

Crossroads

Priority

A crossroads is created when two roads cross paths. The procedure used when emerging from a minor road at a crossroads is the same as that which we use at T-junctions. However, there is the road ahead to consider. So what are the differences?

MSPSL on approach: Always look well ahead for road signs and markings to help you plan your approach. If you are turning left or right, onto the major road, treat it as you would a T-junction but give extra consideration to the road opposite (see Assessing Priority below).

If you intend to follow the road ahead you should; check your interior and right door mirrors for following traffic and those turning right; no signal is necessary; maintain your normal driving position; reduce speed in good time to give yourself time to assess the junction and select the appropriate gear; remember to include the road ahead in your observations before deciding to proceed.

Assessing Priority

The **Yellow** car in the road opposite is signalling to turn right, who has priority?

Turning left (White): When turning left you are not crossing the path of the **Yellow** car. However, the **Yellow** car does cross your path when turning right. Therefore, the **Yellow** car **should** give you priority.

Following the road ahead (Red): Again, you are not crossing the path of the **Yellow** car and so the driver **should** give you priority.

Turning right (Blue): In this situation you are crossing each others path and so neither of you has priority. You should try to make eye contact with the other driver to help confirm who will give priority. Try to read the 'body language' of the driver and vehicle. If the driver is not looking at you he may not be aware of your presence. Is the vehicle starting to move or turn? If so, this means the driver is probably going to cut across your path and it is safer to let him proceed. If the driver is holding back and shows awareness of your presence then he may be allowing you priority. Watch out for signals from the other driver.

REMEMBER: IF YOU ARE CROSSING THE PATH OF ANOTHER VEHICLE
YOU SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY.

Quick Quiz

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1. What might change your decision to approach in your normal driving position when following the road ahead?
2. What do the road signs above mean and which would you not see in a minor road on approach to a crossroads?
3. If you (**Blue**) and the vehicle opposite (**Yellow**) were turning right and the driver flashed his headlights, what would you do?
4. True or false? Crossroads are often accident black spots.

