Controls

The Car

This car is the Corsa F 1.2 Turbo. It has an eight speed fully automatic gearbox. It is more than capable in handling differing speed situations from car parks to motorways. It has a complete suite of driver aids to make life easier. However, they do not replace your observation and controlling skills needed to drive.

Foot controls

During the early stages of your driving lessons. You will need to take some time to get you familiar with the controls. It is important to understand what they can do, and how they should be used.

If you look down, you will see that there are two pedals, but you only need to use just your right foot. Your left foot is not needed to drive automatic cars. Whilst driving, you do not look at the pedals to operate them."

Accelerator

Starting with the pedal on the right. This is the accelerator or 'gas' pedal. It is referred to as the 'Gas pedal' by the instructor, as it's quicker to say on the move when you are given instructions. The gas pedal is very easy to press down as there's very little resistance.

When you press the gas pedal, think of it acting like a tap. The more you press it, the more fuel is delivered in the engine, making the engine run faster. lf the engine is connected to the wheels, then the car goes faster. It is also very important to remember to check your mirrors before increasing or decreasing speed"

Q. What do you think happens to the engine and the dynamics of the car when you release the pedal?

Footbrake

The left pedal is the foot brake, which describes exactly what it is and what it is used for - slowing the car down or bringing it to a stop. This pedal is also operated by your right foot, but you'll find it has much more resistance when pressing it than the gas pedal. The correct way to use this pedal is called 'Progressive braking'. This means applying gentle pressure and then gradually increasing it until you achieve the required stopping power. Just before the car stops, you should gently release some of the pressure so that the car comes to a nice smooth stop without a jolt.

When you press the footbrake, fluid is squeezed in the brake lines which operate the brakes on all four wheels. The harder you squeeze the pedal, the harder you brake and the quicker the car stops. The brake lights are also operated as soon as you press this pedal. These lights warn following vehicles that you are changing speed or stopping. lt is important to remember to check your mirrors before pressing this pedal so that you can time the braking properly.

You will need to practise moving your right foot from the gas to the footbrake so that you can do this without looking down."

Hand controls

All controls that are used by hand, must be operated whilst keeping the car under proper control whilst it is in motion.

Steering Wheel

The steering's main function is controlling the direction of the vehicle. The more you turn the steering wheel, the sharper the vehicle will turn. You should be using both hands to turn the steering wheel to maintain full control of the vehicle's direction. Even when you are straightening the wheels after the turn, maintain proper control using both hands.

Before moving on, one myth needs to be dispelled.

Yes, you can cross your arms to turn the steering wheel. However, it is encouraged that you use the "Push you, pull me" method to keep your arms clear of the area where the airbag can be deployed.

To achieve full lock left or right from straight ahead, the steering wheel will only be turned almost one and a half times. It is also important to remember where your front wheels are pointing (your steering will look the same if it is one turn to the left, one turn to the right, or straight ahead).

Indicators

When necessary, we must use the indicators to communicate our intentions to others.

The indicator arm is located at the left side of the steering column, just behind the steering wheel.

To indicate left, push the arm down. For right, lift the arm up. You should use enough pressure for it to click into place.

The indicator arm should cancel after the turn. If it doesn't, be prepared to cancel it yourself when safe to do so.

If the indicators cancel before completing the turn. If necessary and safe to do so, re-apply the indicators.

Wipers

When necessary, we must activate the wipers to make sure you can see clearly.

The wiper arm is located at the right side of the steering column, just behind the steering wheel.

To operate the wipers from the off position:

Push the arm down and release. The wipers will do one sweep. If you need another sweep, you will need to do it again.

Lift the arm up one click. The wipers will go into automatic mode. The car will sense when the windscreen needs wiping. The more it rains, the faster it sweeps.

If you need the wipers to operate manually. Lift the arm up to a second click. The wipers will sweep constantly.

Lift the arm up to a third click. The wipers will sweep constantly, but faster.

You should use enough pressure on the arm for it to click into place.

If you need the windscreen cleaned. Gently pull the arm towards you to activate the windscreen wash/wipe.

If you need the rear window cleaned. Gently push the arm away from you to activate rear window wash/wipe.

Lights

The light switch is a dial type switch. Located just below the far-right vent on the control panel. When the switch is in the off position, it actually is on automatic. The car senses when it is dark enough to put the lights on itself. However, It may not turn on for heavy rain or fog.

The fog light switches are in the centre of the light switch. They can only work if the dipped headlights are activated.

To turn on your dipped headlights, turn the light dial 2 clicks to the right.

Demist

The demist controls are located below the centre vents on the control panel. Demisting the front windscreen and/or rear window is button controlled.

Demisting the rear window will also heat the door mirrors.

Gear selector

Before we move on to the gear selector, we must talk about the gearbox. A gearbox is designed to help the vehicle move off and get up to speed, using different gear ratios. This gearbox has 5 selections:

Park (P). This is purely when you have parked up at the end of your journey. This mode locks up your gearbox and prevents your wheels from turning.

