reduce speed	Slam the brake or stop suddenly	Learners often think it means "stop now" because it's not clearly linked to gradual action
"Right"	Turn to the right	"Correct" (as in, "yes, that's right")	In many languages, "right" = "correct" — they may miss the directional cue
"Shoulder check"	Look over shoulder before changing lanes	A physical check of the body	Can be interpreted literally — especially if not demonstrated
"Lane"	Marked section of the road for driving	"Line"	Sound and meaning can be easily mixed up in conversation
"Headlights"	Lights in front of the car	Lights on the head / helmet	Needs clarification in context
"Lights on"	Usually means 'headlights on'	Any lights — streetlights, traffic lights, etc.	Too general — needs clarification of "which" lights ie. Lights in front of the car
"Horn"	Car warning sound	Animal horn	Without context or demonstration, it makes no sense
"Overtake"	Pass another car	"Take over" or aggressive action	The phrasing is not common in all languages
"Dead end"	No exit at the end of the road	Dangerous or fatal area	Term can sound scary or serious
"First exit"	Turn at the first road at the roundabout	"Third exit"	"First" sounds like "fast" or "third" — especially with accents
"Third exit"	Turn at the third road in the roundabout	"First exit"	"Th" sound is hard for non-native English speakers

**Mentor Tips:**

Multicultural learners may feel embarrassed if they don't understand slang. Use clear English first, and if you use an Aussie phrase out of habit, explain what it means with a smile.



# 3 Top Tips for Teaching Low-English Learners



## Key Point for Mentors

Before teaching road rules or driving techniques, it's important to go beyond simply naming actions or signs. Instructors should always keep the concept of contextualisation and application in mind.

Explaining the **'why'** behind a rule, and **how it applies** in real situations, helps learners not only understand but remember and use it naturally later. This makes safe driving feel like second nature — not just memorised facts.

## 1. I Do – We Do – You Do technique



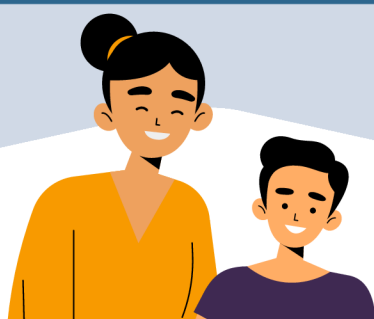
### I Do

Start with a short demonstration drive. Let the learner sit in the passenger seat and watch as you drive ("I do"). While driving, explain your actions in plain English so they connect the words with what they see.

#### Situation example Changing Lanes

##### I do (Mentor shows):

"I'm going to change lanes to the right. First, I check my mirrors. Then I put on my right indicator. Now I do a quick shoulder check to see my blind spot. The lane is clear, so I gently move over and cancel the indicator."



### We Do

Then, move to "we do"—the learner drives while you monitor closely, giving guidance and corrections as needed.

##### We do (Learner with mentor guidance):

"Let's do it together. Check your mirrors... good. Put on your right indicator... now do your shoulder check. Wait for a safe gap. Okay, move across slowly. Good — and cancel the indicator."



### You Do

Finally, in "you do", the learner takes the main role in driving, but with you still supervising and ready to help at any moment.

##### You do (Learner takes the lead, mentor monitors):

"Your turn to change lanes. Tell me what you're doing: mirrors, indicator, shoulder check, wait for a safe gap, then move. I'll watch and help if needed."

##### Tips:

After the drive, invite them to ask questions or describe what they noticed. This builds early confidence and supports vocabulary retention.



## 2. Use Real-Life Surprises as Teaching Moments

Don't ignore unexpected events — they are perfect teaching opportunities. If another driver makes a mistake or a pedestrian crosses suddenly, pause and explain the situation.

This approach links **real scenarios with rules**, helping learners understand **when and why** the rule matters — not just what it is.

Learner might ask:

"Why do we wait until the pedestrian finishes crossing — even if they're in the other lane?"



Instructor explanation:

"The person might run back or drop something. If we go too early, we might hit them. That's why the law says to wait until they're completely across."



"Did you see that sign?"

"Can you see that Give Way sign?"



"What does that line mean?"

