

HOW TO BACK UP A TRAILER

One of the toughest challenges to master in a vehicle is backing up a trailer. To back up a trailer, you'll need to preplan your route and be aware of your vehicle's position in the environment. It's easy to get focused on the trailer and forget the front of the vehicle and then accidentally clip an object.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- Find a family member, or friend with a trailer set up, who can take you to a safe place to practice.
- Reverse a trailer around a left and right corner.

LEVEL 1

PERIOD 7

TASK 2

The longer the trailer, the slower and less responsive the motion will be, and essentially the easier the task is; however, a longer trailer takes a lot more planning and space.

- Get set up in the vehicle so that you are comfortable and can see clearly in all mirrors. While mirrors are useful and you'll need them, I recommend that you do most of your observation by looking over your shoulder, or leaning out of the window.
- If you drive straight backwards, quite quickly the trailer will start to go to the left or to the right. If you need to continue to go backwards, you'll need to correct this. The best way to correct this is to understand how to reverse a trailer around a corner.

1. While in reverse, slowly steer the car the opposite way from where you want the trailer to go. This will cause a pivot that will allow the vehicle to turn one direction, and the trailer in the other.

2. If you now continue your direction, this pivot will get larger and larger, like the closing of a pocket knife, until the vehicle and the trailer collide. To prevent this, you will now need to turn the opposite direction, following in the direction of the trailer. You'll soon discover that you can tweak the turning of the trailer by turning your wheel and making adjustments.

3. If the trailer starts to veer off too much, or head in a direction that you don't want it to, simply pull forward until the trailer is straight again and try once more.

