



# Police: Reverse parking saves fuel and prevents theft

## 車頭朝外停 省油又防盜

**W**hy do people back into parking spaces? While many car owners do, they don't know the reasoning behind this practice. A representative of the Hsinchu City traffic police division said the practice both saves on gasoline and prevents theft, and it was something drivers could consider.

Chien Hua-ming, chief of traffic police at the Hsinchu City police force, said the advantages are that it is easier to get the car started, it prevents theft, and it saves on gasoline. He said police regulations have always required that officers back into parking spaces because if an emergency occurs, it will allow for the fastest start.

Conversely, if you have to back out of the parking space, there will frequently be blind spots, so that drivers could easily back into other cars entering the parking lot. By comparison, it saves both time and gasoline to back into the parking space or garage when parking the car.

Criminal investigation team leader Chiang Shou-ting, who previously served on the freeway patrol, said that backing into a parking space also affects fuel consumption. When the engine is turned on, it cools down, and if the car was driven straight into the parking space, it will be necessary to back out. Now, putting a cold engine in reverse is the **maneuver** that requires the highest fuel consumption.

tion. That means that backing into a parking space when the car engine is still warm means that when you leave, the engine will slowly be warmed up, and that will save on fuel consumption.

In addition, the most important reason for backing into a parking space is that it will help prevent theft. These days, many cars are **equipped** with GPS systems, TVs and high quality sound systems and safety bags. These **valuables** are all coveted by thieves. If the car is backed into the parking space, people and cars moving around the parking lot will be able to see what goes on in the car. Thieves are likely to **give such cars a wide berth**.

Many drivers don't know why they should back into a parking space, and will hurry to drive straight into an empty space. It may be convenient, but according to police, there are many more advantages to backing into a parking space.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY PERRY SVENSSON)

**開**車進停車場的時候，為什麼要將車頭朝外？許多車主雖然都這麼做，卻不知所以然，新竹市交通隊表示，車頭朝外不僅可省油更可防盜，駕駛人不妨參考。

新竹市警局交通隊組長簡華明指出，車頭朝外停車方式，好處包括：發動方便、防盜、省油。他說警方向來的作業準則，就是要求警車停放時，車頭一律朝外，因為這樣在緊急出勤時，能以

最快方式出動。

反過來說，如果開車時還要倒車，因為常有視覺死角，容易在發動時，與其他進入停車場的車輛發生碰撞，比較起來進停車場時一次倒車入庫，最省時間與油料。

曾在國道高速公路警察服務的刑事小隊長姜守鼎說，車尾停進停車格，還跟油耗有關係，熄火之後車輛引擎回復到冷卻狀態，如果是車頭停進停車格的話，這個時候就必須要以倒車的方式將車輛開出來。在冷車的狀態下倒車，是車子最耗油的時候。所以，趁車子引擎熱的時候，以倒車入庫的方式停車，離開時，緩慢順暢地讓引擎溫度提高，可以減少不必要油耗。

除此之外，倒車入庫停車最重要的是，可以達到防盜的效果，目前許多車輛加裝衛星定位、電視、高級音響甚至安全氣囊，都是小偷覬覦的貴重財物，如果車頭朝外的話，停車場因人車進進出出，大家都看得到車子裡面的狀況，想偷車內東西的宵小，多少會比較有忌諱。

許多駕駛人都不知道，進停車場為什麼要車頭朝外，有的人一看見有空位，立刻將車頭開進去，雖然方便，但警方建議，將車頭朝外的好處還是居多。

(自由時報記者蔡彰盛)

**Cars are backed into parking spaces in a parking lot in Hsinchu County on Dec. 31 last year.**

PHOTO: TSAI CHANG-SHENG, LIBERTY TIMES

去年十二月三十一日，新竹縣某停車場內的汽車車頭朝外停車。

照片：自由時報記者蔡彰盛攝

### TODAY'S WORDS

#### 今日單字

1. **maneuver** /mə'nuvə/ n.

機動動作 (ji1 dong4 dong4 zuo4)

**例：** The pilot performed a skilled maneuver to avert a collision.  
(飛行員展現高超飛行技術避開碰撞。)

2. **equip** /i'kwɪp/ v.

配備 (pei4 bei4)

**例：** Our vehicles are equipped with the latest devices for driving in extreme conditions.  
(我們的車輛配備最新裝置，在極端惡劣的情況下也能安全駕駛。)

3. **valuable** /'væljuəbl/ n.

私人貴重物品 (si1 ren2 gui4 zhong4 wu4 pin3)

**例：** Don't leave your valuables in the hotel room.  
(不要將貴重物品遺留在旅館房間內。)

### LANGUAGE POINT

#### 重要片語

**give a wide berth**  
遠離

If you **give somebody a wide berth** you avoid them or keep a reasonable distance from them. According to the article, thieves are more likely to **give a wide berth** to cars that are reverse parked.

如果說你「give somebody a wide berth」，就表示你躲著他們或和他們保持適當的距離。上文中提到，小偷傾向避開那些車頭向外停的車輛。