

# Smart learners



Your Smart Route  
to Safe Driving...

Book Three

# New Places



From SmartDriving

## **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to all the learner drivers and driving instructors who have taught, and continue to teach, me all I know - without them the SmartLearners project would not have been possible.

Also to my wife Phyl for her endless patience during the development of SmartDriving, SmartLearners and my other projects. J.F.

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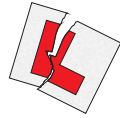
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# Smart learners



Your Smart Route  
to Safe Driving...

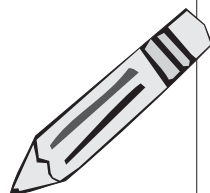
Book Three  
New Places

# Lessons



From SmartDriving

**Driver's notes:**





# Reversing to the left

## Practical lesson

### Observation, control and accuracy

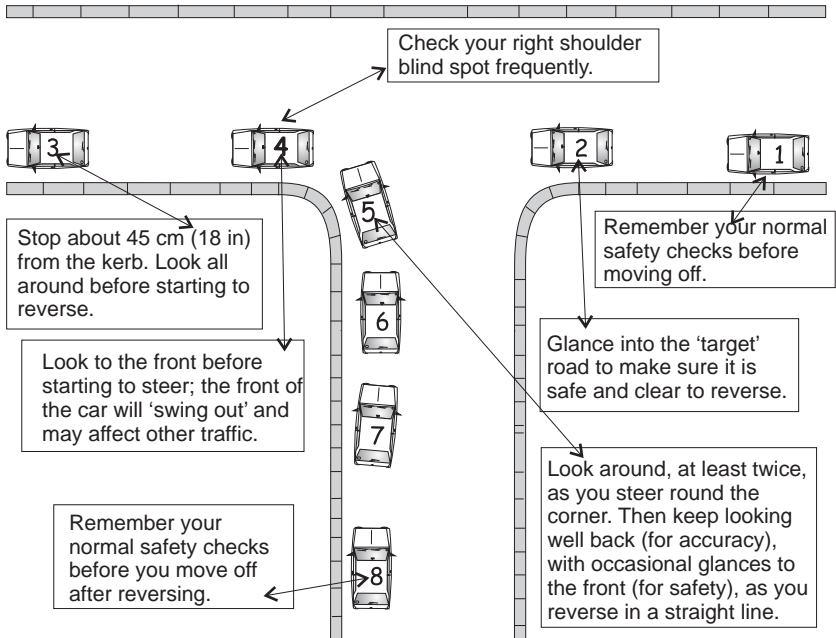
Remember these three key manoeuvring words from your straight line reverse exercise? This manoeuvre is simply a development of your **observation**, **control** and **accuracy** skills when reversing.

Good **observation** is essential for safe reversing to the left; you must be aware of what is happening all around you throughout the manoeuvre. well as a general awareness, you must make some specific observation checks; these are shown on the diagram below.



Use **clutch control** to keep your speed to a slow walking pace. This will give you plenty of time for observation and steering adjustments.

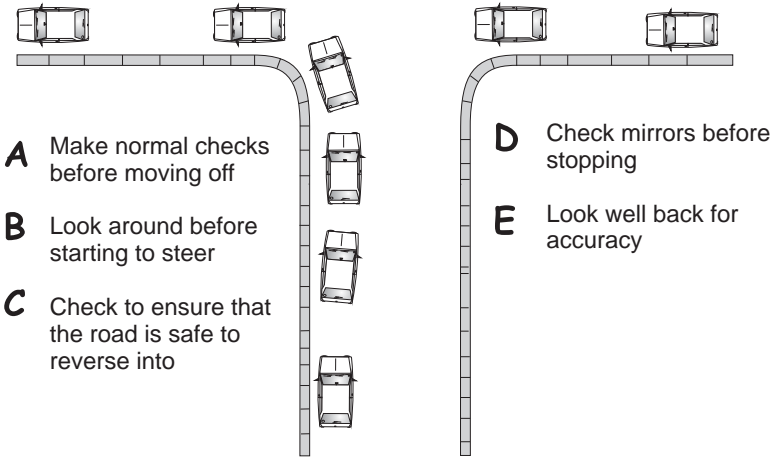
Your position should be **accurate** to within about 45 centimetres (18 inches) from the kerb. In order to achieve this you might find it useful to use reference points to guide you in early practice. To do this simply line the kerb up with a suitable point in the rear or side window. Once you become proficient, you won't need the reference points.



# ? Driving quiz

## Reversing to the left

1 Label the diagram with the letters A, B, C, D and E to show the points at which you must make the specific observation checks listed below.



