

DISABILITY
DRIVING
INSTRUCTORS

Theory Test Advice Book

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Use the glossary if there are some words that you do not understand.

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How to use this book (study plan)

Introduction

As well as having my own driving school, called automatic and mobility instruction, I am also a director of disability driving instructors. I have written this book to help pupils with specific educational needs (SEN) pass the theory test. The advice given in this book is based on the experience I have gained helping SEN pupils in theory test tutorials both in person and online.

In this book I have written the information in a way, that is easy for SEN pupils to understand. To study in a structured way, follow the study plan contained inside this book. The booklet can be used in three ways:

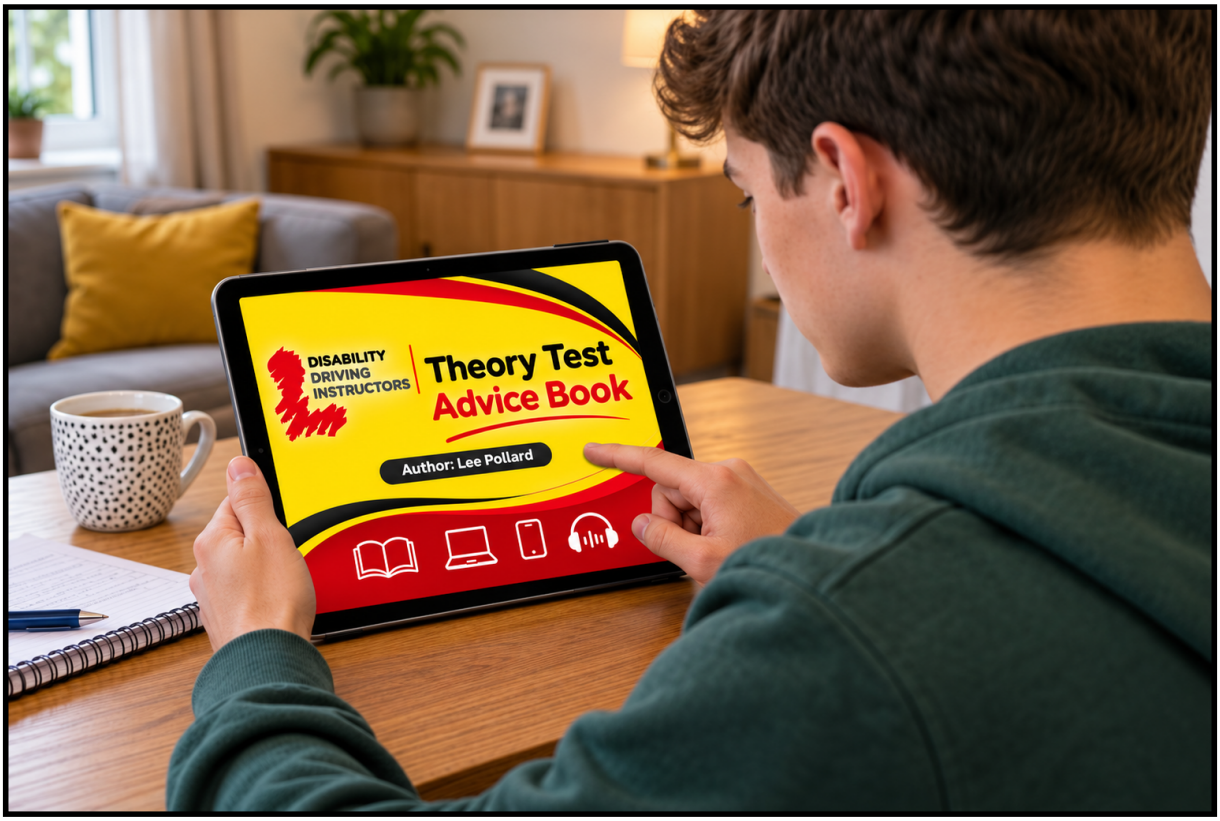
1. A pupil can use it on their own to study by following the study plan.
2. A driving instructor, parent or support worker can use the study plan in the book to organise in person theory test tutorials.
3. A driving instructor can use the study plan in the book to organise online theory test tutorials.

There is a section at the end of this book called ‘What help is available when taking the theory test?’. It explains the help or various accommodations available to help people when taking the theory test. It is worth looking at this section as some of the accommodations may be helpful to you.

Click here to visit my website

Click here to read the accommodations section

1 THE BOOK CAN BE USED BY PUPILS TO STUDY ON THEIR OWN



2 THE BOOK CAN BE USED TO DO THEORY TEST TUTORIALS IN PERSON



3 THE BOOK CAN BE USED TO DO THEORY TEST TUTORIALS ONLINE



About the theory test

The theory test comprises two parts: the question part and the hazard perception part. You must pass both parts to pass the theory test. The theory test is taken on a computer.

The pass mark for the question part of the test is 86% or 43 out of 50.
The pass mark for the hazard perception part is 59% or 44 out of 75.

How to study in a structured way

It's a good idea to study for an hour each day, instead of trying to do several hours of studying all in one go. The questions are divided up into sections. Do the sections one by one in the order, that they are given in this book.

1. Start by reading the information about the first section in this book (alertness).
2. After reading it have a go at the questions for the alertness section on your app.
3. If you get a lot of the questions wrong read the section again and do the questions again.
4. When you get most of the questions correct read the next section in the book.
5. After reading it have a go at the questions for the next section on your app.
6. Once again if you get a lot of the question wrong read the section again and do the questions again.
7. Repeat this process until you have done all the sections in the book.

After doing all the sections have a go at the case study questions or video clip questions on your app. After doing the case study questions or video clip questions on your app have a go at a mock test on your app. When you can pass several mock test you are ready for the real test.

How to do the case study questions or video clip questions

These questions involve watching a video of a driving situation and then answering several questions about the situation. You are allowed to replay the video as many times as you like to help you answer the questions. As well as testing your knowledge and understanding of driving rules, you are also tested on your observation.

How to answer difficult questions

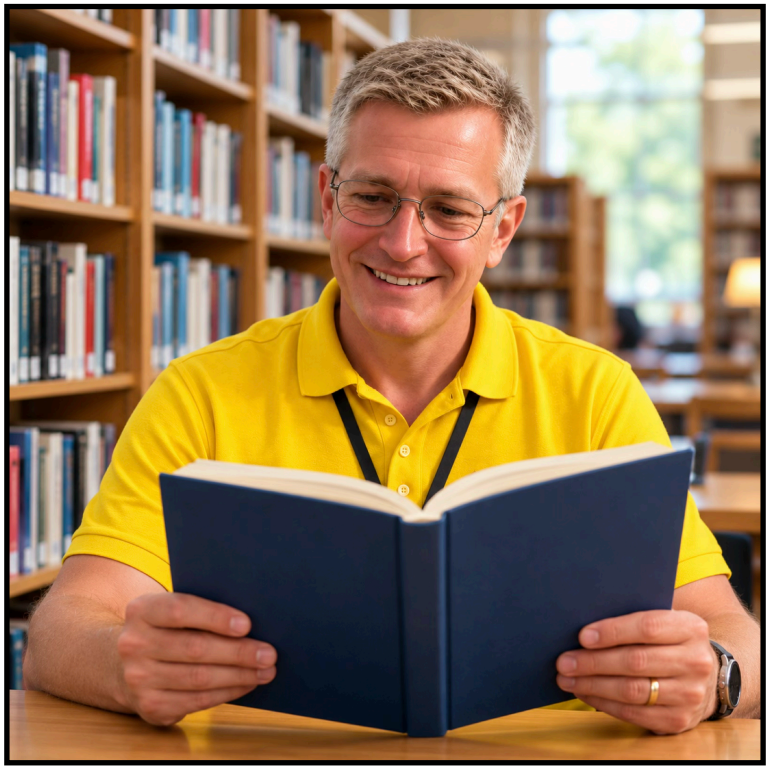
1. **Read the question and the answers carefully:** You need to read and understand all of the words. Look up any words you don't understand in the glossary at the end of this book.
2. **Ask the person helping you:** On an OLM theory test you can ask the person helping you to explain any words, that you do not understand. You can also ask them to explain the whole question or a whole answer. The person is there to help you to understand everything.
3. **If there is a photo or a picture look at it carefully.**
4. **Think about the situation described the question:** What problems are there? What would you do on a lesson with your instructor?
5. **Ignore the silly answers:** Look for the sensible answers. If two of the four answers are silly and two of the four answers are sensible, concentrate on the two sensible ones.
6. **Choose the best answer:** When you concentrate on the sensible answers choose the best one to sort out the problem.

How to do the hazard perception

You are being tested on your ability to recognise and anticipate developing hazards. A developing hazard is one where you will have to take avoiding action, such as slowing down or steering. When you anticipate a developing hazard, click by pressing the mouse button or tapping the touch screen. Keep the mouse pointer on the window where the video is playing. When the situation on screen develops, to the point where you know you are definitely going to have to slow down or change position, click again to ensure that you get some points on the test. On most of the video clips, to get 5 points you will have to click as soon as the hazard appears on the screen.

