

## DRIVE A CAR WITH MANUAL TRANSMISSION

If you are driving in the US, chances are you are driving a car with an automatic transmission. What about driving with a manual transmission or a stick shift? It's actually a lot different. But if you want to be a Trekker, you'll probably end up in the situation one day when someone hands you a set of keys and says, "You can drive a stick, can't you?" A Skill Trekker needs to be ready.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

Find a relative or family friend who has a manual shift vehicle and is willing to take you out to experience it. If possible, start in a deserted parking lot and get used to driving using a clutch and manual shift. It can take some getting used to, but gives you much more control of the vehicle.

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The difference between an automatic and a manual is that the automatic does not have a clutch pedal or a gearshift in the traditional sense. "So, what's a clutch?" I hear you ask. I'm so glad you did. A clutch disengages the drive shaft, so the engine can freely run, but is no longer driving the wheels.

So, in a manual transmission, you push down the clutch to put the car in gear, and slowly let the clutch out with a little throttle to pull away. Next, when you want to change gear, you push the clutch in to disengage the drive shaft and change gear, easing the clutch out again. When you want to stop, you push the clutch in to disengage the drive shaft before the engine stalls.



Well, that is a brief description. The only way to learn is to get out there and drive one. Good luck, my Cragman. You've got this one.