2 When reversing around a corner you should be approximately:

- 10 centimetres (4 inches) from the kerb
- 30 centimetres (12 inches) from the kerb
- 45 centimetres (18 inches) from the kerb
- 90 centimetres (36 inches) from the kerb

---

## Progress check

I can reverse around a corner to the left safely and correctly with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can reverse around a corner to the left safely and correctly without help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Turning the car around

## Practical lesson

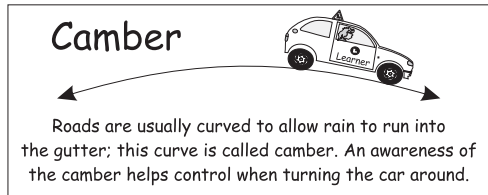
### The turn-in-the-road

This manoeuvre is sometimes called the three-point turn but this term is a little misleading. The turn doesn't have to be completed in three movements. The number of moves required will depend upon the size and steering capabilities of your car, the width of the road and your driving skills. You will be required to do this manoeuvre as part of your driving test; however, this is not the main reason for including it here. After you have passed your test, you will need the same skills in car parks, garages, tight driveways, petrol stations, etcetera.

### Using your current skills

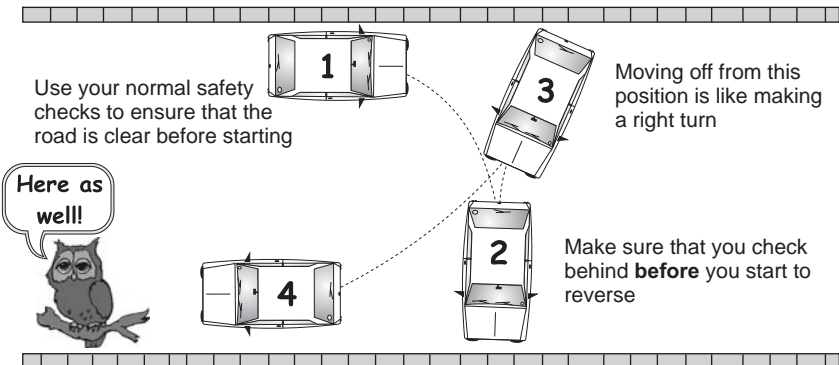
The turn-in-the-road uses some of the driving skills you have already mastered:

- angle start
- clutch control
- uphill start
- observation skills
- reversing skills
- right turn skills



### Observation, control and accuracy

While completing this manoeuvre you must be aware of the movement of other traffic, cyclists and pedestrians at all times, which means constant all-around **observation**. If other vehicles approach during the turn you should make eye-contact with the driver (your instructor will explain this in detail) and be prepared to give way. **Control**, as with all slow-speed manoeuvres, will be accomplished by careful clutch control. **Accuracy** can be achieved by brisk steering; keep the car moving slowly but turn the steering wheel quickly.



# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Turning the car around

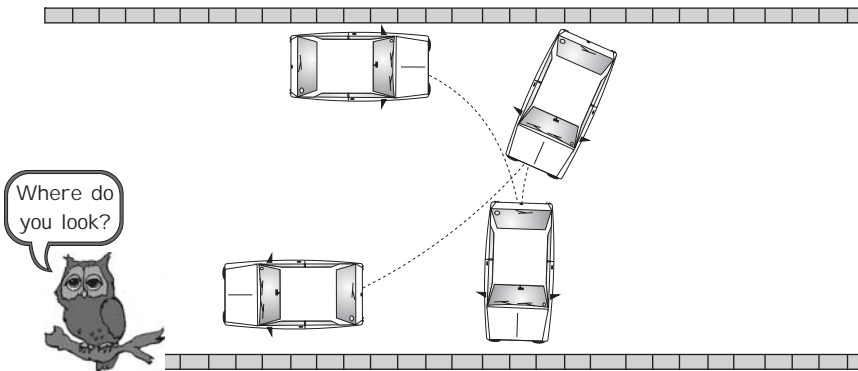
1 You must always complete the turn-in-the-road in three movements.

 TRUE

 FALSE

2 Mark the diagram below (A, B, C and D) to show the points at which you would do the following:

- A the two points at which you would need your hill start skills
- B the points at which you should look to the right and left for other traffic
- C the points at which you will check your mirrors
- D the point at which you will look out your rear window



## Progress check



I have all the skills needed to turn the car around in the road (listed on page 57).

 Signed ..... Date .....

I can turn the car around with help from my instructor.

 Signed ..... Date .....

I can turn the car around without any assistance.

 Signed ..... Date .....



# Reversing into a parking bay

## Practical lesson

### An everyday manoeuvre

These days, wherever you go, you will probably end up parking in a car park. In 1999 the option of testing your ability to do this was introduced into the driving test for the first time. As part of your test you might be asked to reverse into a parking bay at the test centre.

