

C A R E 2 D R I V E

FREE DOWNLOAD

Swapping your driving test

How a swap actually works, what changed in 2026, and how to do it without losing your date or your fee.



The 2026 rules

Step by step

A safe swap post



4 pages · PDF · for learner drivers

care2drive.co.uk · helping people who help people

How to do a swap, step by step

1. Find someone who wants your date, whose date you want.

Local groups are the usual place. Post what you have and what you are after, using the format at the bottom of this page.

2. Check the centre works for both of you.

Each of you can only move to one of your three nearest centres, so confirm that before anything else. This is the most common reason a swap cannot go ahead.

3. Check the notice period.

Both tests need to be more than 10 full working days away, or somebody pays again.

4. Agree an exact time to do it.

Not "later today". A specific minute, when you are both sitting down with your booking details in front of you.

5. Make the change.

By phone, together. DVSA has said it can handle a swap over the phone with both people on the call. That is the tidiest route, because neither slot goes back into the pool. It is the newest part of the process, so ring the booking line and ask before you rely on it.

Online, one after the other. One person changes onto the other's date at the agreed moment, and the other changes onto the date just released. It works, and there is a real chance that a slot released this way is taken by somebody else in the seconds in between.

6. Check your confirmation.

Both of you check the confirmation email before you celebrate. If only one change went through, sort it out straight away rather than the night before.

A swap post that gets answered

Copy this shape

HAVE: Tue 14 Oct, 09:07, Rugby

WANT: anything before 20 Sep, mornings preferred

MY 3 NEAREST: Rugby, Coventry, Nuneaton

Happy to do it by phone together.

That is everything the other person needs, and nothing that identifies you.



Doing it safely

Never share these, ever.

Your driving licence number, your booking reference, or your date of birth. That is enough for somebody to move or cancel your test. Never post a screenshot of your booking confirmation, because it usually shows all three.

No money.

Slots are not property and they are not for sale. Anyone charging you for a date is selling you something they do not own.

No bots or automatic cancellation checkers.

DVSA says third-party apps, bots and automated services breach the booking system's terms, and it can remove your ability to book online. Not worth it for an earlier date.

No swap service is DVSA approved.

Swap sites and apps often sound official. DVSA's own words: "DVSA does not run, approve or endorse any system, website or service that lists, matches or brokers test swaps." Some of them are perfectly reasonable places to find someone. None of them is endorsed, and the good ones do not claim to be.

If it does not go to plan

They go quiet before the agreed time. Do nothing. You still have your original test, and you still have your two changes.

Their date disappears while you are changing. Somebody else got there first. Annoying, and it has cost you one of your two changes only if you actually completed a change.

Only one of you gets through. Contact DVSA and explain. Sorting it out the same day is far easier than sorting it out later.

And the honest bit.

An earlier date only helps if you are ready for it. Ask your instructor the plain question: "if I took it three weeks earlier, what would I want more practice on?" If the answer is a short list, chase the swap. If it is a long one, the later date might be doing you a favour.

Looking for someone to swap with?

We run free local groups for people testing at each centre, where members post what they have and what they want, and everyone makes their own change. Search Facebook for "How to pass at [your test centre] driving test centre", or find your centre's workbook and free resources at care2drive.co.uk

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