

# BASIC VEHICLE CONTROLS

3.1 Instruments and Controls

3.2 Getting Ready to Drive

3.3 Driving a Vehicle with an  
Automatic Transmission

3.4 Driving a Vehicle with a  
Manual Transmission

# Instruments, Controls, and Devises

## Instrument Panel

- ▣ Speedometer
- ▣ Tachometer
- ▣ Odometer
- ▣ Fuel Gauge
- ▣ Temperature Light
- ▣ Oil Pressure Warning Light
- ▣ Alternator Warning Light
- ▣ Brake System Warning Light
- ▣ ABS Light
- ▣ Safety Belt Light
- ▣ Air Bag Warning Light
- ▣ Turn Signals Indicators
- ▣ High-Beam Indicator





BIT

OOH!

SCARY

CAREFUL

QUICK

HOLD ON

QUICK

BITE

-ISH

LIP

BIT

SHUT

SLOW

EYES

STOP

SLOW

NOW

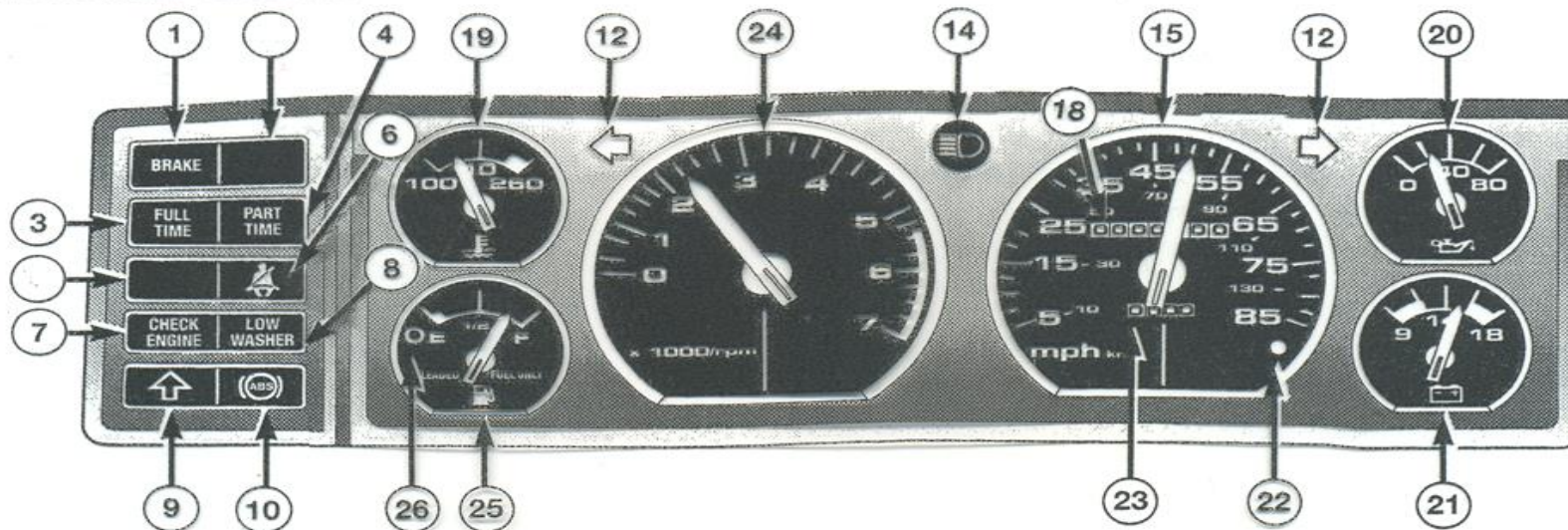
STOP

92703

km

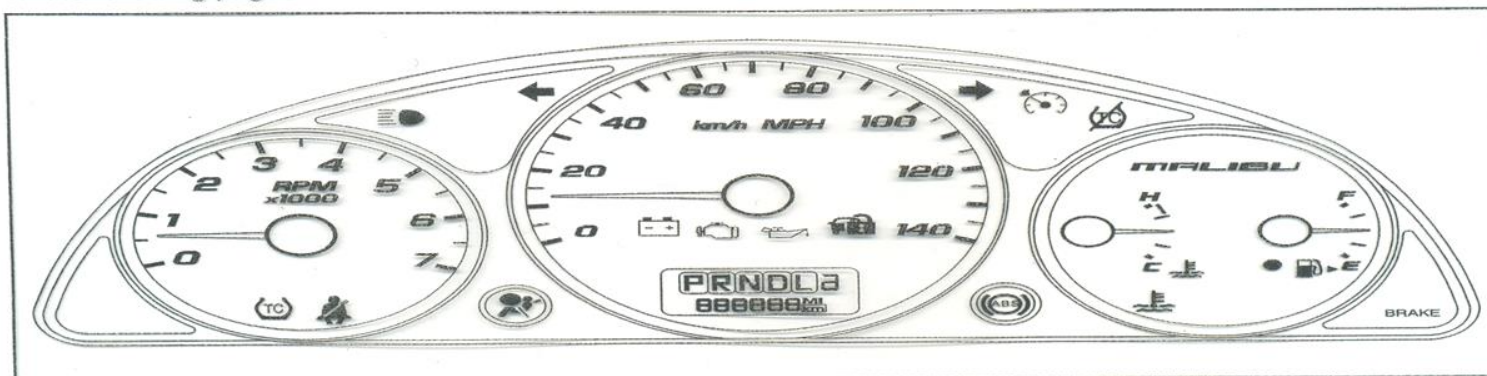


## INSTRUMENT CLUSTER



### Instrument Panel Cluster

Your instrument panel cluster is designed to let you know at a glance how your vehicle is running. You'll know how fast you're going, how much fuel you're using, and many other things you will need to drive safely and economically. Your vehicle has this instrument panel cluster, which includes indicator warning lights and gages that are explained on the following pages.