With a little practice you will soon become competent and confident at reversing into bays. The benefits of reversing in, as opposed to driving in, include the facts that it's usually easier, and it's much safer driving out forwards rather than reversing out. In the unlikely event of being threatened by someone with malicious intent in a car park, driving out forwards will offer a quicker and safer exit.

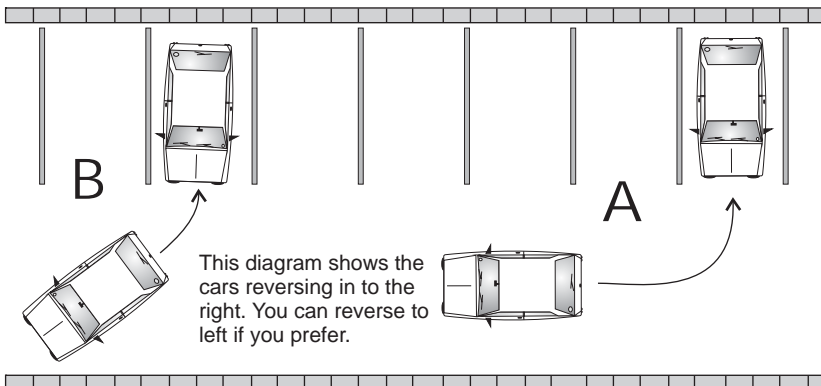
### Two options

You can choose to reverse from a 90 degree angle into the parking space (A) or drive into a position from which you can reverse into the bay in a straight line, or at least as straight as the space available will allow (B).

### Stay safe

Remember that car parks are used by pedestrians. Pedestrians can approach from any angle in a car park and might not be paying attention to the traffic. Keep a careful look out, all around, all the time, especially for small children who can be difficult to see when you are reversing. Finally, make sure that you park in the centre of the available space to leave yourself, and the drivers and passengers of the cars on either side, sufficient room to open the doors and get in and out easily.

Keep a look out for children



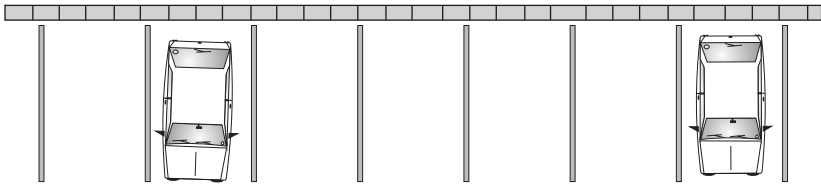
# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Reversing into a parking bay

1 All pedestrians are vulnerable in car parks. Why do you think that it is especially important to look out for children? (Discuss your answer with your driving instructor.)



2 Mark the diagram below to show the two optional starting positions for reversing into a parking bay



3 When asked to reverse into a bay during the driving test you can choose whether to reverse in from the left or the right.

TRUE

FALSE

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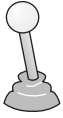
## Progress check

I can easily reverse into a parking bay with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can easily reverse into a parking bay without any assistance.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Parallel parking

## Practical lesson

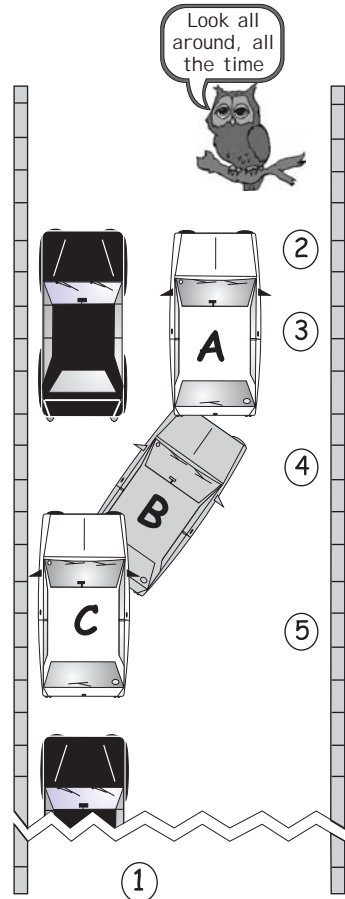
### Save your legs!

Many drivers will walk miles rather than try to reverse into a parking space. This is because they were never taught this manoeuvre by their instructors. Learner drivers who have followed the *You've Passed* programme realise just how easy it is. You will soon be joining them!

### Easy steps

- 1 Select a suitable parking position by looking well ahead.
- 2 Check your mirrors, signal if necessary and stop alongside, and parallel to, the car that you wish to park behind. You should be about a metre (a yard) away from it with the front of your car approximately level with that of the other car (position A). If for any reason it isn't safe to stop, drive around the block and come back to the space again.
- 3 Select reverse gear, and if the road is clear all around, drive slowly back, steering into the space. You should aim in at an angle of approximately 45° to the centre of the gap (position B); to do this you will possibly need full lock. As you move back, keep the speed down (a slow walking pace or less) and keep a look-out for traffic. If any traffic approaches, take the usual manoeuvring precautions.
- 4 When the front of your car is clear of the car you are parking behind, steer briskly to the right and continue to reverse slowly.
- 5 Stop, select first gear and drive slowly forward to straighten up (position C).