The books and apps you need for studying

1. **Know your traffic signs.**
2. **The Highway Code.**
3. **DVSA Theory Test kit for Car Drivers app.** If you need a voiceover to read out the questions, then this is a good app. The voiceover is better than the Driving test success app, but the hazard perception part of this app only has a few clips.
4. **Driving test success 4 in 1 app**. This app has lots of hazard perception videos, however the voiceover isn't as good as the DVSA app.





Alertness

Concentration

It's easy to feel tired and sleepy on long journeys. Before long journeys plan your route. Stop for breaks on long journeys. Stop for a rest break every two hours. On a motorway if you feel sleepy, open a window to get some fresh air in and leave by the next exit, to have a rest break. Passengers and loud music can distract you when you are driving. Using a mobile phone whilst driving can be a distraction. It is illegal to hold a mobile phone in your hand when you drive.



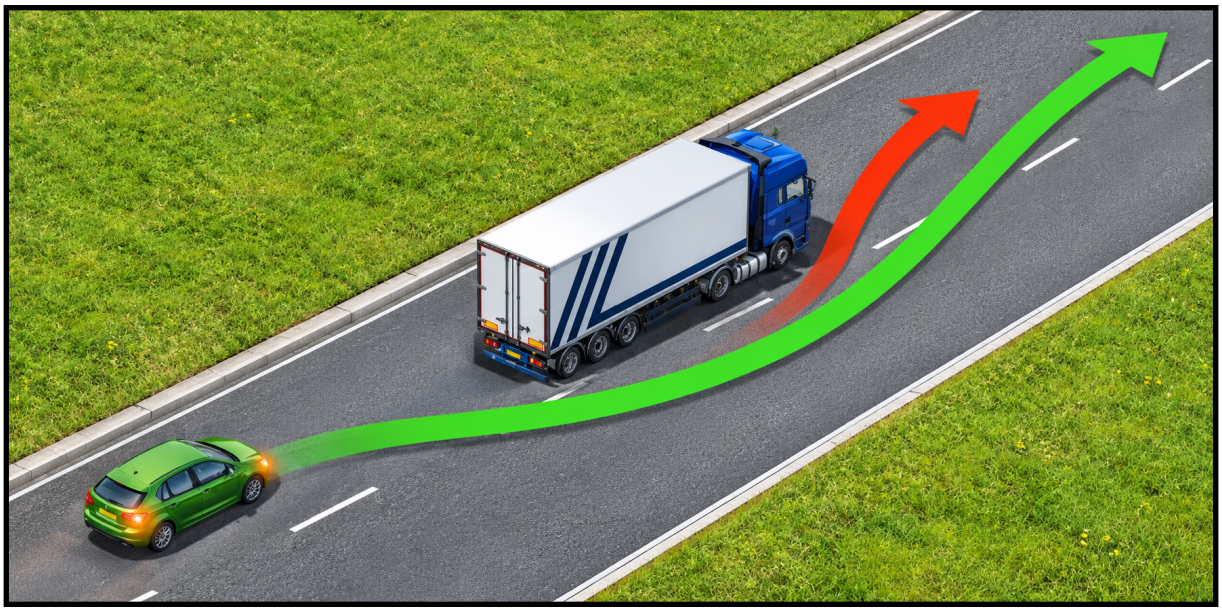


Anticipation and awareness

Drive further back from lorries and buses, so that you can see in front of them. When you do an emergency stop, keep both hands on the wheel to keep control of the vehicle.

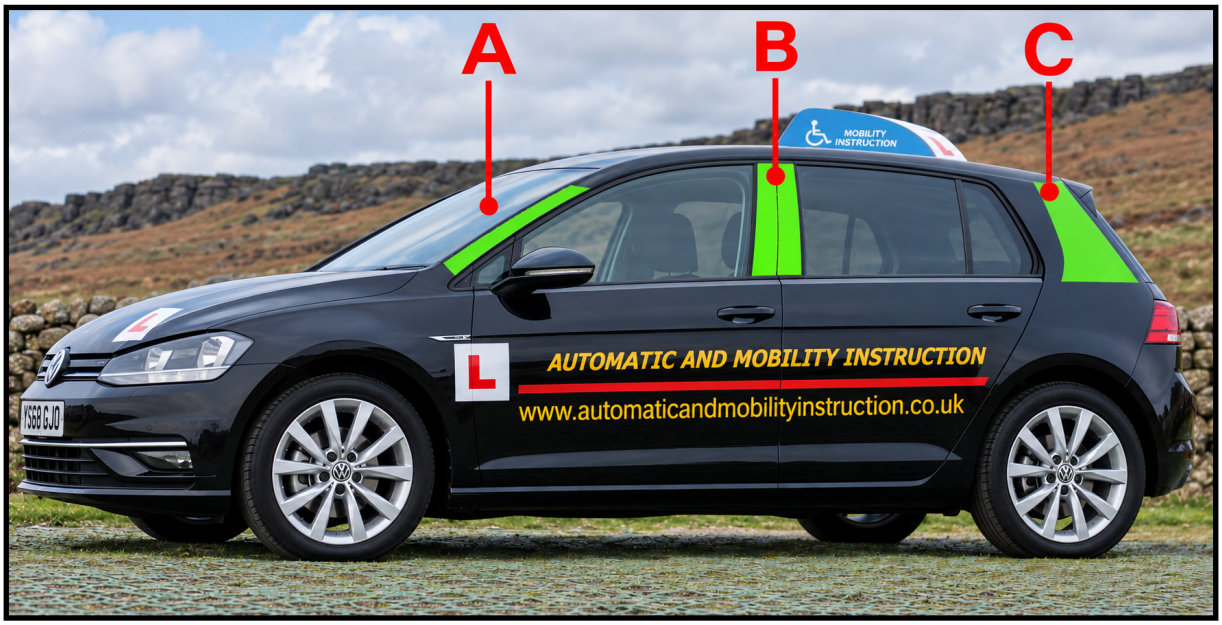
Observation

When you overtake you must have a good view of the road ahead and the road should be straight. You will need enough time, to pass the vehicle you're overtaking and get back to the left, before the oncoming car gets to you. In the dark you will need lights on, so that other people can see you. If you can't see over a hill or over a bridge, you may need to sound your horn to warn oncoming drivers of your presence. Before you do a manoeuvre look all around. Be aware that the metal window frame between the windows can create a small blindspot and hide bicycles or motorbikes. If you can't see when you reverse, get someone to stand behind your car to check, that it is clear.





BLINDSPOTS CAUSED BY THE METAL WINDOW FRAME OF THE CAR COULD HIDE BICYCLES OR MOTORBIKES



DRIVER OPENING A DOOR WITHOUT LOOKING BEHIND FIRST



Attitude

Consideration

When driving think about other people particularly cyclists and horse riders. When you pass horses keep your car's speed slow and give them plenty of room. Give them two metres of clearance. If you are driving a slow vehicle you may need to pull over and let cars behind you pass. At junctions get into position early, so that other drivers know what you are going to do.





Courtesy

Other drivers do not always follow the rules of the road. If someone else does something wrong, help them out by slowing down and giving them more room. Only use your horn before a dangerous situation to warn other people. You can flash headlights instead of the horn to warn other drivers. This is the correct way to use a headlight flash. Only use main beam or full beam headlights at night when: there are no streetlights, there is no oncoming traffic and there are no cars in front of you.

When you stop in traffic in a manual car, put the handbrake on and take your foot off the footbrake, to make the brake lights at the back of the car go out. This will stop you from dazzling the driver behind. However, in an automatic car you would normally keep your foot on the footbrake, even though your brake lights may dazzle the driver behind. This is to prevent the car from creeping forward.

Priority

If emergency vehicles behind you, with blue flashing lights on, want to pass you pull over and let them through. Doctors answering an emergency call use green flashing lights.

Vehicles that have flashing blue lights are:

- Police cars.
- Ambulances.
- Fire engines.
- Coastguard.
- Bomb disposal.
- Mountain rescue.
- Blood transfusion.




RESCUE
H M COASTGUARD
SEARCH AND RESCUE
HF53 NWL


ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS
BOMB DISPOSAL
R L C BOMB DISPOSAL
AB 03 AB
DAF
LF


CONISTON
MOUNTAIN
RESCUE
TEAM
MOUNTAIN RESCUE
AMBULANCE
AMBULANCE


Blood Collection/Delivery
Oxford
NHS
www.blood.co.uk
0300 123 23 23
ease give blood
NHS
URGENT BLOOD
A0058
MF16 GXA

At unmarked crossroads no one has priority. Look into all the other roads before you pull out. If there are other drivers, look carefully at them to see if they are waiting or going.