United States Base version shown, Canada and SS Model Similar



# Vehicle Controls

- ▣ Steering Wheel
- ▣ Tilt
- ▣ Selector Lever
- ▣ Gear Shift Lever
- ▣ Ignition and Starter Switch
- ▣ Cruise Control
- ▣ Parking Brake
- ▣ Clutch Pedal
- ▣ Foot Brake
- ▣ Accelerator



Familiarize Yourself With the  
Vehicle You Are Driving



# Safety, Communication, and Comfort



Head Restraint

Side View Mirrors

Rear View Mirror

Horn

Airbags

Heater, AC, and Defroster

Seat Adjustment Lever

Turn Signal Lever

Sun Visor

Windshield Wipers and  
Washer

Hazard Flashers

Hood Release Lever









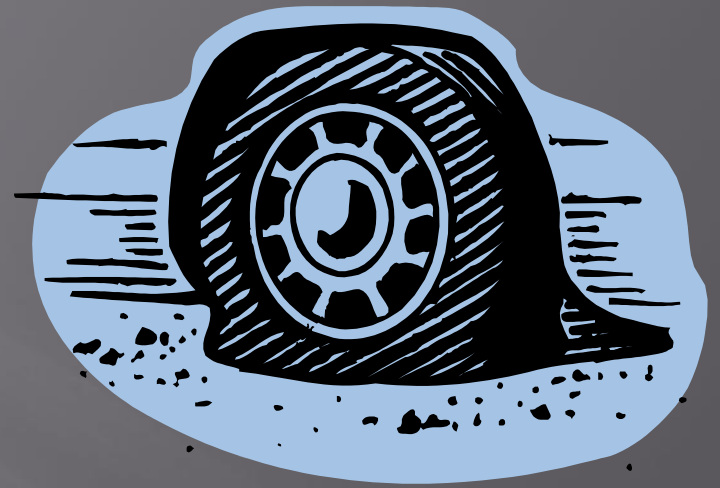
# Basic Vehicle Control

## Pre-Start Procedure

1. Check around the car
2. Get in Lock the door
3. Put key in Ignition
4. Adjust your seat
5. Adjust your mirrors
6. Put on seat belt

## ▣ Outside Checks

- Walk around vehicle
- Check tires
- Wheels Pointed?
- Windshield, Headlights, Taillights
- Loose objects in windows
- Unwanted passengers