Be careful to ensure you don't hit the kerb with your tyres or rub them along the kerb edge. This could cause them to blow out at a later date, possibly when travelling at high speed.



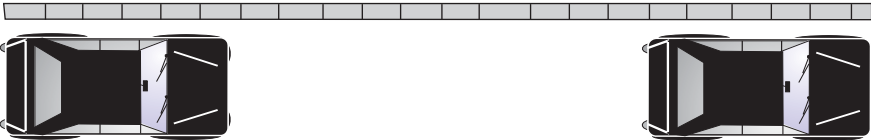
# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Parallel parking

1 Based upon your experience of other manoeuvres, what action will you take if another driver approaches while you are doing the reverse parking exercise?

- Try to complete the manoeuvre as quickly as possible before the other driver draws level with your car.
- Pause to see what the other driver is going to do before completing the manoeuvre.
- Stop and wave the other driver past.
- Check to see if the road is clear and then wave the other driver past.

2 Draw two rectangles on the diagram below to show the starting and finishing positions for the reverse parking exercise. In addition, label the diagram to show how far you should be from the parked car at the starting point.



## Progress check



I do the reverse parking exercise with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I do the reverse parking exercise without any assistance.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Overtaking

## Practical lesson

### Do I really need to overtake?

Always ask this question before starting any overtaking manoeuvre. If there is a long queue of vehicles ahead, overtaking will probably not affect your journey time. If there is a dual carriageway ahead it will be better to wait until you get there before you overtake. If you are turning off soon it may not be worth overtaking.

### Is it safe to overtake?

The obvious thing to look for is approaching traffic, but there are other considerations too. Is anyone overtaking you? Are there any turnings or gateways that other vehicles may pull out from? Is there a school or playground, etcetera? Make sure that you can see far enough ahead and that you can allow a safe margin for error if something unexpected happens.

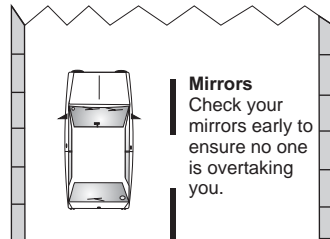
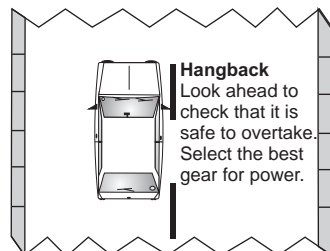
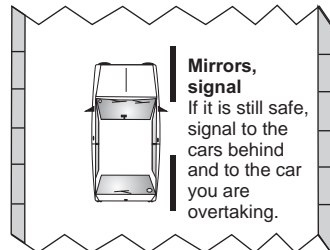
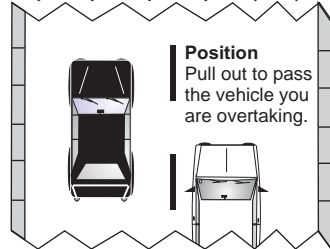
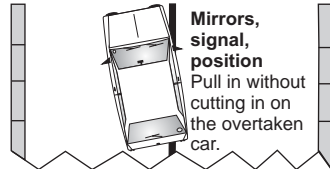
### Can I overtake on the left?

Overtake on the right except in the following situations:

- Passing a vehicle that has signalled to turn right and you can overtake safely on the left (you must not enter a bus lane during its period of operation).
- You are in a one-way street and can pass safely on the left. You should only do this when using the correct lane for your destination.
- There are two lanes of slow-moving traffic and the lane to your right is moving more slowly than your own lane (do not change lanes to overtake in this situation).

### Let others overtake you

This doesn't mean that you must crawl around at a snail's pace letting everyone pass; it simply means that it is often safer to have someone in front, where you can see them, rather than behind. There are no gold stars for being stubborn and blocking the path of other drivers. In the worst imaginable situation you could end up involved in someone else's accident.



# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Overtaking

1 Name four places where you must not overtake (refer to *The Highway Code*).

2 What does this sign mean (refer to *The Highway Code*)?



3 *The Highway Code* states that if someone is trying to overtake you, if necessary you should slow down and allow them to pass.