AN UNMARKED CROSSROADS



At zebra crossings let people decide for themselves when to walk across. At pelican crossings flashing amber means let pedestrians finish crossing the road before you go. Other traffic light crossings have red and amber together instead of flashing amber. They have electronic sensors to detect when people have finished walking across. When people have finished walking across, the lights change to red and amber together. Toucan crossings are where cyclists and people cross the road together. (Two-can cross together).

Following safely

If you drive too close to the driver in front of you, you may frighten them. If the car behind you looks too close when you check your mirror, it is even more important to keep a safe gap in front of you.

The two second rule

In dry weather leave a **two-second-time gap** between you and the car in front. (As shown in the picture below).
In wet weather leave a **four-second-time gap** between you and the car in front (2 times longer or double).
In icy weather leave a **twenty-second-time gap** between you and the car in front (10 times longer).

THE TWO SECOND RULE



Documents

Introduction

When dealing with documents it is important to understand if the document belongs to the car or the driver.

Driving licence

This document belongs to the driver. There are two types of driving licence, a provisional licence and a full licence. A provisional driving licence is the one that you have before you pass your test, when you are a learner driver. A full driving licence is the one that you have after you pass your test, when you are a qualified driver. To supervise a learner driver you must have had a driving licence for three years and be over 21 years old.

Pass plus certificate

This document belongs to the driver. The pass plus certificate is given after you do the pass plus course. The course is six hours of driving lessons and is done after you pass your driving test. It gives you experience of driving in situations and conditions, that you may not have experienced during your lessons.

Cover note

This document belongs to the driver. It is a temporary document proving, that you are insured to drive a car. It lasts until you get your insurance certificate.

Insurance certificate

This document belongs to the driver. It covers you, so that if you have an accident in your car the insurance company will pay for the damage, that has been done. Your driving instructor will have special insurance, for work, that covers you when you have your driving lessons.

Types of insurance

Third party insurance means, that your insurance company will pay for the other person's car to be repaired after an accident. Third party, fire and theft insurance means, that your insurance company will pay for the other person's car to be repaired after an accident and they also will replace your car if it is set on fire or stolen. Fully comprehensive insurance means, that your insurance company will pay for both your car and the other person's car to be repaired after an accident and they also will replace your car if it is set on fire or stolen.

Third party insurance is the cheapest, because it covers you for less. Fully comprehensive is the most expensive, because it covers you for more.

Insurance excess

This belongs to the driver. It is the amount of money, that you pay towards repairing your car when it is damaged. The insurance company pays the rest.

Vehicle registration certificate

This document belongs to the car and is sometimes called a logbook.

It has on it:

- The make of the car.
- The model of the car.
- The engine size.
- The colour.
- The name and address of the person who owns it. (The person, who owns it, is called the registered keeper).

MOT certificate

This document belongs to the car. A garage will give you one of these after they have checked, that your car is safe to drive. Your car will only need one of these after it is three years old. The MOT certificate will then last for one year. Each year you will need to have your car checked again to get another one. You will need an MOT certificate before you can get vehicle excise duty or road tax.

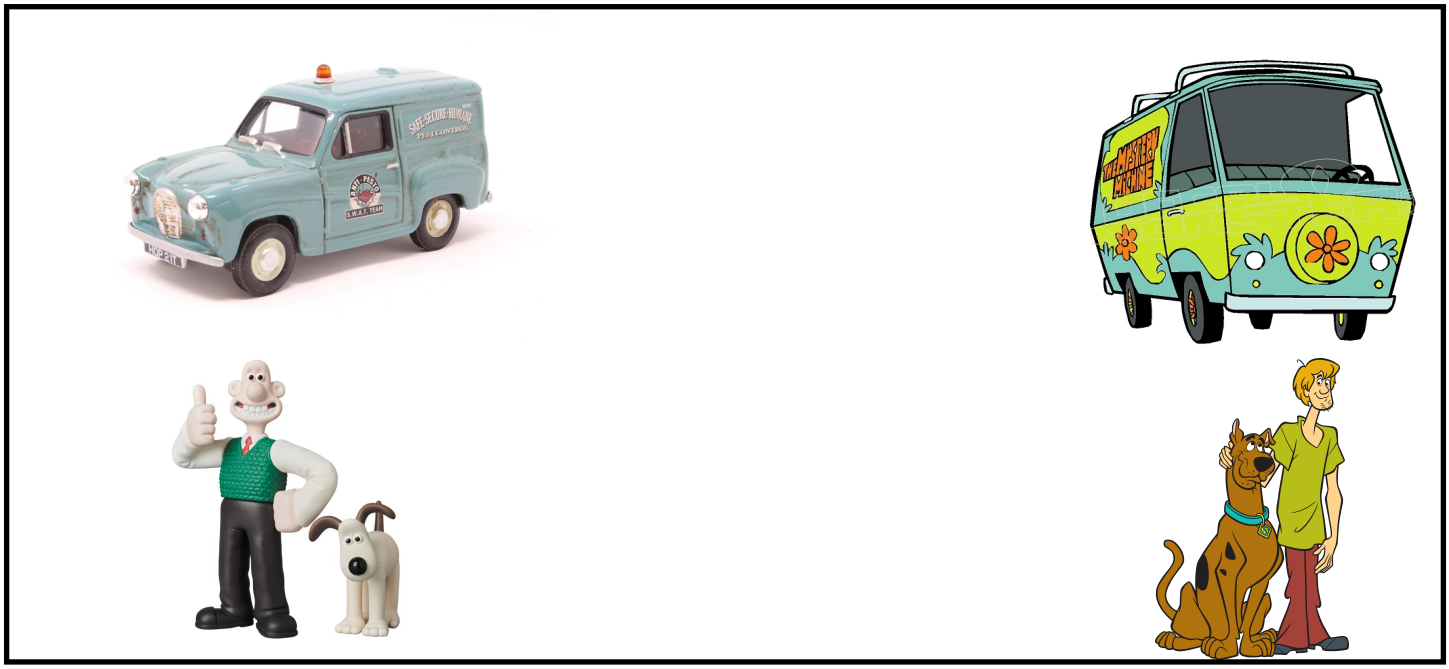
Vehicle excise duty

This belongs to the car and is sometimes called road tax. You pay this to the government when you own a car. If you are going to take your car off the road and not drive it, you can avoid paying vehicle excise duty by telling the DVLA. To tell the DVLA this you would need to fill in a form or document called a SORN.

Statutory off road notification

This document belongs to the car and is sometimes called SORN. Fill in this form and send it to the DVLA if you are going to take your car off the road. It lasts for as long as it is off the road, or until you tax it again, or until you scrap your car.

Documents case study



WALLACE AND HIS VAN **SHAGGY AND HIS VAN**

Shaggy owns his van and he is the registered keeper of his van. Shaggy's van was was brand new when he bought it. He was the first owner of the van, so there where no previous owners of the van. Firstly, he needed to contact the DVLA to get a registration document. When this was done it proved he owned the van. Secondly, he needed to get the van taxed for driving on the road. Thirdly, he needed to get insurance cover to drive his new van. When he got the insurance, the insurance company sent him a cover note. The cover note was a temporary document to prove that he had insurance to drive the van. The cover note lasted until the insurance certificate was sent to him. His van was brand new and will only need an MOT certificate when it becomes three years old.

Wallace owns his van and he is the registered keeper of his van. Wallace's van was four years old when he bought it. When he bought it he should have got the vehicle registration document from the person, who owned it before him. Firstly, he needed to get his name and address put onto the vehicle registration document. When this was done it proved he owned the van. Secondly, he may have needed to tax the van for driving on the road, if the road tax on the van had expired. Thirdly, he needed to get insurance cover to drive his new van. When he got the insurance, the insurance company sent him a cover note. The cover note was a temporary document to prove that he had insurance to drive the van. The cover note lasted until the insurance certificate was sent to him. Fourthly, he may have needed to take his car to a garage to get a new MOT certificate if the old one had expired. A new MOT certificate lasts for one year. He will have to take his van to the garage every year to get a replacement MOT certificate.

Insurance is something you need to have in case you have an accident whilst you are driving. When you pay for insurance you pay to cover yourself. If Wallace has insurance it will cover him when he drives. If other people drive his van they will need to have their own insurance. Driving instructors have special insurance, so when you have a driving lesson your instructor's insurance covers you.

Wallace and Shaggy drive their own vans and crash into each other. Wallace caused the crash and it was his fault. Wallace's insurance company has to pay for the repairs. Shaggy's insurance company doesn't pay anything. If Wallace has third party insurance, his insurance company will only pay for Shaggy's van to be repaired. If Wallace has third party, fire and theft insurance, his insurance company will still only pay for Shaggy's van to be repaired. If Wallace has fully comprehensive insurance, his insurance company will pay for both vans to be repaired. If Wallace has £100 insurance excess then he would have to pay out £100 towards the cost of the repairs. Wallace's insurance company pays the rest of the cost.

Hazard awareness

Introduction

A hazard is something, that could make you slow down or do some steering.