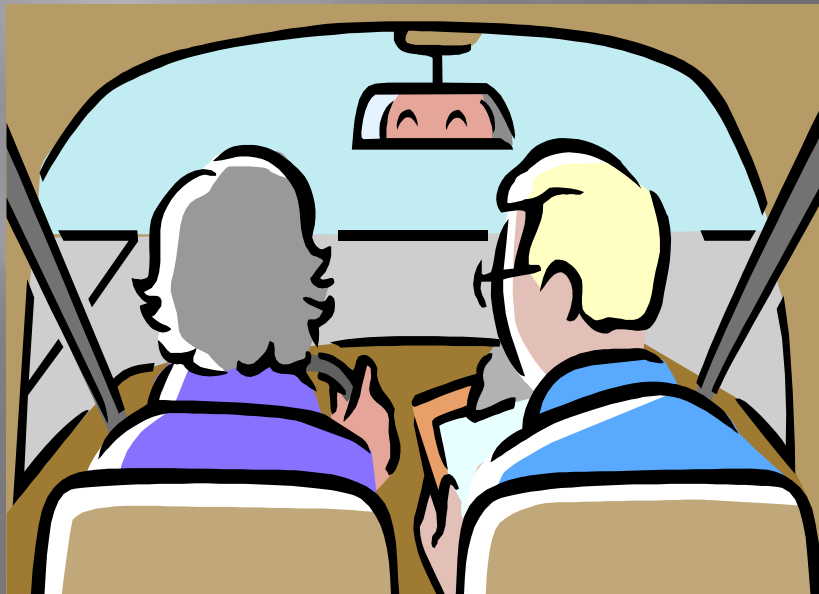


## ▣ Getting into Vehicle

- Keys in hand
- Walk front to back
- Get in quickly
- Close and lock door
- Key in ignition



# Inside Checks



- *Lock Doors*
  - Less likely to fly open in a collision
- *Adjust Seat*
  - Be comfortable
  - Back firmly against seat
  - Sit high enough to see over steering wheel
- *Hand Position*
  - Hands at 9 & 3
  - In a comfortable position with elbows slightly bent
- *Foot Position*
  - Reach for accelerator and brake to find a comfortable position
  - Knees slightly bent
- *Adjust Head Restraint*
  - Should rest at the middle of the back of your head
- *Adjust Rear View Mirror*
  - It should show the area behind you through the rear window
- *Adjust Side View Mirrors*
  - They should show a slight amount of the sides of the vehicle
- *Fasten Safety Belts*
  - You and your passengers

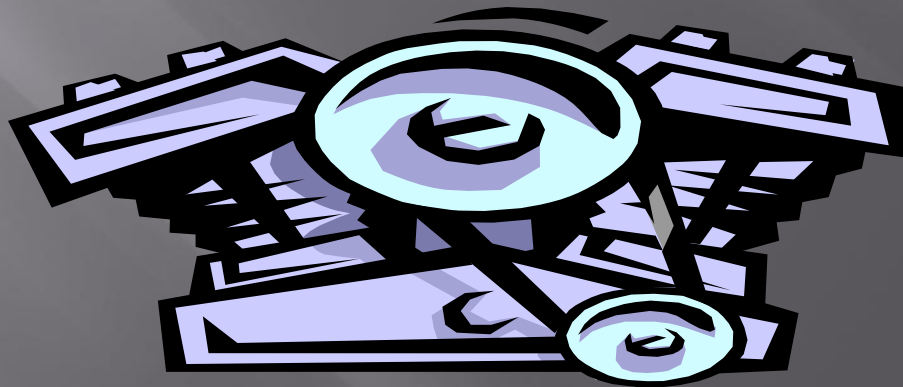
# Driving a Vehicle with Automatic Transmission

## ▣ Selector Lever Positions

- ▣ Shift Indicator shows the gear position
  - ▣ Park (P)
  - ▣ Reverse (R)
  - ▣ Neutral (N)
  - ▣ Drive (D)
  - ▣ Low (L1 and L2 or 1 and 2)

## ▣ Starting the Engine

- ▣ Make sure parking brake is set
- ▣ Make sure car is in Park
- ▣ If car has Fuel Injection, keep foot off the accelerator
- ▣ Turn ignition switch to ON, continue turning the key to start the engine, release the key as soon as the engine starts
- ▣ Check gauges, warning lights, and fuel supply



