

## Unit 2

**Accelerator** – Foot-operated pedal suspended from the firewall on the right side of the driver's foot position. Speed is controlled by adjusting pressure on the pedal.

**Airbags** – A safety device that automatically inflates upon impact in a frontal and/or side collision to prevent occupants from striking the vehicle's interior. Air bags work in conjunction with safety belts and protect against head and chest injuries.

**Area Around Your Vehicle** – Space the driver cannot see when in the driver's seat because of the structural design of the vehicle. Sometimes referred to as the blind zone.

**Body Position** – The position of the driver in the driver's seat. Drivers should sit upright with the back against the seat and feet on the floor. The seat back should be in the upright position.

**Brake Pedal** – Located to the left of the accelerator. The driver slows the vehicle by applying downward pressure. How much and how rapidly the vehicle slows is determined by how much pressure the driver applies to the brake pedal and the friction between the tires and road surface.

**Cruise/Speed Control** – Allows a driver to select and travel at a set speed without maintaining his/her foot on the accelerator. The controls are located either on the steering wheel or a stem on the left or right side of the steering column.

**Enhanced Mirror Settings** – When adjusting the mirror to this setting, the driver will not see the left and right sides of the vehicle when glancing in the outside mirrors. This setting provides the greatest visibility to the sides of the vehicle and reduces blind spots.

**Gear Selector Lever** – The lever that allows the driver to shift the transmission and select a gear.

**Hazard Flasher** – Both front and rear turn signal lights flash to warn other drivers of a problem and to increase other drivers' awareness of the presence of the vehicle.

**Head Restraint** – A padded device, sometimes adjustable, extending above the seat back, in the front or rear designed to reduce the risk of neck injury caused by whiplash from the impact of a crash.

**Headlights (High Beam)** – Bright headlight setting that projects light farther than low beams. Used for night driving or poor visibility.

**Headlights (Low Beam)** – Headlight setting used often during daylight or city driving; projects light over less distance than high beams.

**Hood Release** – Lever used to release the hood of the vehicle. A second latch located under the front edge of the hood must be released to open the hood. Usually located on the left side of the driver's compartment under the dash or just to the left of the steering column.

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**Ignition Switch** – This switch locks the steering wheel and gear selector. It also enables the driver to start and turn off the engine or use the radio. It is located on the right side of the steering column or on the dashboard on some vehicles.

**Instrument Panel** – Gauges and lights that which provide important information about the vehicle's safety and operational condition. It is located on the dashboard, behind the steering wheel.

**Key Fob** – A small security hardware device with built-in authentication; used to control and secure access to a vehicle. Used with push-to-start ignition systems.

**Mirrors** – Side and rear view mirrors are used to provide more visibility of the area around the vehicle. Adjustment of the mirrors can be done inside and outside in vehicles equipped with remote controlled outside mirrors. These controls may be located on the left side of the dash, the driver's side arm rest, or center console.

**Operating Vehicle Control Devices** – Controls used for the operation of a vehicle, including steering wheel, gear selector lever, parking brake, cruise/speed control, ignition switch, and accelerator and brake pedals.

**Owner's Manual** – A valuable resource for understanding the operation and maintenance of the vehicle. Reading the owner's manual will ensure familiarity with controls and maintenance requirements assisting in the safe operation of the vehicle.

**Parking Brake** – Holds a vehicle in place when parked and to protect the transmission. May be either a foot-operated pedal located to the far left side of the driver's foot position, a hand operated lever located to the right of the steering column or to the right of the driver on the floor or center console.

**Pre-drive Procedures** – Steps a driver should take each time before driving a vehicle, including locking doors, placing key in ignition, adjusting seat, head restraint and mirrors, and fastening safety belt.

**Pre-entry Checks** – Looking around the outside of the vehicle for broken glass, body damage, fluid leaks, objects that could damage the vehicle, snow build up and children and pets.

**Safety, Communication, Comfort and Convenience Devices** – Devices in the vehicle used for the safety, comfort and convenience of the driver and to communicate with other roadway users.

**Safety Belts** – A restraining belt designed to protect the driver and riders in a motor vehicle. Lap belts fasten across the hips; shoulder belts fasten across the shoulder and chest. One of the most important safety features in a motor vehicle and is designed to help slow occupants rate of deceleration in a frontal collision.

**Traditional Mirror Settings** – When adjusting the mirror to this setting, the side of the vehicle is visible in the mirror. This setting limits driver's visibility to the sides of vehicle.

# Words To Know

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**Trunk Release** – An option on many vehicles to open the trunk from inside the vehicle. The release may be a lever located on the floor just to the left of the driver's seat. In other vehicles the release mechanism is a button located in the glove box or on the key fob.

**Turn Signals** – Device used to communicate which direction the driver plans to turn. Located on the left side of the steering column, the lever is moved up to signal a movement to the right and down for a movement to the left. While the signal will cancel after a turn, the driver may have to cancel the signal manually after a slight turn such as a lane change.

**Vehicle Reference Point** – Some part of the outside or inside of the vehicle, viewed from the driver's seat that relates to some part of the roadway. Reference points can be developed for the front, side or rear to help you know where the vehicle is located on the roadway.

**Windshield Wipers and Washers** – Device used to clean and keep the windshield clear of rain, snow and other debris. The control is frequently located on the turn signal lever. Two switches are often involved. One controls the speed of the wipers and a second controls the washer fluid.