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# Learn To Ride A Motorcycle In Easy Steps



## Lesson Overview

- Sit On The Motorcycle And Learn Where The Control Are
- Feel The Weight Of The Bike With The Engine Off
- Practice The Front And Rear Brake Movement
- Practice The Clutch Movement Still With The Engine Off
- Start The Engine
- Put The Bike In First Gear And Release The Clutch Slowly
- Practice Changing Gears Practice Slowing Down And Stopping

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# Learn Where The Controls Are

**1: Learn Where The Controls Are:** It is essential to know where the controls are on a motorcycle as you may not have time to look for the one you want to use at any particular moment. You should be familiar with them so you can keep your eyes on the road and use any of the controls you require at the same time. Like anything, it is all about practice.

Here are where the controls on a motorcycle are usually located:

The gear shifter is located by your left foot and is commonly operated as one shift down for first gear then 4 or 5 up to locate the other gears.

The clutch lever is typically located on the left handlebar, which you pull towards you to disengage the clutch when changing gear.

The throttle is located on the right handlebar, which you twist towards yourself to accelerate to move the motorcycle forwards.

The front brake lever is located on the right handlebar in front of the throttle.

The rear brake lever is located on the right-hand side of the bike by your right foot.



Whilst sitting on the bike, make sure that you can reach the controls comfortably without stretching your arms out too far. It would help if you had a slight bend at your elbows, with all the control switches in easy reach.



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**Take your time when going through the learning curve. There is no rush, make sure you are confident at every stage before moving on.**

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# Feel The Weight Of The Bike

You can do this whilst sitting on the bike with the engine off. Just hold both sides of the handlebars with your feet planted firmly on the ground. Now rock the motorcycle left to right SLOWLY to get the feel of the bike's weight

.You don't have to rock the bike far, just a little bit. You will be able to feel where the weight of the bike is located.

Some bikes have their weight located higher up and some low down. Take into consideration the amount of petrol in the bike's tank as this will obviously add to the bike's weight when full.



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## Practice The Front And Rear Brake Movement:

Sitting on the bike with the engine off, practice pulling the front brake lever located on the right-hand side of the handlebar.

This should give you an idea of how it will feel when you pull it and allows you to see where your hand's position will be when operating the lever.

Now lift your right leg and place your foot on the rear brake lever, located on the right-hand side of the bike near your right foot.

Press your foot up and down on the lever, which will now be operating the rear brake. You should be able to feel the resistance of the lever when pressing down on it. When you take your foot off the rear brake lever, it will return to its normal resting position.

Whilst Now have a good look around the motorcycle finding where the brake cable are located. Also, find where the brake pads are and have a look at the brake discs.

Looking at and finding out how different parts of a motorcycle work will help with your learning process.

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# Practice The Clutch Movement Still With The Engine Off:

When you pull the clutch lever in (towards you), you may feel some normal resistance. You pull the clutch lever towards you when you want to change gears. When you pull the clutch lever, you are placing the engine in a neutral position that effectively releases the engine from the transmission.

You will now be able to change from the gear you were originally in. When you want the motorcycle to pull away from a standing position, you pull in the clutch lever and, using your left foot, press downwards on the gear changer.

This will put the motorcycle into first gear. You should hear a clunk or feel resistance, indicating that the bike is in gear.

To pull away, you slowly release the clutch with your left hand and twist the throttle gently towards you with your right hand. This action will simultaneously engage the transmission and increase power to the engine, causing the bike to move forwards.



Most motorcycles generally use a configuration of 1 'Down' and 5 'Up' when shifting gears.

The normal operating sequence is 1st Gear (one Down), then one up is Neutral, then the rest are upwards gears for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th gear.

Each time you wish to change gear, you should disengage the clutch by pulling the clutch lever in and also reduce the throttle at the same time by twisting it away from you.

Change the gear using your left foot and gently release the clutch lever twisting the throttle back towards you in a steady motion to keep the engine revs up so the bike will not stall.

The action of the clutch when carrying out this procedure is called 'feathering the clutch'.

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# Start The Engine

When starting the engine on a motorcycle there are certain factors you will need to be aware of:

Turn on the ignition and check that all the gauges and lights are operating correctly.

Check the gear indicator to make sure it is in neutral. There will be a green 'N' located on the dash of the bike on many bikes.

The easiest way to put the bike into neutral is to shift down into the first gear and then shift up one, putting it into neutral.

Using your right-hand thumb, press the start switch. In this case, it is located under the Hazard Warning Lights switch on the right-hand handlebar.

Now allow the bike to warm up.



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## Put The Bike In First Gear And Release The Clutch Slowly

With the engine idling, pull the clutch lever all the way towards the left handlebar and then press down on the gear shifter with your left foot.

This will place the motorbike into the first gear. Now place both your feet firmly on the ground and release the clutch slowly and twist the throttle towards you slowly also.

Keeping your feet firmly on the ground allows the bike to move steadily forward whilst walking with the bike.

Repeat this process until you can put both feet on the motorcycles foot-pegs whilst keeping the bike in a steady, upright position.

Practicing this a few times will allow you to get a good feel for the bike and will teach you how to balance the bike correctly whilst allowing it to move forwards using the engine's power.

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# Practice Changing Gears



Now you have practiced keeping the motorcycle balanced whilst moving forwards. It's time to start to ride the bike.

From a standing start with the engine idling, place the bike into first gear and ride forwards as you have been practicing before.

Now put both your feet on the footpegs and press down on the clutch whilst twisting the throttle slowly back towards you.

With your left foot, push the gear shifter up to place the motorcycle into second gear, slowly releasing the clutch and gently twisting the throttle towards you to gain some acceleration.

Ride in a completely straight line repeating the process until you have the bike in third or fourth gear. When you decide that you want to stop the bike, pull in the clutch lever and apply the front and back brake simultaneously until the motorcycle comes to a stop.

Put both feet on the ground once the bike has stopped. Press in the clutch lever, find neutral, turn off the bike at the ignition, and lower the bike stand.

You have now taken your first ride on a motorcycle! You will need to keep practicing to get used to all the controls and how the bike feels.

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# Practice Slowing Down And Stopping

This is the last part to this exercise

Now that you have been practicing all the different bikes' operations, it's time to put it all together by riding the bike in a straight line and practicing slowing the bike down and coming to a full stop.

When you want to come to a stop or slow down, it's best to start by engaging the front brake first by pulling the lever located on the right-hand side of the handlebar. Once the bike starts to slow, you can apply pressure to the rear brake using your right foot.

As you start to slow down you will need to downshift the gears which will help the bike slow as well.

This is called 'engine braking'.

As you are breaking and coming to a stop, you need to make sure that you are not putting back on the throttle.

However, since the front brake lever is located in front of the throttle, you should have naturally released the throttle when starting the slowing procedure.

Gradually apply more pressure to the breaks in a smooth motion.



Once you have come to a complete stop, keeping your right hand firmly on the front brake lever, place both feet on the ground to steady the motorcycle. Now you can practice turning, slowing down, speeding up and changing gears and stopping. The more you practice, the more confidence you will gain getting used to all the controls and how the bike feels..

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