TRUE

FALSE

4 You can overtake on the left when (tick one answer):

- the driver ahead is driving too near the centre of the road
- the driver ahead has signalled an intention to turn right
- driving on a motorway

---

## Progress check



I know the rules and regulations about overtaking.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can overtake with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I have overtaken a vehicle safely and correctly without any assistance.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Traffic lights

## Practical lesson

### Normal traffic light sequence

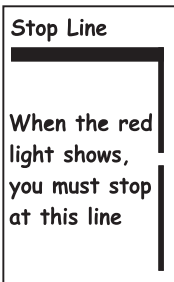
Traffic lights controlling junctions and road works follow the same sequence:



- RED
- RED AND AMBER
- GREEN
- AMBER
- RED

### What the lights mean

**Red:** stop and wait at the stop line. **Red and amber:** Be prepared to move off. **Green:** move off if the way is clear and safe to do so. **Amber:** stop. You may only proceed at amber if you have crossed the stop line or are so close to it that stopping might cause an accident.

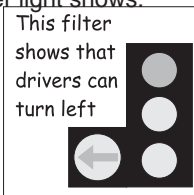


### Action at traffic lights

As you approach traffic lights try to anticipate what they are likely to do when you arrive. If they have been green for a long time, they might turn red. Use your hazard routine on approach, making sure that you select the best lane for your intended direction. Make sure you can stop safely if the amber light shows.

### Green filters

At some traffic light junctions you will see a green filter arrow. This means that if the road is clear and it is safe, you can move off in the direction of the arrow; you can do this even if there is a red light showing for other directions. If you accidentally select the wrong lane and a filter light shows, you should carry on and turn around later.



### If the lights are out of order

If the traffic lights fail, approach the junction in the same way as you would an unmarked crossroads. Look out for traffic wardens or police who may be controlling the traffic.

**Read about traffic lights and signals given by persons controlling traffic in *The Highway Code*.**

# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Traffic lights

1 When a green light shows it means (tick one answer):

- go
- go if the road is clear and safe
- go slowly with extreme caution

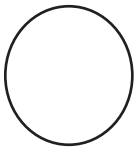
2 Base your answer for this question on your knowledge of traffic lights and your driving experience.

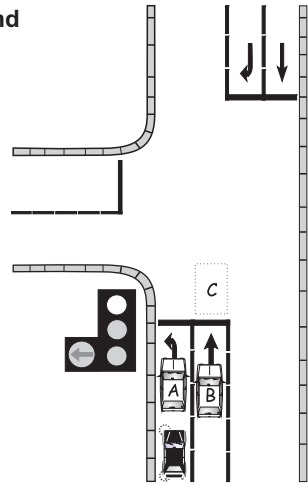
You wish to go straight ahead at the traffic lights (driving car A), but find that you have accidentally selected the wrong lane and are faced with a green filter arrow. Which of the following actions will you take:

**a carry on to the left and then turn around later in order to return to your intended direction?**

**b wait for the main green light to show and then drive on ahead?**

**c cross the stop line to wait in the clear space (C) in front of car B until the green light shows?**

- a
  - b
  - c
- 



## Progress check

I can safely negotiate traffic lights with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can safely negotiate traffic lights without any assistance.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Pedestrian safety

## Practical lesson

### Three types of crossing

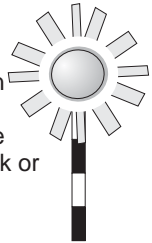
There are three types of pedestrian crossing:

- zebra
- traffic light controlled
- school warden or police controlled



### Zebra crossings

These crossings are marked by Belisha beacons – black and white poles with an amber flashing globe at the top. You must always be on the look-out for people near the crossing and be prepared to stop to allow them to cross. On the approach to, and after, the crossing there are zig-zag white lines painted on the road surface. You must not park or overtake within these lines.



### Pedestrian traffic lights

The sequence of pedestrian traffic lights sometimes differs from regular traffic lights; at pelican crossings there is a flashing amber light. When the flashing amber light shows you may proceed if there are no pedestrians on the crossing. (Note: you must stop, as usual, at the steady amber light that shows before red.) Watch out for pedestrians near the crossing who may have pressed the button to activate the lights; use the hazard routine and be prepared to stop.

### School crossing patrols



Watch out for flashing amber lights under a 'children crossing' sign; these indicate that there is a school crossing patrol ahead. The crossing may be manned by a school warden, traffic warden or by a police officer. You must stop when you are instructed to do so. Wait until all the children have crossed and the warden is back on the footpath before you move off.



As a general rule you should always be on the look-out for pedestrians who may step into your path. This is especially the case if the pedestrians are old, infirm, or young (under 15). See *The Highway Code* for more information about pedestrian safety.