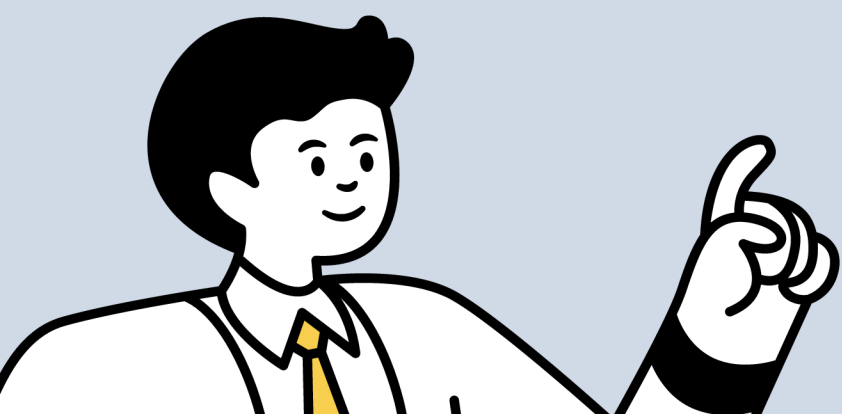
"That is a solid STOP line, we have to stop at the line right?"



## 3. Ask Simple Yes/No or Choice Questions

Open-ended questions are hard for learners with low English. Instead, use **yes/no** or **either/or** formats to check understanding clearly.

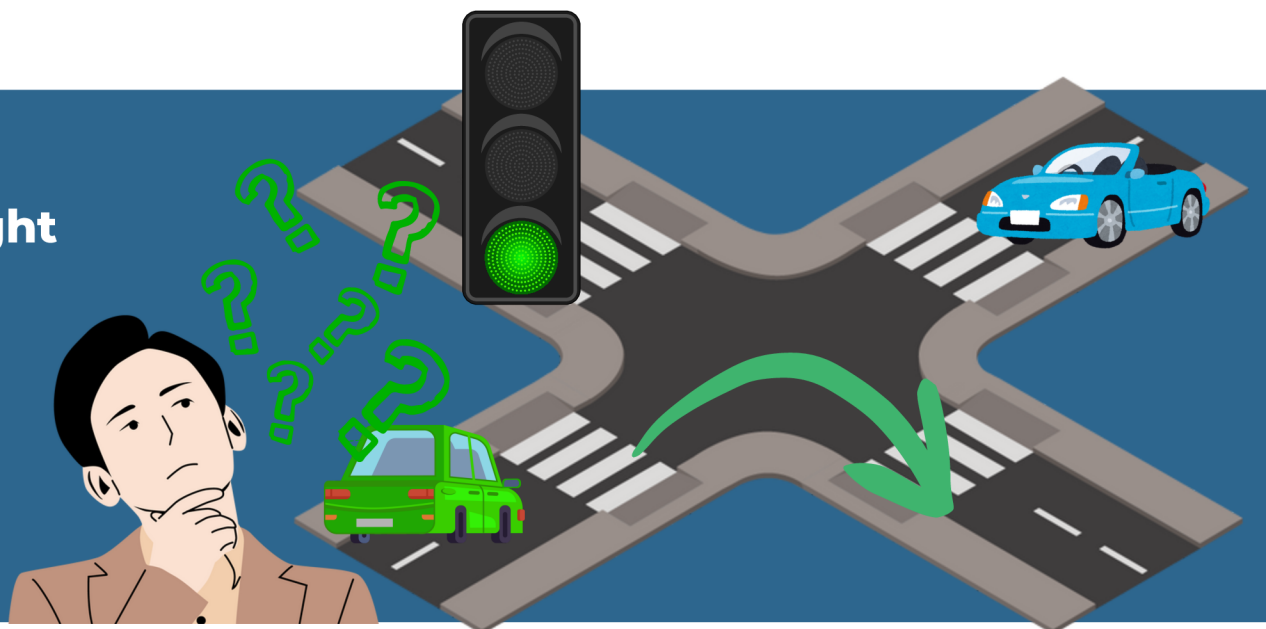
This helps build confidence, checks comprehension, and reduces confusion during real-time driving.



