

## A Bulgarian Driving Lesson

If you are a foreigner coming to Bulgaria for the first time in your life there is one thing you will notice right away – the manner of driving. It is common for English people to get confused as everybody is driving in the 'wrong' lane but there also are other things to consider.

As it is very difficult for me to tell you exactly how to drive in Bulgaria let me give you a list of the things you should be aware of while on the road. This is a quotation of the unwritten street driving code of Bulgarian drivers and I can assure you they are really strict in following these rules.

### Code of the Bulgarian Driver

#### Don'ts:

1. Don't ever give way to anyone whatever the vehicle.
2. Don't give way to any pedestrians, especially small children, old people and mothers with baby-carriages.
3. Don't ever stop at the yellow traffic light.
4. Don't ever keep a reasonable distance.
5. Don't ever keep to the speed limit-you are in a hurry you have that right!
6. Don't ever obey stop, right-of-way or one way street signs.

#### Does:

1. Do stop at places with a stop forbidden sign simply by turning your emergency lights on.
2. Do always go through a cross-road at a yellow traffic light or if it has only just turned red.
3. Do always talk on your mobile phone while you are driving.
4. Do always be in a hurry, nervous and intolerant!

But when a foreigner starts driving in Bulgaria it is inevitable not to notice that there even are some street signs totally different from anything you have ever seen before. So let me list these too:

Signs **a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h** and **i** are regular, common street signs.

Signs **1, 2, 3** are used to indicate the purpose of a particular vehicle.

Signs **4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11** are small signs used underneath a bigger street sign to indicate special sign purpose, action zone, period, etc.

Well that was the lesson for today. If you have any other questions or would like to learn more on driving in Bulgaria I suggest you turn to a specialist like **Mr. Kalin Kalinov** who is a professional driving instructor with fluent English and a great deal of experience.

**Just call him at 052 646464 or mobile: 0888 924 751 ; 0888 639 753 or contact him through us at BSP.**



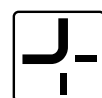
1. A deaf or deaf-mute driver



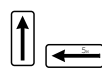
2. Children on board



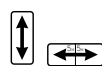
3. Training Car



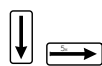
4. Direction of the right-of-way road



5. The beginning of the acting zone of a particular sign



6. Continuing the zone of action of a particular sign



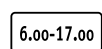
7. End of the zone of action of a particular sign



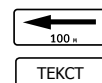
8. Cab-rank



9. Shows that a certain sign applies on working days only



10. Time of action of the street sign



11. Shows the way to a certain object and its name



a. Customs. Pass only after stopping.



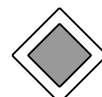
b. Carwash



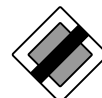
c. Passage opened/closed



d. Careful. Section where many accidents occur



e. A right-of-way road



f. End of right-of-way road



g. Entrance is forbidden in both directions



h. Use tire chains on at least two tires



i. To use this road you need a Vignette

### The Bulgarian Alphabet

The first Bulgarian alphabet was called the Glagolitsa. It was created by Cyril and Methodius, two brothers who were Bulgarian monks. After 885 their followers brought it into the country. It was the alphabet that made it possible for Bulgaria to get rid of the Greek spiritual dependence.

<b>А а</b>	a (as in cat)
<b>Б б</b>	b (as in bus)
<b>В в</b>	v (as in very)
<b>Г г</b>	g (as in good)
<b>Д д</b>	d (as in dog)
<b>Е е</b>	e (as in egg)
<b>Ж ж</b>	zh (like's leisure)
<b>З з</b>	z (as in zoo)
<b>И и</b>	i (as in instant)
<b>Й й</b>	y (as in young)
<b>К к</b>	k (as in kick)

<b>Л л</b>	l (as in love)
<b>М м</b>	m (as in marry)
<b>Н н</b>	n (as in no)
<b>О о</b>	o (as in hot)
<b>П п</b>	p (as in pot)
<b>Р р</b>	r (as in red)
<b>С с</b>	s (as in sit)
<b>Т т</b>	t (as in tree)
<b>У у</b>	y (as in yule)
<b>Ф ф</b>	f (as in foot)
<b>Х х</b>	x (like "ch" in Bach)
<b>Ц ц</b>	ts (as in puts)
<b>Ч ч</b>	ch (as in check)
<b>Ш ш</b>	sh (as in shut)
<b>Щ щ</b>	sht (like "shed" in pushed)
<b>Ъ ъ</b>	u (as in but)
<b>Ь ь</b>	(consonant softening sound)
<b>Ю ю</b>	yu (as in you)
<b>Я я</b>	ya (as in yank)

### Bulgarian Useful Words and Phrases

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Do you speak English?        | - Govorite li Angliiski |
| - I don't understand!          | - Ne rezbiram!          |
| - I don't speak Bulgarian.     | - Ne govorya Balgarski. |
| - What's your name?            | - Kak se kazvash?       |
| - Hello!                       | - Zdrave!               |
| - How are you?                 | - Kak si?               |
| - What time is it?             | - Kolko e chasa?        |
| - Sorry?                       | - Molya?                |
| - Good! /OK! /All right!       | - Dobre! /OK!           |
| - Yes/No                       | - Da/Ne                 |
| -Can I have.../I would like... | - Mozhe li.../Iskam...  |
| - How much?                    | - Kolko struva?         |
| - I'm sorry!                   | - Izvinete!             |
| - Good morning!                | - Dobro Ytro!           |
| - Goodbye!                     | - Dovizhdane!           |
| - Bye, bye!                    | - Chao!                 |
| - Thank you!                   | - Blagodarya! /Mersi!   |