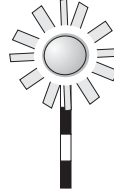


# SmartLearners quiz

## Pedestrian safety

1 You will find a Belisha beacon at a (tick one answer):

- traffic light crossing
- railway crossing
- pelican crossing
- zebra crossing



2 What do these signs mean (refer to *The Highway Code*)?



3 If the flashing amber light shows at a traffic-light-controlled crossing, you can drive on if the crossing is clear.

TRUE

FALSE

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## Progress check



I can deal with pedestrian crossings with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can deal with pedestrian crossings without help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

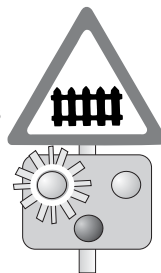


# Railway level crossings

## Practical lesson

### Something in common

There are several types of railway crossings including: crossings with barriers or gates; crossings without barriers or gates; and roads that cross one or several lines. All the crossings have one thing in common – great big trains! Trains often travel over crossings at high speed, which means that they must be treated with the greatest respect.



Look out for warning signs; these will give information about the type of crossing to expect. Use the hazard routine as you approach crossings and stop when the lights show. There may also be bells or sirens.

If you come across a half-barrier crossing – that is, a crossing where the barriers block off each side of the road separately – you must stay on your own side of the road. Never try to zig-zag around the barriers; the train will be very near. At this type of crossing the train triggers the lights and barriers approximately 30 seconds before its arrival. At crossings with gates, but no lights or attendant, look for signs giving instructions about procedure. You will need to be sure that the line is clear before opening the gates to cross. At crossings with no gates or barriers look for signs or lights. **When the lights are on, you must stop and wait, even if the line seems clear.**

### Breakdowns on crossings



- Get your passengers out of the car and clear of the crossing straight away. Don't wait until the lights start to flash or the barriers come down; this may lead to panic.
- If there is a telephone at the side of the crossing, use it to contact the signalman. Tell him the problem and he will be able to alert approaching trains until the crossing is clear.
- If there is time, move the vehicle from the crossing. Try to push your car clear. If you are unable to do this, try to 'jerk' the car clear by selecting third gear, releasing the handbrake and turning the ignition key to activate the starter motor.
- After you have moved your car, phone the signalman again to inform him that the crossing is clear. If you are unable to move your car, use the phone to ask for further advice.
- **If the bells ring, or if you see a train approaching, you must leave your car and stand well clear of the crossing.**

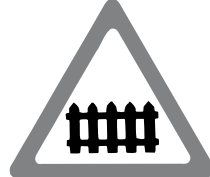
# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Railway level crossings

1 The **first priority** in the event of a breakdown at a railway level crossing is to (tick one answer):

- move the car
- contact the signalman
- get your passengers out and clear of the crossing
- call a garage

2 What do these signs mean (refer to *The Highway Code*)?



3 What action would you take if you saw this sign (see '*Open crossings*' in *The Highway Code*)?



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## Progress check

I can deal with (or explain the action to take at) railway crossings with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can deal with/explain fully the correct action to take at railway crossings without help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....



# Dual carriageways

## Practical lesson

### Faster traffic

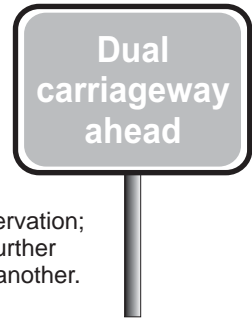
Dual carriageways often have higher speed limits than other roads. To accommodate this faster-moving traffic, dual carriageways have two lanes or more in each



70 m.p.h.

direction. Traffic moving in opposite directions is separated by a central reservation; this sometimes has a crash barrier to further protect the streams of traffic from one another.

Although the average speed on dual carriageways is higher than on other roads (with the possible exception of motorways) there is still a range of hazards to deal with, such as cyclists, slow vehicles, traffic lights, crossroads, side turnings, gateways, etcetera. This means that you must exercise special care, especially when joining and leaving dual carriageways.



### Joining dual carriageways

Although there are many conventional T-junctions and crossroads on dual carriageways, motorway-type slip roads are becoming more common. In turn these roads have acceleration and deceleration lanes. The acceleration lane is an extra lane on the left for use when building up your speed before merging with traffic on a dual carriageway so that you can join the flow safely. Deceleration lanes are found on exit slip roads; they allow you to slow down without holding up following traffic on the main carriageway. Usually, you shouldn't need to start braking until you enter the deceleration lane.

If you join a fast dual carriageway from a T-junction take extra care when judging the speed of traffic already on the main road. If you are turning right, wait until both sides are clear unless there is a large gap in the central reserve.

### Clearways

Most dual carriageways are clearways (but not all clearways are dual carriageways). Clearways are roads on which you are not allowed to stop; stationary vehicles would pose extreme danger to fast-moving traffic.

If you are unlucky enough to break down on a clearway, you should try to get your car off the main carriageway and on to the verge or into a lay-by for maximum safety.