# Script Examples for Common Driving Scenarios

## Turning Right at a Green Light (No Arrow)

This is one of the most confusing situations for multicultural learners — especially those from countries where you must wait for a green arrow.



Use this calm, step-by-step script to explain clearly:

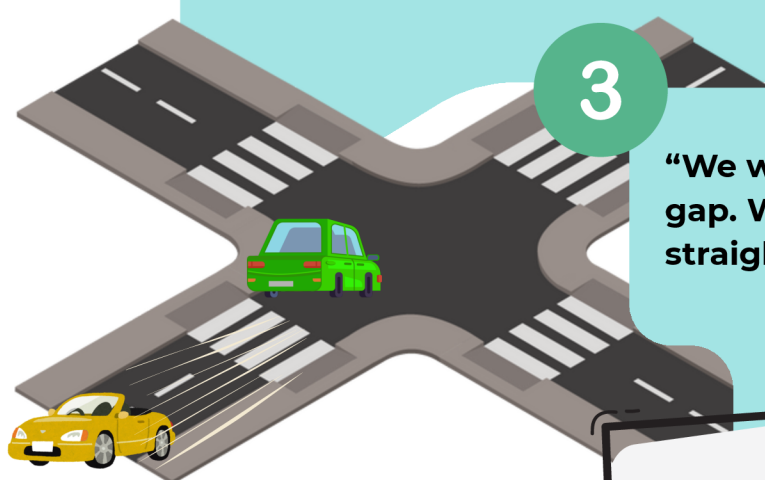
1

“We have a green light — but we don’t go yet. We give way to cars and people.”



2

“Now go forward slowly. Stop in the middle — just past the white line.”



3

“We wait here for a safe gap. Watch for cars coming straight or turning left.”

This is called “taking position.” It’s legal and safe in QLD.



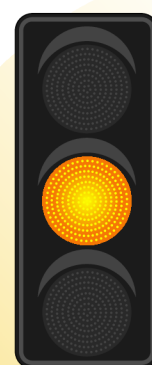
4

“When it’s clear — and no people are crossing — we turn right.”



5

“Turn now. No rush. Just smooth and safe.”



If the light turns yellow while you are waiting:

“Light is yellow — we must go now if it’s clear.”

Learners from some countries may freeze on yellow. Explain that in QLD, if you’re already in the intersection, you should complete the turn.



# Script Examples for Common Driving Scenarios

## Using a Roundabout

Roundabouts are new for many learners. They may not exist or work differently in their home countries.



Avoid complex language — use short instructions with clear direction words.

### 1 Approach the Roundabout

“Slow down now.  
Roundabout ahead.”

“Look right. Give way to cars  
already inside.”

“If no car is coming — we go.”



#### Cultural Tip

In some countries, drivers inside the roundabout give way to others — explain that in QLD, it's the opposite.

