

Approaching Junctions to Turn Right

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The routine for turning right from a major road into a minor road is the same as for a left turn but with a few differences.

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Mirrors: Check your centre and right mirrors in good time to assess the position and speed of traffic behind you and that it is safe to carry out the manoeuvre. Watch out for any other road users trying to overtake, particularly motorbikes who can be more difficult to see.

Signal: Based on your observations signal your intention to change direction or speed in good time, being careful not to mislead other road users.

Manoeuvre: This again is broken down into the following steps:

Position: Move the car to a position just left of the centre line of the road. This helps to reinforce your signal and attention to manoeuvre. If there is no centre line then position just left of the centre of the road.

Speed: Once you have taken up your position you need to make sure your speed is appropriate to carrying out the manoeuvre safely. Braking progressively gives you control and again signals your intentions. You should try and adjust your approach speed to fit a gap in the traffic big enough to turn safely or stop if necessary.

Clutch: You should then select the appropriate gear which will allow you to maintain control of the vehicle and which is appropriate to the road and traffic conditions. Your foot must come completely off the clutch pedal before you start to take the turn.

Look: Use the **Look - Assess - Decide - Act** routine before turning. Look ahead for gaps in the oncoming traffic - as you are crossing their path you must give priority. Make sure the new road is clear before you start to steer to the right. If you have to wait for a safe gap to turn you should hold back in position ① behind the centre point of the new road. Check your right door mirror a final time before you turn, just in case someone is trying to overtake. Be careful to cut the corner as in ②. As you turn look well into the new road and check your centre and right mirrors before accelerating away.

Tip: A good way to judge a safe gap to turn is to ask yourself 'Could I walk across the road safely'. If you can then you should be able to drive across safely.

Quick Quiz

1. Other than accelerating or braking what other factors can have an effect on your speed on approach?
2. True or false? You should always give way to oncoming traffic when turning right.
3. Why is it important not to cut the corner when turning right?
4. What do the traffic signs above mean?

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