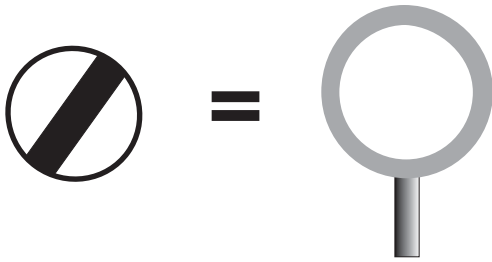


No stopping

# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Dual carriageways

1 Place a number in the circle below to show the speed limit.



2 What would you use a deceleration lane for (tick one answer):

- joining a dual carriageway or motorway?
- leaving a dual carriageway or motorway?
- overtaking slow-moving vehicles?

3 What do these signs mean (refer to *The Highway Code* or your instructor)?



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## Progress check

I can drive safely on dual carriageways with help from my instructor.  Signed ..... Date .....

I can drive safely on dual carriageways without help from my instructor.  Signed ..... Date .....



# Road markings

## Practical lesson

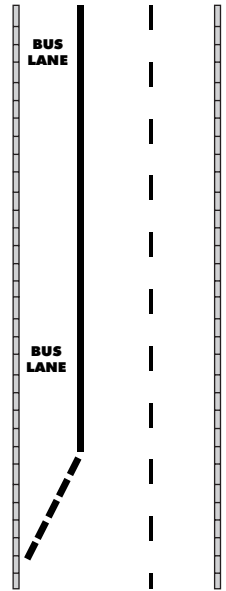
### More paint, more caution

Road markings are mostly painted white or yellow. White lines separate streams of traffic; yellow lines and markings prohibit waiting and parking. A general rule to follow is: 'more paint ... more need for caution'.

### White lines

Roads in towns and city centres use the same system of white lines that are found elsewhere: lane lines, hazard lines, stop and give way lines, etcetera. However, in addition to these you will find bus and cycle lanes, and more hatched markings.

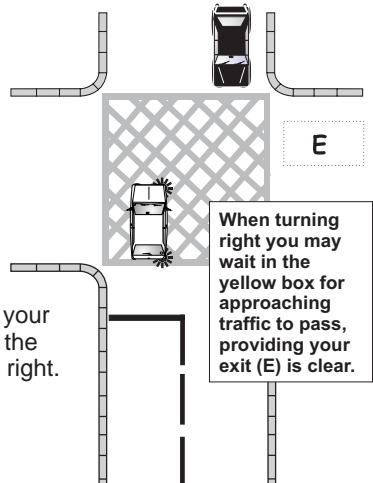
Bus lanes are provided to allow the free passage of public transport during peak traffic periods. They are marked by a broad solid white line and the words 'Bus Lane' painted on the road surface. You must not drive in a bus lane during its period of operation (indicated on the signs). You must also take special care when turning left across a bus lane. Some bus lanes can also be used by taxis and pedal cyclists.



Hatched markings are used to separate traffic streams and increase safety margins. As a general rule, you should avoid driving on the hatched areas edged with broken white lines. You must never cross a solid white line on to a hatched area.

### Yellow markings

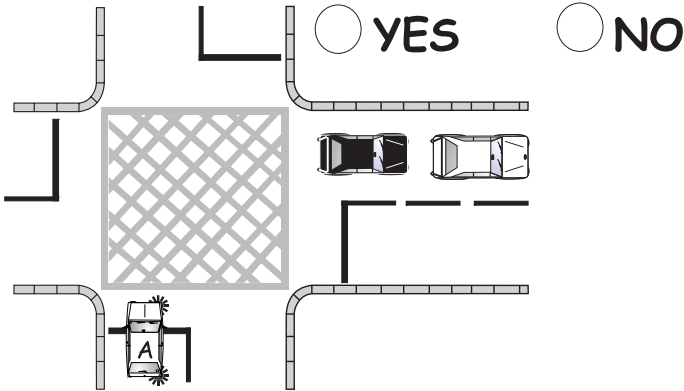
Yellow lines indicate parking restrictions. Hatched yellow boxes (box junctions) are used to help prevent traffic snarl-ups at junctions. The general rule is: do not enter the box unless your exit is clear. If your exit is clear, you may wait in the box for approaching traffic to pass when turning right.



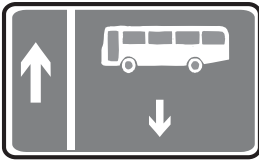
# ? SmartLearners quiz

## Road markings

1 Look at the diagram below. The driver of car A wishes to turn right. Can he/she enter and wait in the box?



2 What do these signs mean (refer to *The Highway Code* or your instructor)?




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## Progress check



I can recognise and identify the road markings shown in *The Highway Code*.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can recognise and deal with a range of road markings without any assistance.

Signed ..... Date .....