Static hazard

This is a hazard that stays still. Static hazards could be: parked cars, bends, junctions, roundabouts or road works. Look out for road signs and markings, that warn you of hazards coming up. If the traffic lights at junctions or crossroads are broken be careful and watch the other drivers to see if they are going to move off. If you have a bend in front of you drive slowly enough to be able to stop, should a hazard be around the corner. Near schools look for the flashing amber lights under the school crossing sign. If you break down and are causing an obstruction, put your hazard warning lights on. To put hazard warning lights on you press the red triangle button.

Moving hazard

Moving hazards could be: pedestrians, bicycles, motorbikes, animals, horse riders or slow vehicles. On country roads without a footpath people walk on the edge of the road. Cyclists may wobble or move from side to side to ride around potholes. Sometimes under bridges, lorries and buses drive in the middle of the road, where the bridge is higher.

To overtake safely you must:

- Be going straight ahead instead of turning left or right.
- Be able to see the road ahead clearly to look for oncoming traffic.
- Be on a road without oncoming traffic.
- Be on a road without side roads, where cars could pull out from.
- Be in a legal place to overtake.

It is a bad idea and illegal to drive after drinking alcohol. Alcohol makes people: concentrate less, control their car badly, drive too fast and have slower reactions. Alcohol also gives people a false sense of confidence, so that people think they are still able to drive safely when really they can't. Their confidence will increase.

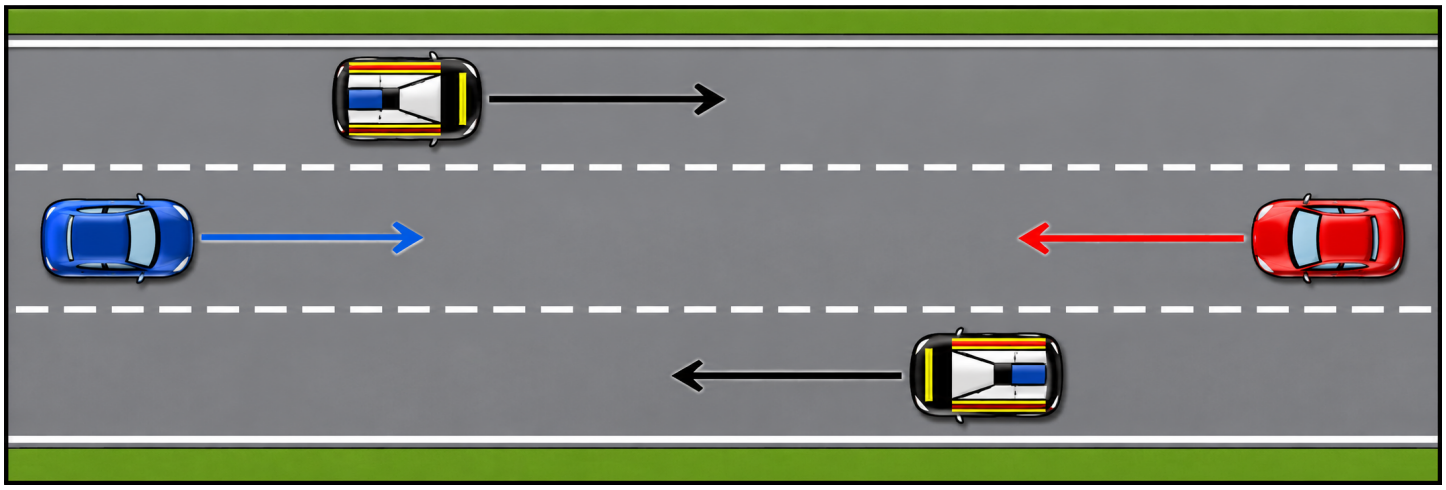
If you are taking tablets given to you by the doctor or chemist, check the bottle to see if you can still drive whist you are taking them. Tell the DVLA if your eyesight becomes very bad or you have a condition affecting your driving for a long time.

Road and weather conditions

Weather that is a problem for driving could be: fog, rain, snow, ice, bright sun low in the sky or strong winds. You may not be able to see very far going fast in wet weather, because cars on front of you will throw up spray. In fog, use dipped headlights or front fog lights when you cannot see more than one hundred metres. You would put the rear fog lights on when it gets much worse. In bright sunlight pull down the sun visor or wear sunglasses. Strong winds are a problem for both cyclists and motorcyclists, because they are only on two wheels. Strong gusts of wind could make them wobble. Cars are more stable, because they have four wheels.

Two way roads with three lanes

On two-way roads with three lanes, cars driving in either direction can use the middle lane for overtaking. Look at the picture below. Both the red and blue cars are using the middle lane to overtake. There is a possibility of them crashing into each other head on. This type of road layout is very dangerous, so drivers must look out for oncoming traffic before using the middle lane.



Incidents

Breakdowns

A warning light on the car's dashboard means something is wrong with the car. Pull up and find out what the problem is. If you get a flat tyre, when you are driving, hold the wheel steady to keep control of your car. Your car may wobble when the tyre becomes punctured. If you break down on a level crossing get everyone out of the car and use the emergency phone.

When you break down on a motorway and use the emergency telephone, you will need to give them:

- Your mobile phone number.
- Your own details.
- Your car's details.
- Details of your RAC, AA or green flag membership if you have it.

Safety in tunnels

When driving abroad, some countries have signs telling you to tune your car radio to a station that gives out warnings. In tunnels take off your sunglasses and put dipped headlights on. If your car catches fire in a tunnel keep going and drive out of it. If your car is involved in an incident:

- Switch off your engine.
- Switch on your hazard warning lights.
- Use the emergency telephone.



Warning other drivers

Use hazard-warning lights when you break down on a fast road or block the road. If you have a red warning triangle put it on the road behind the car.

Stopping at an incident and first aid

If there is an accident ring 999. If a lorry has an orange hazard warning sign on the back of it, tell them that when you ring 999. Drivers need to switch off their engines. If injured people are in a safe place then let them stay where they are. Only move them if they are in danger. Injured motorcyclists must keep their helmets on. Injured people must not eat, drink or smoke. Keep people warm, comfortable, calm and near other people.

Help people in this order (DR ABC):

- **Danger**, check for danger first.
- **Response**, ask injured people questions.
- **Airway**, check to see if their airway is clear.
- **Breathing**, check to see if they are breathing.
- **Compression**, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), depress the centre of the chest about 5-6 cm with two hands.

If you have to give mouth-to-mouth check, that their airway is clear, tilt their head back and pinch their nose when you blow into their mouth. Do this about two times every second to get them breathing again (120 times every minute). When they begin to breathe again put them face down in the recovery position. If injured people are bleeding, press down firmly on the cut to stop the bleeding. You can also lift up a bleeding arm or leg if it isn't broken. If someone is burnt, poor cold water on to the burn for ten minutes to cool it down. Leave on any clothing that is sticking to the burn.



Reporting

If you are involved in an incident you must stop and give your name and address to the other drivers. Within 24 hours you must report it to the police and show them your insurance certificate. The police may also want to see your MOT certificate and driving licence.

If you are involved in an incident you must find out from the other drivers:

- If they own the car that they are driving.
- The make and model of the car and the registration number.
- The other driver's name, address, telephone number and insurance details.

Motorway driving

Introduction

Traffic travels faster on motorways and hazards can change quickly, so you will need to be more alert. On long motorway journeys, your car will be travelling at high speed for a long time. This increases the risk of a your car breaking down.

Before a long journey check the following things on your car:

- Washer fluid.
- Tyres.
- Water.
- Oil.

Driving on the motorway

When you join a motorway from a slip road, traffic already on the motorway has priority. Keep in the left lane after you join until you get used to the faster speed. You would normally drive in the left lane and use the other lanes for overtaking. You would normally overtake cars on the right. However, when traffic is moving slowly in queues you are allowed to overtake on the left. A crawler lane is an temporary lane on the left for large lorries to use when they drive up hills. When you want to leave the motorway, if you miss your exit, carry on to the next one and leave there.

