

Everyone loves a good driving instructor. The best instructors – the ones who put their pupils at ease – rarely have to advertise because their pupils spread the word for them.

It's a great career for calm, practical people who know how to get the best out of others.

But how do you choose a driving-instructor training school that brings out the best in you?

What marks out good tuition from bad?

How can you be sure you're getting value for money?

Here's what you should be looking for.

Ask to see your trainer's credentials. All approved schools are on the government's ORDIT register – the Official Register of Driving Instructor Trainers.

Some schools charge huge fees upfront. Others charge for Part 1 tuition – something you can easily study for free in your own time. A good school makes it easy for you to pay in ways that suit your budget.

If you want to do well, you have to get on with your trainer. Make sure you meet them before you start. Don't sign anything if you haven't met the person who'll be training you. Better still, spend some time in the car with them before you commit.

The government allows schools to provide some of their Part 3 training in a classroom with other trainees. Trouble is, driving instruction is a practical skill. The best training is always one-to-one in the car.

Some schools slash costs by stuffing two or three trainees in the car at one time. That means you don't get the vital one-to-one tuition you need to qualify.

Ask about your trainer's grading. The best get grades 5 and 6.

According to the government, the performance of the rest – that's any instructor graded 4 or lower – is, at best, 'satisfactory' at teaching learners to drive. Would you trust your career to someone whose skills are merely 'satisfactory'?

It's also worth asking what a trainer has done to improve their skills. Many schools don't move on: once its trainers have passed their Part 2, that's it.

But there are plenty of advanced qualifications out there that give a trainer even more skills to help you pass your Part 2. The better qualified they are, the more knowledge they can pass on to you.

It's easy for trainers to claim success, but not so easy to prove it. Ask your trainer to show you the exam sheets of previous trainees.

Life moves on. You could pay for instructor tuition in advance then find that family or work commitments mean you can't use it all. The question is: can you get your money back?

Some schools offer free or cut-price tuition with a sting in the tail: you have to work for them once you've qualified – often at steep rates of commission or for exorbitant franchise fees.

If you're starting up on your own, it's helpful to have someone at your side. A guiding hand could stop you making silly beginner's mistakes.

Perhaps the best test of all is to ask former trainees what they thought of their tuition. They'll soon tell you whether it was good value for money or not.

Don't you deserve a better school? Call us today on 0800 511 8800 to talk about how we can help you become the successful driving instructor you deserve to be.