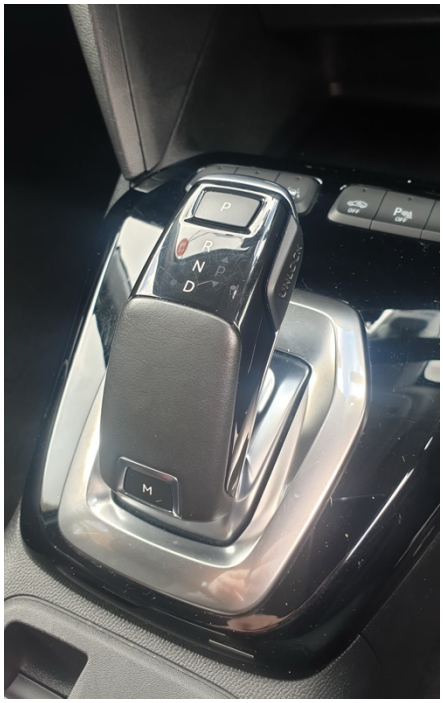
Reverse (R). Making the car go backwards.

Neutral (N). Taking the car out of gear during your drive (after stopping at the side of the road for a few seconds).

Drive (D). Making the car go forwards.

There is a manual mode (M), which is more semi-automatic. This is when the driver wants more control over the gear selection. However, your primary focus is using the car in just automatic mode.

The gear selector is electronically controlled. As you look at it, the gearstick does not move left or right. It just sits in the central position and can be gently pushed forward one click and gently pulled backwards one click.



It has three buttons embedded in the gear stick. The “Park” button on the top, an Unlock on the upper right side, and the manual on the bottom.

Before you select a forward or reverse gear, you must have your brake pedal pressed for the system to accept the selection. If the brake is not pressed, the system will not allow the gear selection to complete.

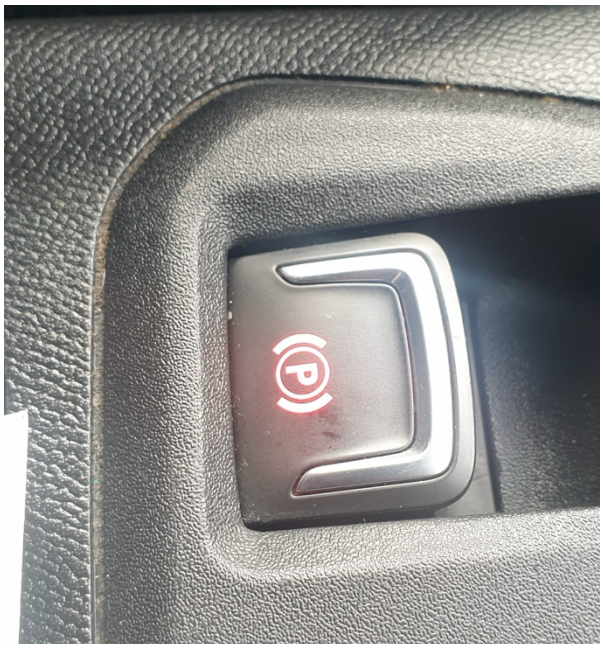
To remove the gearbox from “Park” press and hold the unlock button on the right-hand side of the gearstick, and then pull the gear stick either forwards or backwards one click. This will place the car in Neutral.

To select Drive from Neutral, pull the gear stick back one click (no need to press the unlock button).

To select Neutral from Drive, push the gear stick forwards one click (no need to press the unlock button).

To select Reverse from Neutral, press and hold the Unlock button and push the gear stick forward one click.

Parking brake



The Parking brake is used to keep the car stationary when it has come to a stop and is not going to move off for a while. There are many different types of Parking brakes in cars.

For this car, it is an electronic-based system.

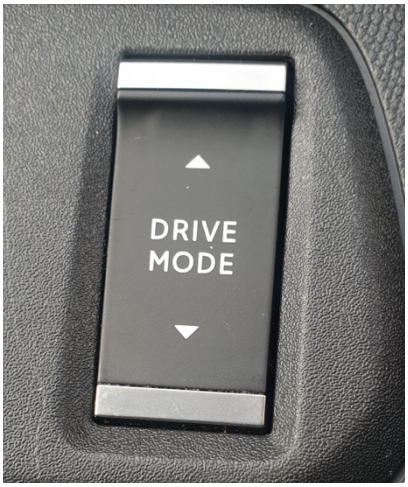
To apply the Parking brake.

With the footbrake applied and the vehicle is stationary, pull up the button gently. Keep your footbrake applied until you see the handbrake warning light illuminate on your dashboard.

To release the Parking brake.

With the footbrake applied, push down the button gently. Keep your footbrake applied until you see the handbrake warning light go out on your dashboard.

Driving Mode



The car 3 modes: Sport / Normal / Eco. These different modes change the way the car applies power and times the gear changes.

Every time the car starts up, it will always default to Normal mode. The best and smoothest drive you need is in “Eco” mode.

To select Eco mode:

Start car.

Press the bottom of the Driving Mode button until “Eco” appears on the dashboard.