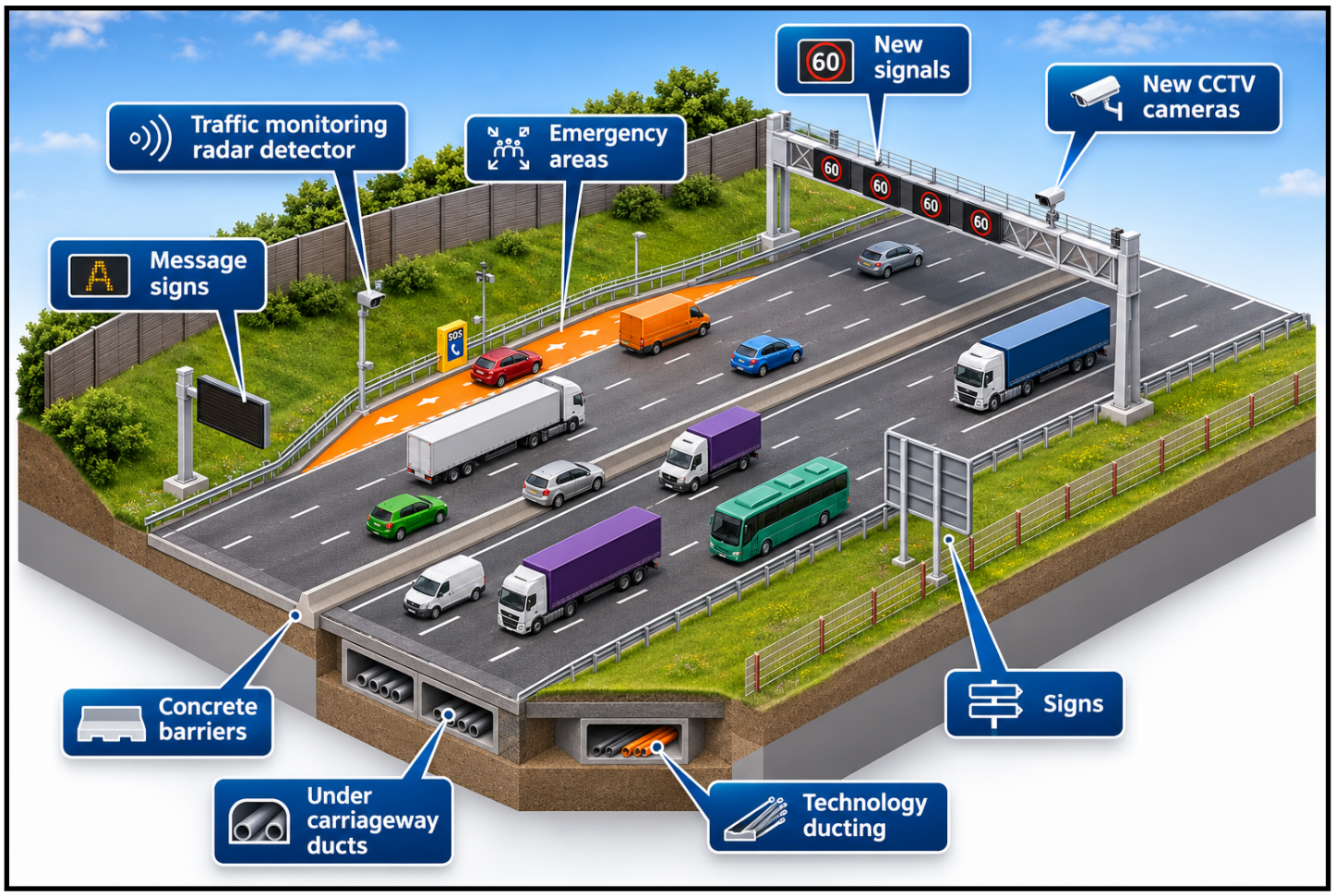
Speed limits

For a car it's 70mph. For a car towing a trailer or a caravan it's 60mph. Seeing cars in front of you with hazard warning lights on tells you, that traffic on the motorway is slow or has stopped.

Smart motorways

Smart motorways are designed to reduce congestion and traffic jams. On smart motorways there is no hard shoulder to use when you break down. There are emergency refuge areas to use instead. Many smart motorways were originally traditional motorways with a hard shoulder on the left. They were then converted to smart motorways, so that the hard shoulder could be used as an extra lane for traffic.

There are traffic officers patrolling smart motorways. They can stop traffic, direct traffic or help people when they break down. Smart motorways have something called active traffic management (ATM). This is where the speed limit lowers when there is a lot of traffic. The speed limit is displayed on electronic signs above the motorway.



EMERGENCY REFUGE AREA ON A SMART MOTORWAY



OVERHEAD ELECTRONIC SIGNALS ON A SMART MOTORWAY



TWO PHOTOS OF TRADITIONAL MOTORWAYS WITH HARD SHOULDERS





Stopping and breakdowns

If you break down you can use the emergency telephones to call for help. Marker posts at the side of the road tell you, which way it is to the nearest phone. If you break down and cannot get to the hard shoulder or an emergence refuge area, put your hazard warning lights on and stay inside the car. This is safer than getting out of the car and walking across the lanes of traffic. When you move off from the hard shoulder after a breakdown, pick your speed up first before moving across into the left lane.

You are allowed to stop on a motorway when:

- There are red crosses above every lane.
- When police or traffic officers tell you to do so.
- In a traffic jam.
- When you break down.

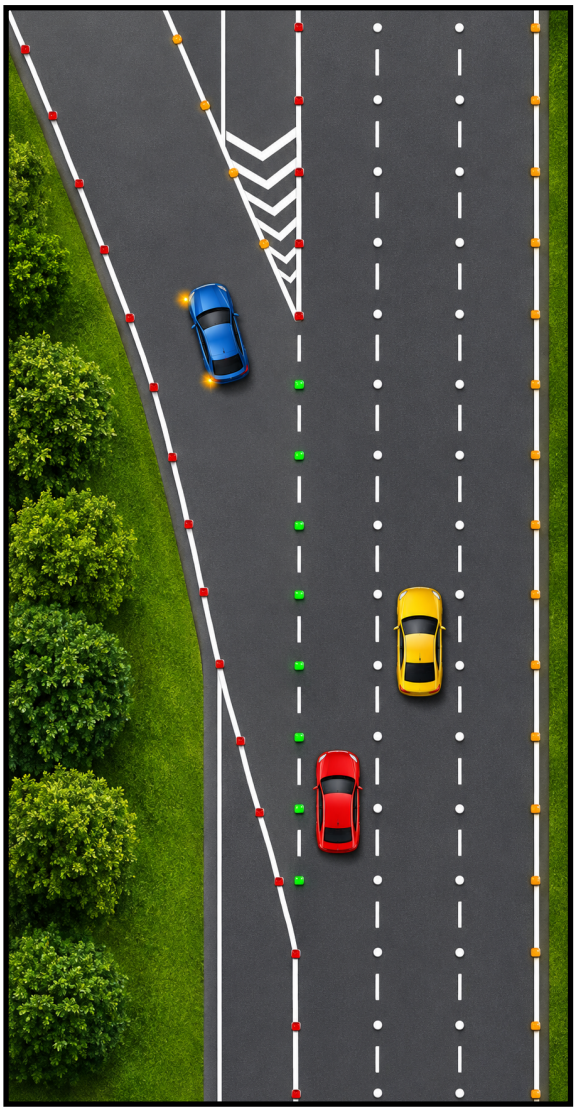
Reflective studs

There are reflective studs on the motorway surface, which light up in a colour when your headlights shine on them:

- Amber ones on the right.
- White ones in the middle.
- Red ones on the left when there isn't a slip road.
- Green ones on the left when there is a slip road.
- Green and yellow ones when there are road works.

Here is way to help you remember where the reflective studs are:

Right	**W**ay	**A**round
E	**H**	**M**
D	**I**	**B**
	T	**E**
	E	**R**



Other types of vehicle

Introduction

You will need to take extra care when you meet or follow other types of vehicle. Larger and smaller vehicles will drive differently on the road.

Motorcycles and bicycles

In windy weather they can be blown to one side and wobble, because they only have two wheels. When you overtake them give them two metres of clearance. They may move around on the road to avoid potholes or slippery parts of the road.