# One-way systems

## Practical lesson



### But I was only driving one way ...

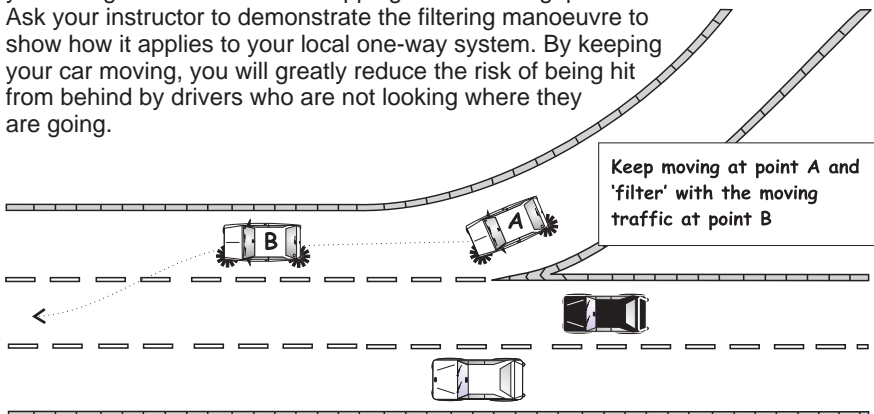
One-way systems help to smooth the traffic flow around busy central areas of towns and cities. For this to work well, drivers need to choose the best road position for their intended destination. Stay in the left-hand lane to leave the system via a road to the left; keep right if you want to leave to the right. Always be on the look-out for signs and markings showing the best lane for your destination and move into that lane as soon as possible after entering the system.

You may occasionally come across a one-way system that has no road markings (perhaps on a recently resurfaced road); in these circumstances you should use your skill and experience to guide you to the best 'imaginary' lane position. In other words, drive as if the lanes were marked.

Driving in the centre of your lane without straddling the white lines will help other drivers recognise your intentions. If you are unsure about which lane to choose, move to the right and drive around the one-way system again; this will give the information needed for you to choose the best lane second time around. When you are in the right-hand lane of a one-way system you must be particularly careful to look out for pedestrians; they may step off the kerb looking in the wrong direction and thinking that the road is clear.

Because vehicles might pass on either side in a one-way street, you must make the fullest use of your mirrors. Be especially careful to make effective use of the hazard routine whenever you change lanes.

Finally, try to get into the habit of filtering, that is, keeping the car moving when you change lanes instead of stopping to wait for a gap in the traffic. Ask your instructor to demonstrate the filtering manoeuvre to show how it applies to your local one-way system. By keeping your car moving, you will greatly reduce the risk of being hit from behind by drivers who are not looking where they are going.



# ? SmartLearners quiz

## One-way systems

1 In one-way systems you should always drive in the left-hand lane.

TRUE

FALSE

2 You should always be on the look-out for pedestrians who may step into your path; this is especially important when you are in a one-way street. In which lane might drivers be particularly vulnerable to the problem of pedestrians stepping out (tick one answer):

the left-hand lane?

the centre lanes?

the right-hand lane?

3 What do these signs mean (refer to *The Highway Code*)?



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## Progress check



I can drive through one-way systems with help from my instructor.

Signed ..... Date .....

I can safely negotiate one-way systems without any help.

Signed ..... Date .....

## About the Author ...

John Farlam entered the driver training industry in 1979.

His main focus of attention is developing the skills of instructor trainers (the people who teach driving instructors) to help to improve the standards of driver training in the UK; his unique methods are gaining momentum within the industry and having a dramatic and positive effect.

With experience training learners, instructors, advanced drivers, skid control and even *blind drivers*, to the development of structured training packages and classroom courses covering all aspects of motoring and driving school operation John is one of the most experienced individuals in the driver training business.

As a well known figure in the business, John's writing featured regularly in the UK driver training industry journals 'Driving School News' , 'The PDI Guide' and 'ADI News' from 1993 until 2001. His current articles appear in 'Driving Magazine' and 'The Driving Instructor' and in weekly articles for over 1700 driving instructors.

John's own publications have proved to be popular as have those where he has been consulted for his technical expertise (such as the Haynes Book of Driving).

Underlying all of John Farlam's work there is a strong belief that road safety can be improved through better driver education and by helping people to enjoy their time behind the wheel...

In addition to being a skilled trainer and author, John is also qualified in Counselling, Hypnotherapy and NLP to help further the personal development of his clients.

### John says:

"Deep down people know what they should be doing and have the resources to achieve their goals; my job is simply helping them to believe this. As time goes on I continue studying and learning more - the more I learn, the more I can help ...

I am always mindful of a quote from Richard Henry Dann which says:

**'He who dares to teach must never cease to learn'**

I hope that I never stop learning; and I hope that I never stop teaching!"

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