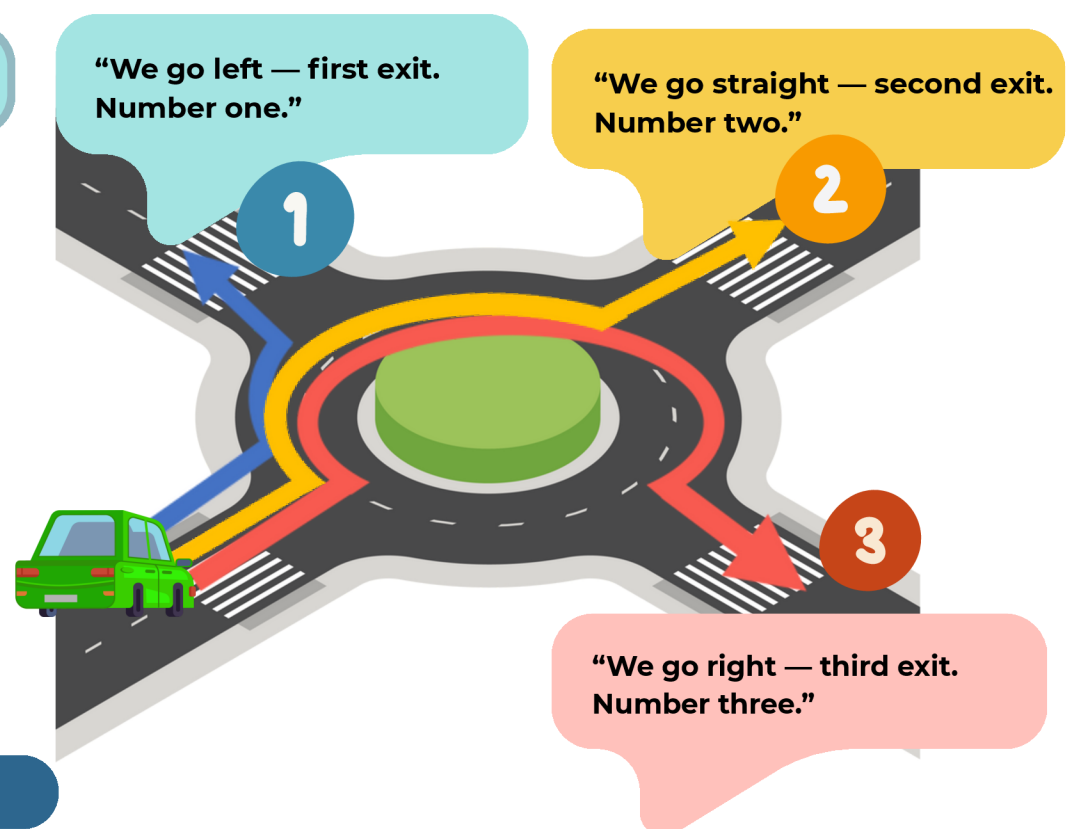
### 2 Give Exit Instructions

Don't just say “first, second, third exit.”  
Use **direction words + numbers** to help  
build understanding.

“We go left — first exit.  
Number one.”

“We go straight — second exit.  
Number two.”

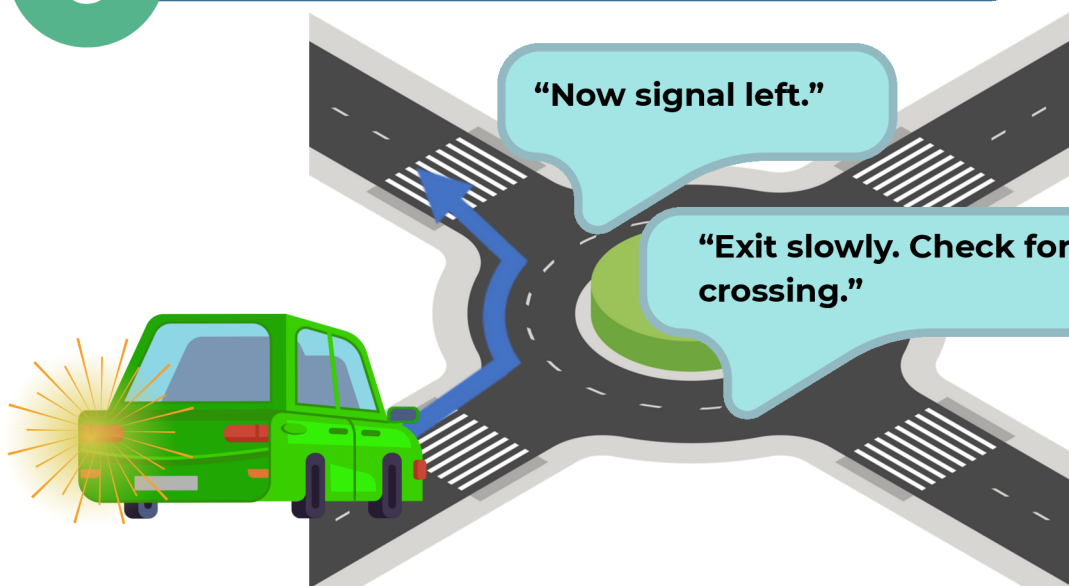
“We go right — third exit.  
Number three.”



### 3 Exiting the Roundabout

“Now signal left.”

“Exit slowly. Check for people  
crossing.”