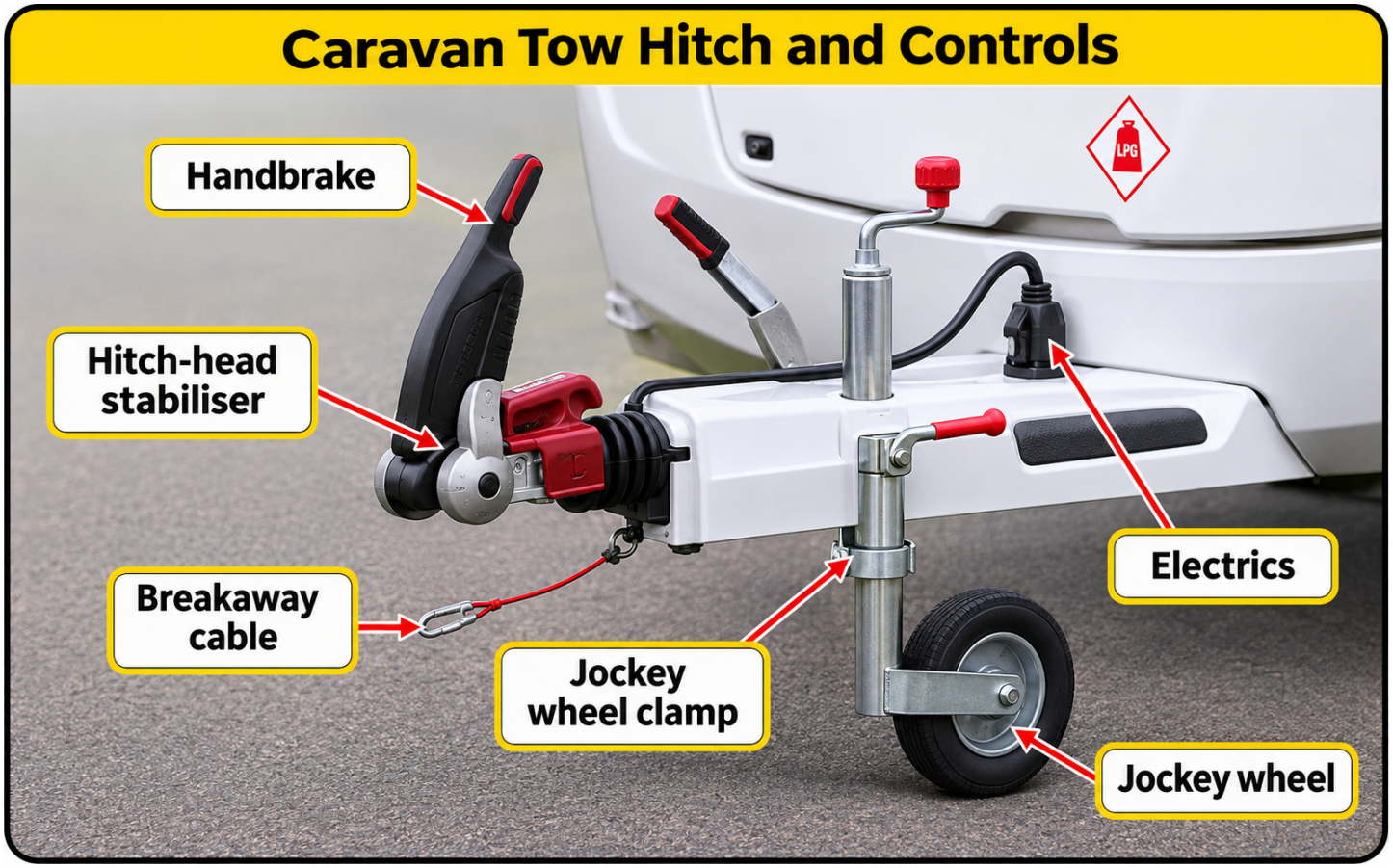
Towing caravans

Use extended arm towing mirrors when towing a caravan. They clip on to the existing car door mirror and stick out to the side of your car more. They allow you to see behind the caravan.

EXTENDED ARM TOWING MIRRORS



To prevent the caravan from wobbling or snaking at speed, they have a device on the tow-bar called a stabiliser.The stabiliser is applied after the caravan is hooked onto the car. It grips the car's tow-bar very tightly and uses friction to prevent the caravan from wobbling at speed. There is a cable called a breakaway cable, which keeps the caravan and car connected if the caravan becomes unhooked from the car. This temporarily keeps them connected until you can stop and hook the caravan back onto the car. The jockey wheel supports the caravan at the front, when it isn't connected to the car. The jockey wheel can be raised up off the ground when it's not needed. There is also an electrical cable to connect to the car. This will make the lights at the back of the caravan copy the lights at the back of the car. The caravan's handbrake is only used, when it is unhooked from the car to secure it, when it's parked up or being used to live in.



Trams

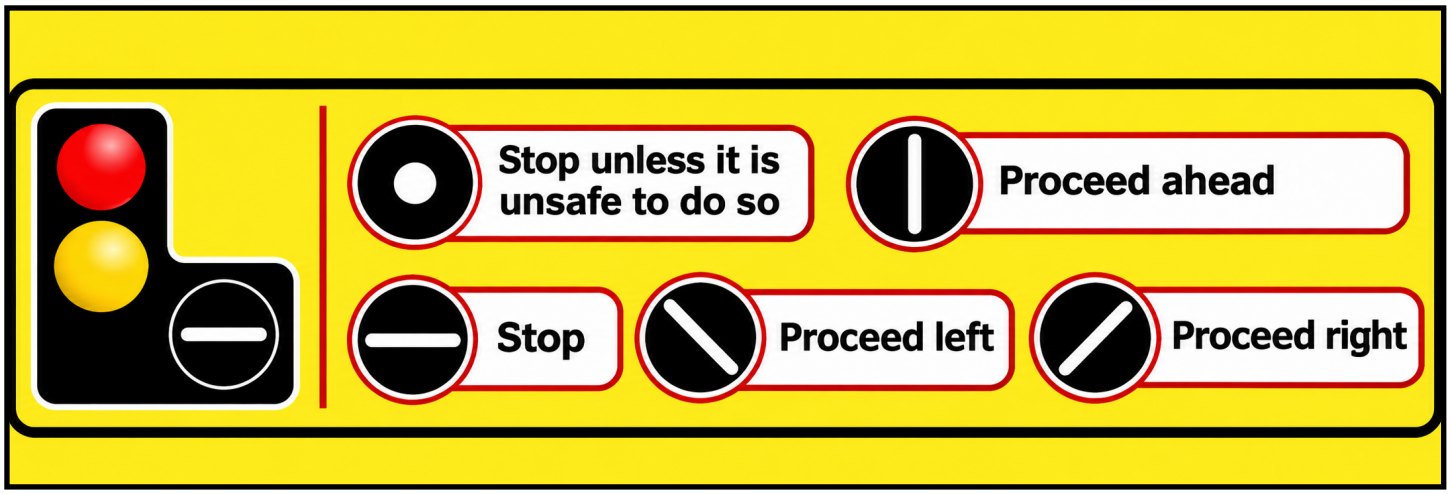
Trams are powered by electricity and there is no pollution from them. This means, that they are good for the environment. They are quiet and move quickly. They have to go where the tracks take them and cannot steer around parked cars.

SHEFFIELD'S SUPERTRAM



At traffic lights trams get white signals.

TRAM SIGNALS FOUND AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS



Large vehicles (buses and lorries)

It is difficult to see around large vehicles when you follow behind them, so drive further back. If a car comes between you and the large vehicle drive even further back. Large vehicles throw up a lot of spray when it rains. If this happens drive further back until you can see. On roads with lots of large vehicles throwing up spray, use dipped headlights. Use rear fog lights when you cannot see more than 100 metres. Overtaking a large vehicle takes more time, because it is longer. Only overtake it if you can see past it and get back to the left safely. Give large vehicles more room near junctions, crossroads and roundabouts. When large vehicles turn left and right they have to swing out to make the turn, because they are longer. If you are waiting at a give way line for a gap in the traffic when a lorry appears in the main road, look for cars overtaking it. Larger vehicles hide smaller vehicles that are overtaking them from behind. When a bus stops at a bus stop, look for people crossing the road in front and behind it. Look for the bus signalling to move off as well.

LORRIES NEED MORE ROOM AT JUNCTIONS



CARS TOWING CARAVANS NEED MORE ROOM AT JUNCTIONS



The Signing System

There are three basic types of traffic sign: signs that give orders, signs that warn and signs that give information. Each type has a different shape. A further guide to the function of a sign is its colour. All triangular signs are red.

Sign shapes and their meaning



Circles give orders



Triangles warn



Rectangles inform

The meaning of colours



Blue circles generally give a mandatory instruction, such as "turn left", or indicate a route available only to particular classes of traffic, e.g. buses and cycles only.



Red rings or circles tell you what you must not do, e.g. you must not exceed 30 mph, no vehicles over the height shown may proceed.

Rectangles and their meaning



Blue rectangles are used for information signs **except** on motorways where blue is used for direction signs.



Green rectangles are used for direction signs on primary routes.



White rectangles are used for direction signs on non-primary routes, or for plates used in combination with warning and regulatory signs.