# Steering



**Hand Over Hand Steering**

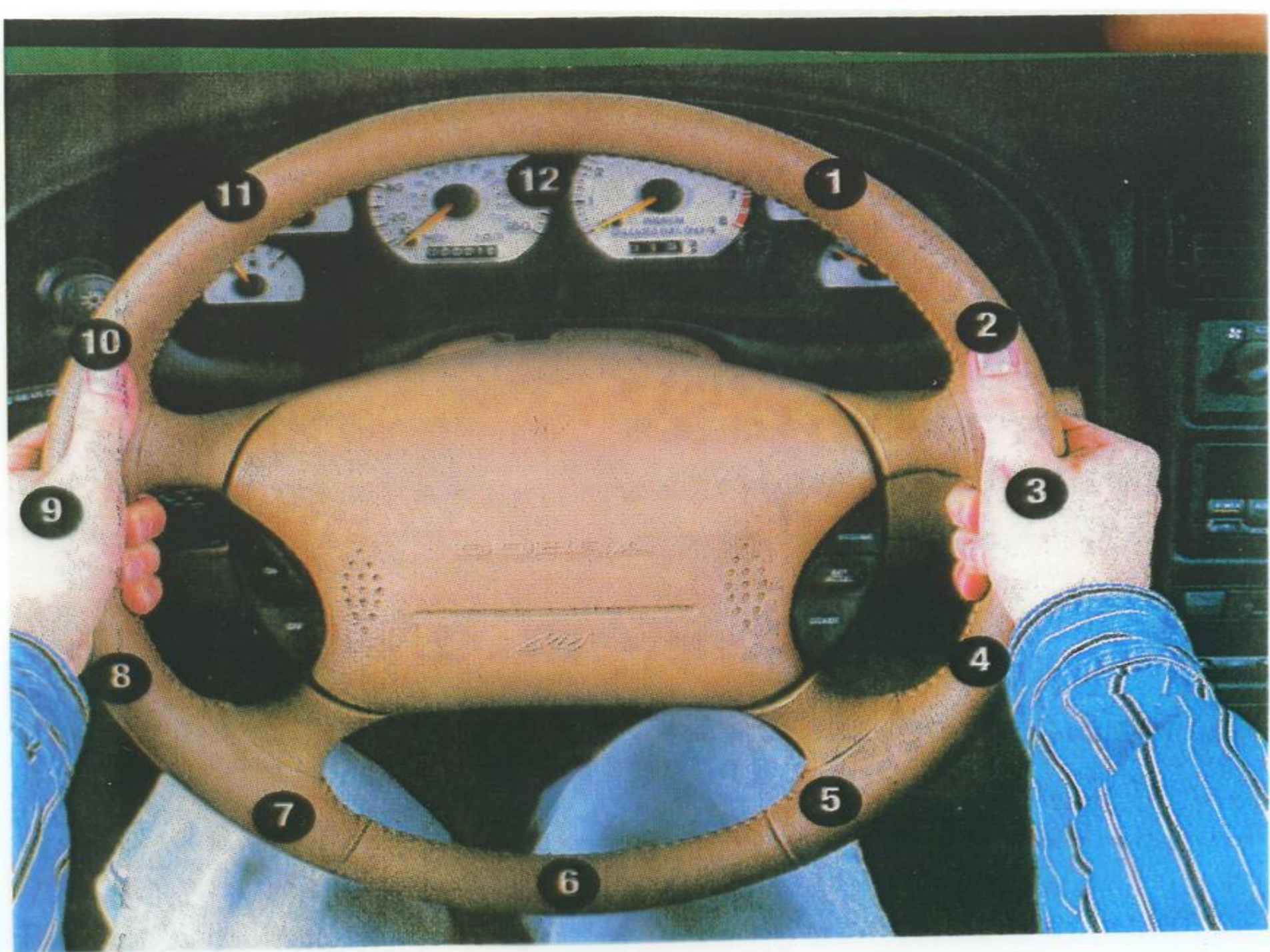
**Aiming Point**

**Hand Position**  
**Hands placed at 9 & 3**

**Pick a Target, a stationary object that appears in the distance in the center of your path of travel**

**Keeping your vehicle in a straight line requires slight but critical steering corrections**





11

12

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10



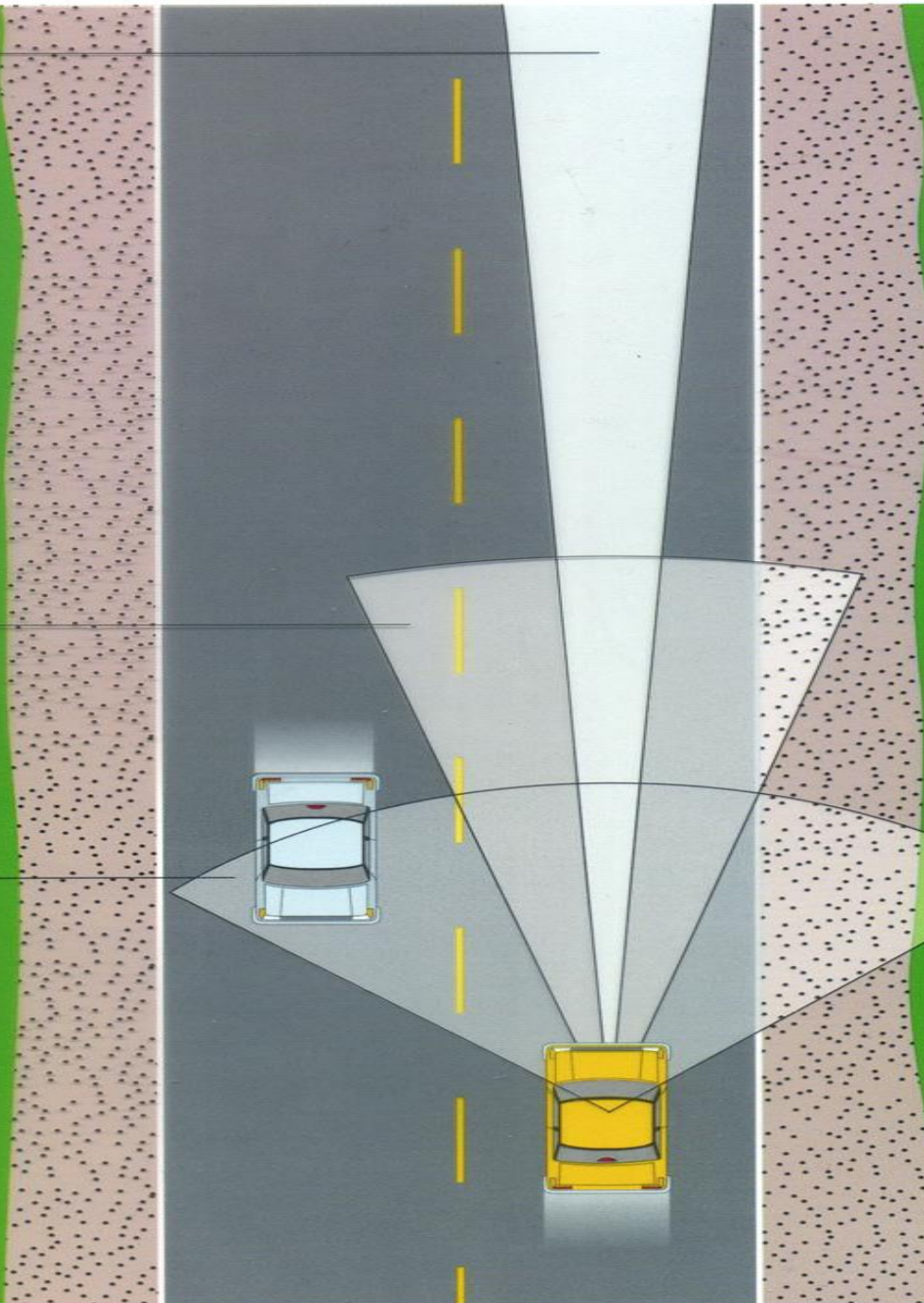
**target  
area  
range**

This is an example  
of the sight picture  
you need to have  
to be a safe driver

**12–15  
second  
range**

**4–6  
second  
range**

You need to be able  
to visual in your mind  
the car between the  
lines



How to  
develop a  
sight picture  
will be  
covered in  
Chapter 4

# Putting Vehicle in Motion

## Putting Vehicle in Motion

1. Press firmly on the break
2. Put in Drive
3. Release parking break
4. Check mirrors and blind-spot
5. Signal, check mirrors again
6. When clear, release brake and GENTLY accelerate
7. Quickly check blind-spot again for traffic
8. Cancel signal
9. Adjust speed to traffic





# Stopping the Vehicle

1. Check traffic in both mirrors
2. Let up on accelerator
3. Tap brake lightly
4. Gradually press down on the brake pedal. Ease up on the brake just before stopping.



# Driving a Vehicle with Manual Transmission



**Friction Point** – The point at which you the engine take hold and the vehicle starts to move.

**Riding the Clutch** – Habit of resting your foot on the clutch pedal while driving. This cause clutch wear and can lead to expensive repairs.

**Downshifting** – Shifting from a higher gear to a lower gear. Used to gain added control or gain extra power.

## Stickshift Gears

**Neutral (N)** – Used for Standing still or starting the engine

**First (1)** – Used to start the vehicle moving to a forward speed of 10-15 mph

**Second (2)** – Used to accelerate to a speed of 15-25 mph

**Third (3)** – Used for speeds of 25-40 mph

**Fourth (4)** – Used for highway driving. Speeds above 35 mph

**Fifth (5)** – Used for highway driving at speeds above 45 mph

**Reverse (R)** – This gear is used for backing