



How Did I Get Here?

Presumably, everyone who enrolls on a training course to become an instructor is planning to qualify and actually teach learners. They are investing a reasonably large sum of money for the training course and it would be fair to assume they want to make the most of the opportunity they've paid for.

It is not difficult to become an ADI. Yes, you read correctly, it is NOT difficult to become an ADI. It is something that can be achieved by the vast majority of reasonably intelligent people who hold a driving licence as long as they really want to do it. Training organisations are often criticised by people who have paid for the course yet fail to make the grade, but there are many reasons for this. ADI Training is a form of adult education and, as such, requires entrants to the course to take partial responsibility for their own learning. We are all familiar with the phrase 'You can lead a horse to water . . .' If you want to successfully train to be an ADI, all you need to do is to follow some simple 'rules':

- you choose a course from the many options available
- the training provider delivers a syllabus designed to prepare and guide you to success in each of the three DSA tests
- they advise you how to practise and prepare for each session
- **you practise, study and follow the advice!**

Following these will usually lead to success. However, in reality, an alarming number of PDIs only follow the rules that require little or no effort on



their part. Too many people think that by simply attending the practical training sessions they will be able to qualify, but this is not so.

It is important for people to realise that the practical sessions form only a part of the training and, as with all adult education, there is a lot of homework to do! If a trainee does not prepare properly for each of the sessions, then they will not feel the full benefits of the Tutor's coaching and will gradually fall further and further behind. Some say they do not have sufficient time to complete the work they have been set between sessions, but the truth is that if they want to succeed and qualify, then it is important they make temporary adjustments to their lifestyle in order to make time for home study and practice. It is very easy for a PDI to become de-motivated if they feel they are struggling, but this is normally due to a lack of preparation. As I stated earlier, it is not difficult to become an ADI, but it does require both financial and personal investment in terms of setting aside time to achieve it.

Why Did You Decide To Be A Driving Instructor ?

It can be interesting to look at the reasons why people have chosen to join this industry. It is a question posed to most PDIs at some point during the training, usually by the Tutor, and the answers do not vary as much as you might think. One very common response is: 'Well, I like driving so I thought' Why do people think this is so relevant? After all, it is the pupil who sits in the driving seat.

I have also been told (not too often, thankfully): 'I was made redundant and it was this or nothing really.'

The response I always prefer to hear is: 'I like meeting people and passing on my knowledge to help them.' This is important; after all, they will be learning to teach driving skills. So, having paid for professional advice and training, you would think that all PDIs would follow the trainer's advice, but this is not always the case. We sometimes encounter PDIs who are preparing for the three tests by completing the theoretical stage of training prior to the Part 1 test but simply want to do things their

own way. There are people who think no study is required and that simply answering endless questions and completing numerous mock tests is a shortcut to success - it isn't. Refusing to follow advice is likely to see them making several attempts at Part 1 and stubbornly thinking they know better than the professional trainer, even though they have paid a substantial sum of money for the training course.

Why Do They Bother?

If this category of PDI has managed to struggle and stumble their way through the system all the way to Part 3, then the fun really begins. This is the PDI who will turn up to virtually every session unprepared, will rarely have completed the action plan and will cancel sessions at a moment's notice. He or she will blame everyone and everything for their lack of progress except themselves. These are the people who will rarely succeed and will always have a strong influence on the pass rates, keeping them artificially low. Every training organisation has their fair (or unfair?) share of these PDIs. No matter how much time is spent on improving courses and delivery, internal training of Tutors or adapting styles to suit different individuals and maintaining flexibility in the systems, nothing is going to work for the PDIs who choose not to make the effort. An important fact needs to be accepted by all who are entering this industry, that you are buying a training course (and an opportunity), but NOT a qualification. The qualification, green badge and teaching success come with hard work! **adi**

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