Other common signs





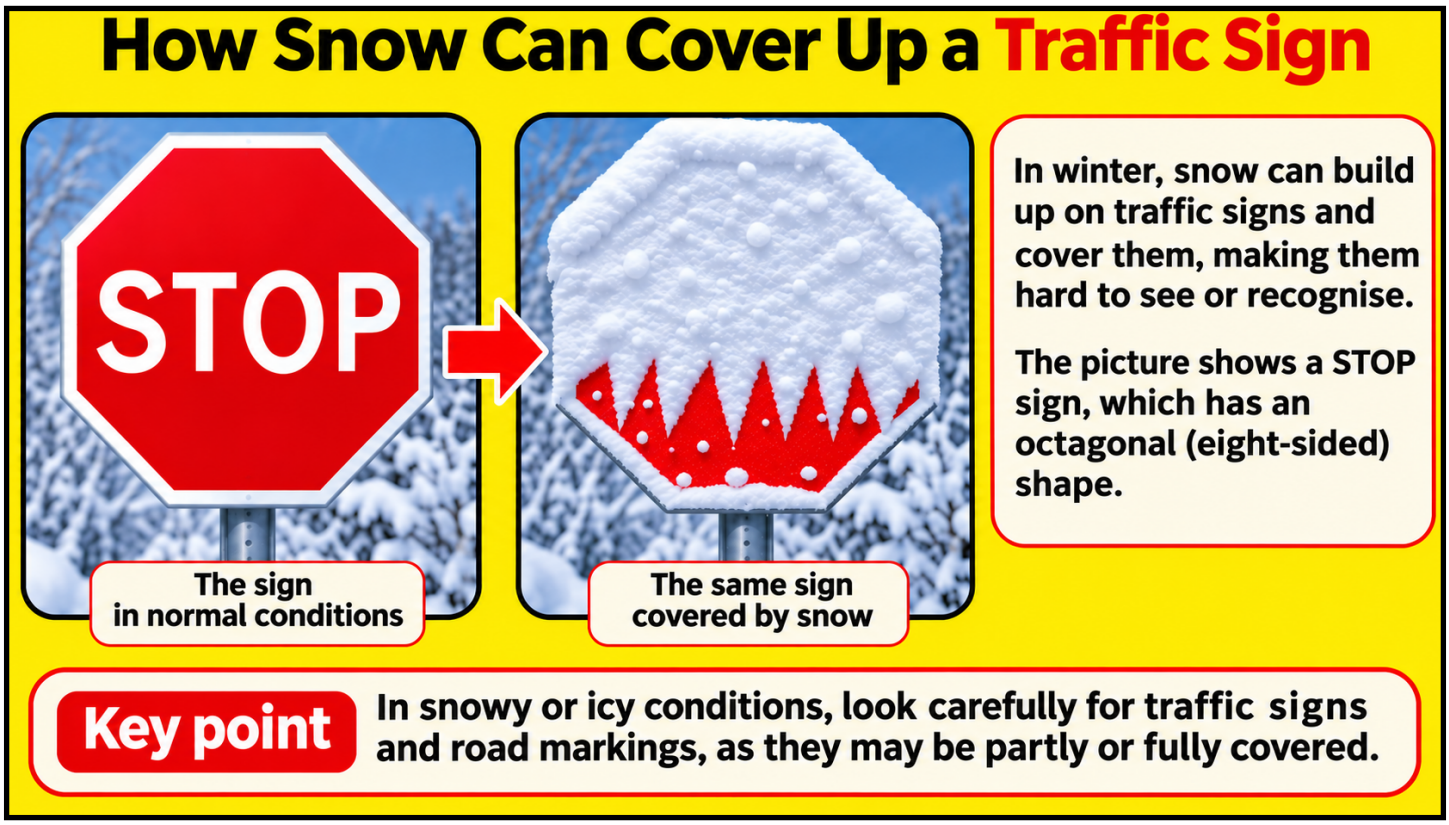
There are a few exceptions to the shape and colour rules, to give certain signs greater prominence. Examples are the "STOP" and "GIVE WAY" signs.

The words **"must"** or **"must not"**, when used in the descriptions that follow, refer to legal requirements that have to be obeyed.

Signs

Road signs come in different shapes and colours. The shapes and colours mean something:

- Circle signs give orders.
- Blue circle signs give orders telling you what to do, for example arrow signs telling you which way to go.
- Red circle signs tell you what you can't do, for example speed limit signs.
- Triangle signs give warnings telling you what's coming up on the road ahead.
- Rectangular signs give information.
- There is only one sign, that is an upside down triangle shape. The give way sign is the only sign this shape, so that even if it's covered in snow, you can still tell what the sign is.
- There is only one sign that is an 8 sided octagonal shape. The stop sign is the only sign this shape, so that even if it's covered by snow, you can still tell what the sign is.



Road Markings

Road markings can be divided up into three types:

Lines in the middle of the road.

a. Short broken white lines show you the middle of the road or lanes.
b. Long broken white lines still show you the middle of the road, but there will be a hazard on the road ahead.
c. Double white lines with a solid white line on your side means that you must stay on your side of the road.
d. Double white lines with a broken white line on your side means that you can cross to the other side of the road, if it is safe.
e. Hatched markings separate lanes of traffic or protect traffic turning right.

Lines along the left side of the road, where the kerb is.

a. A white line shows the edge of the road.
b. Yellow lines show waiting and parking rules.
c. Red lines show waiting, parking and stopping rules. (Red routes)
d. Zigzag lines at schools and pedestrian crossings mean no stopping or parking at any time.

Lines across the road.

a. A broken line across the road at roundabouts, T-junctions and crossroads, means give way.
b. A solid line across the road at roundabouts, T-junctions and crossroads, means stop and give way.

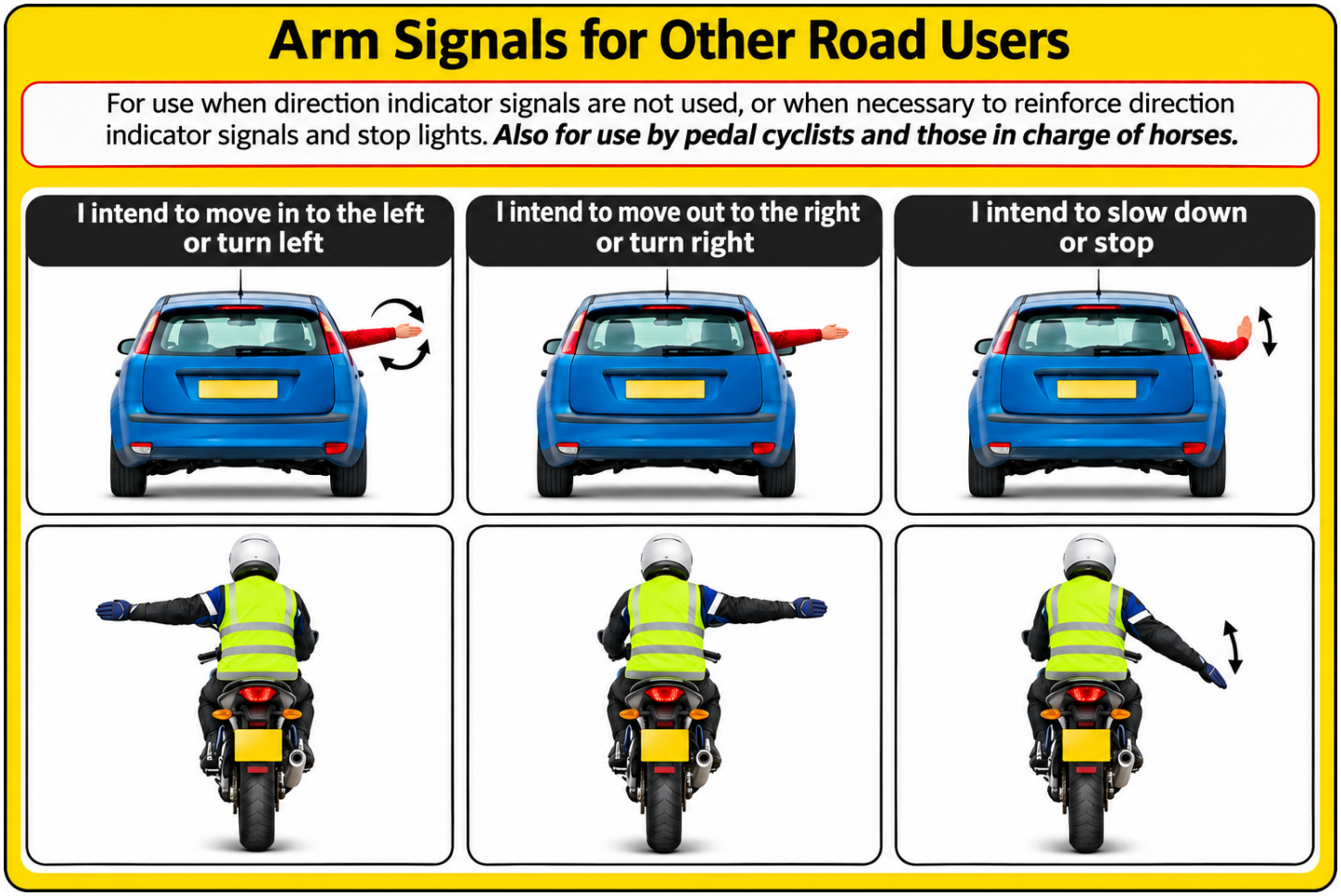
Traffic lights and warning signs

- **Red** – Stop and wait behind the stop line.
- **Red and amber together** – Stop and wait. You may get your car ready to go, though.
- **Green** - Go if the way is clear.
- **Amber** – Stop unless: you've already crossed the stop line, you are too close to the stop line to stop, or you're too fast to stop.

If the traffic lights are broken, no one has priority. A green filter arrow means that you can go in the direction of the arrow even if the main light shows a different colour. You get red flashing lights at level crossings, outside fire stations and at bridges across rivers. Stop when these show red.

Signals given by other road users

Other drivers or riders may use hand signals to show, that they are turning. They may also use them at a pedestrian crossing to tell pedestrians, that they are slowing down. The car's horn is used to warn people that you are there. You can only use it between 7am in the morning and 11.30pm at night. A headlight flash means the same as the horn; it is used to warn people that you are there.