# Multilingual Driving Glossary (50 Terms)

English	Swahili	Nepali	Arakanese	Kinyarwanda
Seatbelt	Mkanda wa usalama	सिट बेल्ट	နံရံခတု	Umugozi w'umutekano
Brake	Breki	ब्रेक	ဘရိတ်	Feri
Accelerator	Kasi	गति दिने	အရှိန်မြှင့်	Guhuta
Stop Sign	Alama ya kusimama	रोक संकेत	ရပ်ရန့် အမှတ်အသား	Ikimenyetso cyo guhagarara
Roundabout	Mzunguko	गोल चक्कर	ဝိုင်းလမ်းပတ်	Uruziga
Blind Spot	Eneo lisiloonekana	अदृश्य क्षेत्र	မျက်စိမမြင်နီငူ သောနေရာ	Agace utabona
Give Way	Pisha njia	बाटो दिनुहोस्	လမ်းလျှောက်ခွင့် ပေး	Tanga inzira
Indicator	Kiashiria	सूचक	ညွှန်ပြသည့်အရာ	Urumuri rwo kwerekana
Mirror	Kioo	ऐना	ကန်ကြည့်မှန်	Indorerwamo
Hazard Lights	Taa za hatari	जोखिम बत्ती	အန္တရာယ်အလင်း များ	Amatara y'akaga
Handbrake	Breki ya mkono	हात ब्रेक	လက်ဘရိတ်	Feri y'ukuboko
Gear Lever	Leveri ya gia	गियर लिभर	ဂီယာတံ	Akabuto k'imodoka



# Multilingual Driving Glossary (50 Terms)

English	Swahili	Nepali	Arakanese	Kinyarwanda
Steering Wheel	Ulio wa kuongozea	स्टीयरिङ व्हील	ထိန်းချုပ်စက်	Volant
Headlights	Taa za mbele	हेडलाइट	မီးအိမ်	Itara ry'imbere
High Beam	Taa kali	तेज बत्ती	တောက်ပသောမီး	Itara rirenga
Speed Limit	Kiwango cha kasi	गति सिमा	အမြန်နှုန်း ကန့်သတ်ချက်	Umuvuuduko ntarengwa
School Zone	Eneo la shule	स्कूल क्षेत्र	ကျောင်းဇုန်	Agace k'ishuri
Pedestrian Crossing	Penye watu kuvuka	पैदल यात्रुको	လမ်းဖြတ်သန်းမှု	Ahanyura abanyamaguru
Slip Lane	Njia ya kuteleza	स्लिप लेन	လမ်းကပ်	Umugezi w'uruhande
T-intersection	Mkutano wa T	T-जंक्शन	T ဆုံမှတ်	Ahantu hahuza umuhanda na undi
Green Light	Taa ya kijani	हरियो बत्ती	အစိမ်းရောင်မီး	Itara ry'icyatsi
Yellow Light	Taa ya manjano	पहेँलो बत्ती	အဝါရောင်မီး	Itara ry'umuhondo
Red Light	Taa nyekundu	रातो बत्ती	အနီရောင်မီး	Itara ritukura
Merge	Kuungana	मेल गर्नु	ပေါင်းစည်း	Kwinjira mu muhanda



# Multilingual Driving Glossary (50 Terms)

English	Swahili	Nepali	Arakanese	Kinyarwanda
Lane	Njia	लेन	လမ်းကြောင်း	Umuhandanda ureshya
Rear-view Mirror	Kioo cha nyuma	पछाडि ऐना	နောက်ကြည့်မှန်	Indorerwamo y'inyuma
Side Mirror	Kioo cha pembeni	छेउको ऐना	ဘေးမှန်	Indorerwamo y'uruhande
Overtake	Kupita gari	ओभरटेक	ကျော်သွားသည်	Kunyura imbere
Reverse	Kurudi nyuma	रिभर्स	နောက်သို့သွား	Gusubira inyuma
Park	Kuegesha	पार्क	ရပ်နား	Guhagarara
Drive	Kuendesha	गाडी चलाउनु	မောင်းနှင်	Kuyobora imodoka
Engine	Injini	इन्जिन	အင်ဂျင်	Moteri
Dashboard	Dashibodi	ड्यासबोर्ड	မီတာဘုတ်	Dashboard
Wipers	Vioo vya kufuta mvua	वाइपर	မိုးစုပ်	Ibihanagura ibirahuri
Washers	Sprayer ya maji	वाशर	ရေဖျန်းစက်	Ibyogesha ibirahuri
Demister	Kifaa cha kuondoa ukungu	डेमिस्टर	မိုက်ဖျက်စက်	Igikoresho cyo gukuraho umwuka
Fuel	Mafuta	इन्धन	လောင်စာ	Essence cyangwa lisansi



# Multilingual Driving Glossary (50 Terms)

English	Swahili	Nepali	Arakanese	Kinyarwanda
Petrol Station	Kituo cha mafuta	पेट्रोल पम्प	ဓာတ်ဆီဆိုင်	Stasiyo ya essence
Traffic Light	Taa za barabarani	ट्राफिक बत्ती	လမ်းဆီမီး	Itara ry'umuhanda
Traffic Island	Kisiwa cha trafiki	ट्राफिक टापु	လမ်းကွာခြား	Agace gato hagati y'inzira
No Entry	Hakuna kuingia	प्रवेश निषेध	မဝင်ရ	Ntibyemewe kwinjira
U-turn	Kugeuza	यु-टर्न	လှည့်ပြန်	Guhindukira
Dead End	Njia iliyofungwa	अन्त्य सडक	သွားလို့မရတဲ့လမ်း	Umuhandanda ugarukira aho
Crosswalk	Mstari wa kuvuka	क्रसवाक	လမ်းဖြတ်တံတား	Ahanyura abanyamaguru
Emergency Stop	Simamisha dharura	आपतकालीन रोक	အရေးပေါ်ရပ်	Guhagarara byihuse
Safe Gap	Nafasi salama	सुरक्षित दूरी	လုံခြုံသောအကွာအဝေး	Intera yizewe
Signal	Ishara	संकेत	အညွှန်း	Ikimenyetso
Road Marking	Alama za barabarani	सडक चिन्ह	လမ်းပေါ်အမှတ်အသား	Ibiranga ku muhandanda
Speed Bump	Kipande cha kupunguza mwendo	गति अवरोध	အမြန်နှုန်းကျဆင်းရာ	Akanyeganye
Flat Tyre	Tairi bovu	फ्ल्याट टायर	တာယာလွဲ	Ipine yamenetse



# Conclusion

Volunteering as a driving mentor is not just about teaching someone to drive — it is about helping them build a new life in Australia. For multicultural learners, the journey to obtaining a license comes with challenges: unfamiliar road rules, difficult English terms, and driving habits that may be very different from their home countries.

That is why your role as a mentor is so valuable. You are not expected to be a professional driving instructor. Instead, you are a guide, a patient communicator, and a bridge between cultures and Queensland's road safety system. By offering your time, kindness, and willingness to learn alongside your learner, you are helping to create safer roads, stronger communities, and more confident new Australians.

To support you in this role, Safe Roads, Safe Cairns is putting practical solutions in place:

- **Jargon Buster Booklet** – A plain-English resource to reduce confusion from technical terms, jargon, and slang.
- **Mentor Workshops** – Training mentors in intercultural communication and strategies for low-English learners.
- **Shadow Shifts** – Opportunities for mentors to practise with guidance, build confidence, and share best practices.
- **Collaborations** –
  - With **NJL**: developing training content, booklets, and videos.
  - With **PCYC**: providing vehicles for shadow-shift training and mentor facilitation.
  - With **Centacare Multicultural Service**: securing translation funding in Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, and Burmese.
  - With **Cairns Linked Inc.**: leading the writing, design, and coordination of culturally sensitive training materials.

All developed resources will be shared among PCYC Cairns, National Job Link, Centacare Multicultural Service, and Cairns Linked Inc., ensuring mentors and learners have long-term access to comprehensive, culturally sensitive training materials.

Your support can make the difference between a learner giving up and a learner passing their test — gaining independence, employment opportunities, and a sense of belonging.

**Thank you for being part of the Safe Roads, Safe Cairns Driving Mentor Program. Together, we can keep the roads safe — and the support strong.**