Signals given by the police

If a police car is following behind you and wants you to pull over they will:

- Flash their headlights or use blue flashing lights.
- Use the siren or horn.
- Signal left.
- Point to the left.

If a traffic officer's car is following behind you wants you to pull over they will:

- Use amber flashing lights.
- Signal left.
- Point left.

Police may give you hand signals, when they are directing traffic, to tell you where to go. These hand signals are shown below.

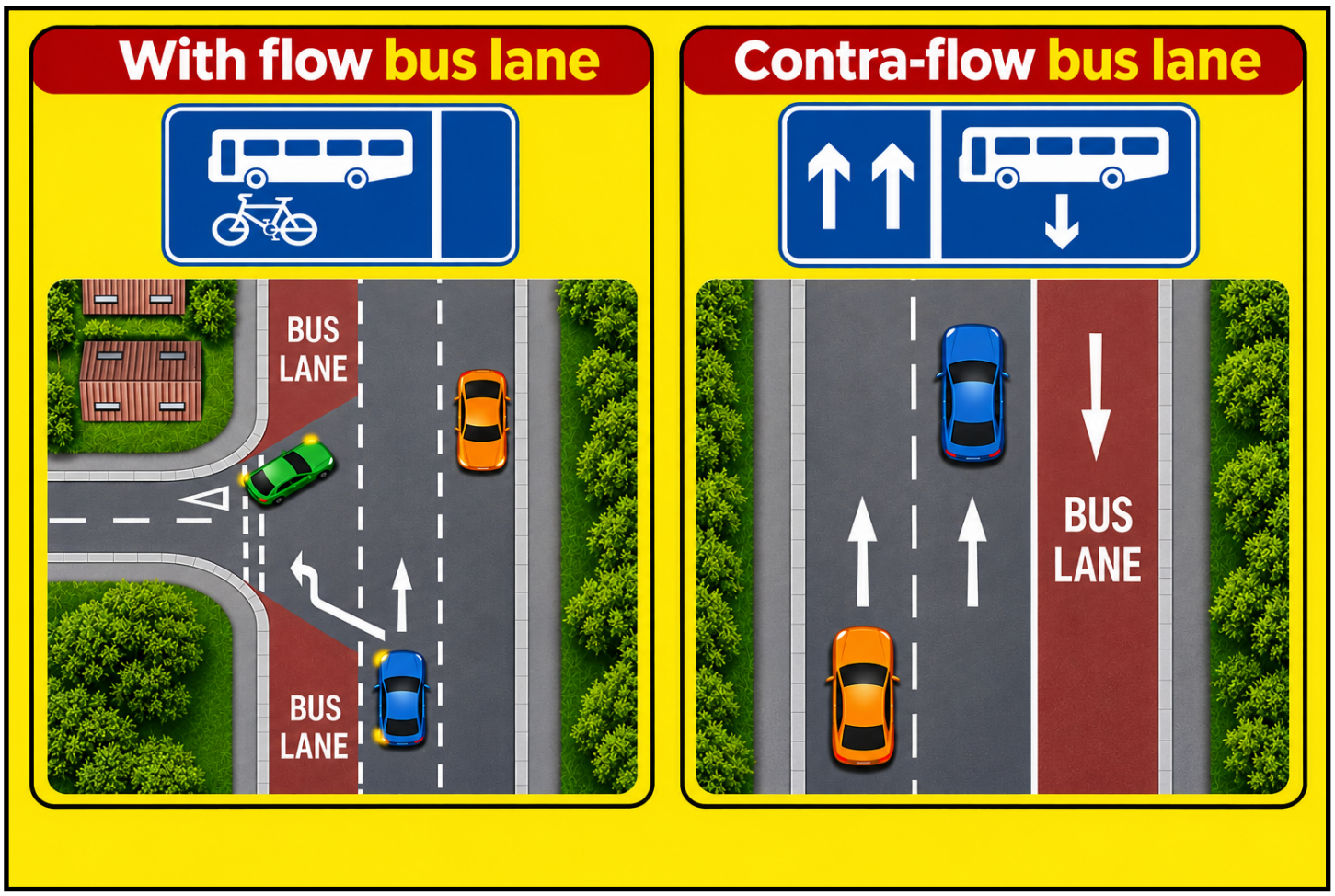


Bus lanes

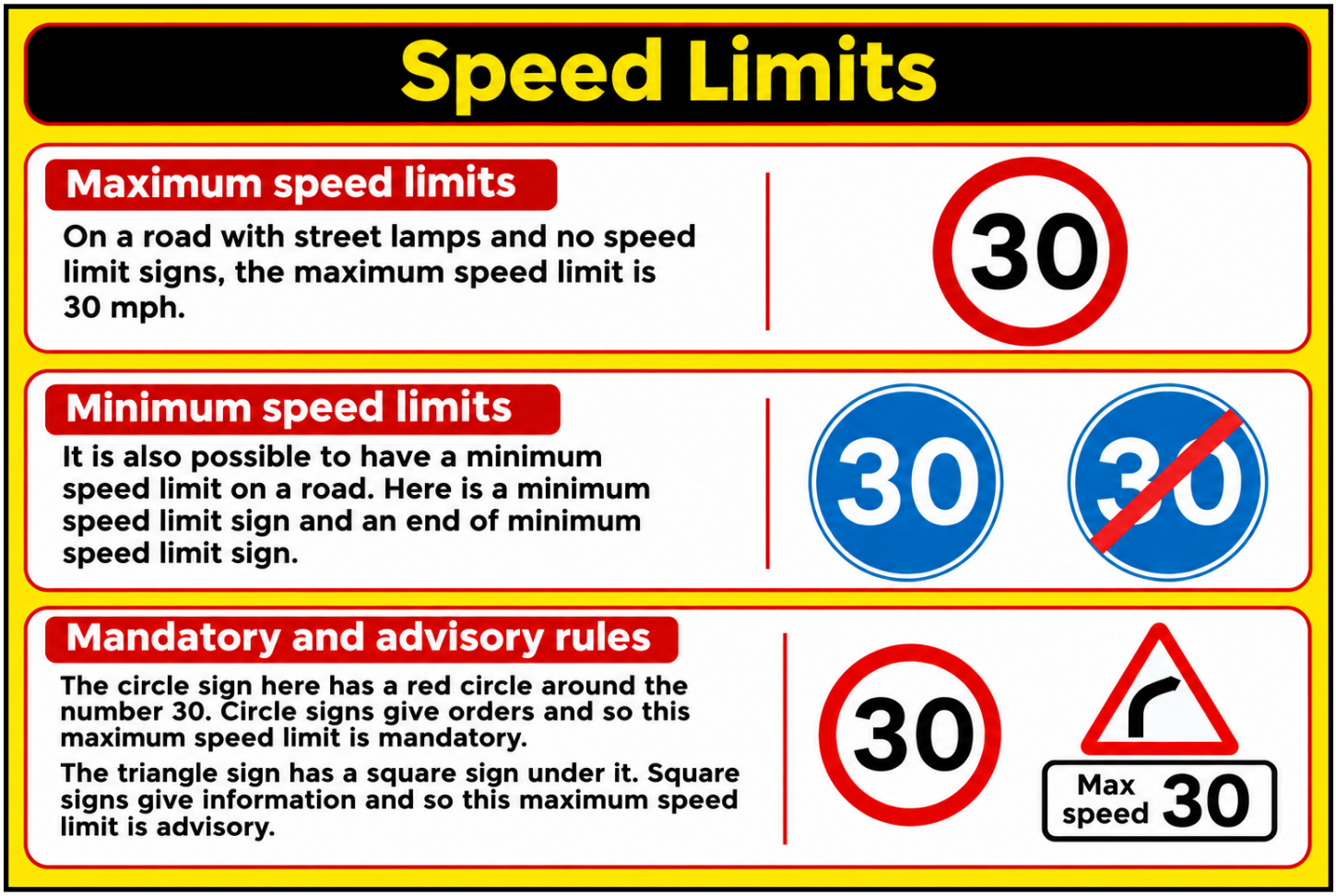
There are two types of bus lane, with flow and contra-flow. The word contra means against something.

With flow bus lanes are in two-way traffic roads, where the other traffic flows in both directions. In the picture below, the traffic flow in the lane next to the bus lane is flowing in the same direction as the bus lane. So the buses, in the bus lane, travel with the flow of traffic.

Contra-flow bus lanes are in one way streets and dual carriageways, where the other traffic flows in one direction. In the picture below, the traffic in the lane next to the bus lane is flowing in the opposite direction to the bus lane. So the buses, in the bus lane, travel against the flow of traffic.



Rules of the road



Mandatory and advisory rules

Some of the rules of the road are mandatory. This means that you must follow them, because it is the law. Some of the rules are advisory. This means that it's a good idea to follow them, but it isn't the law. You will need to know the difference between the two of them.

National speed limits

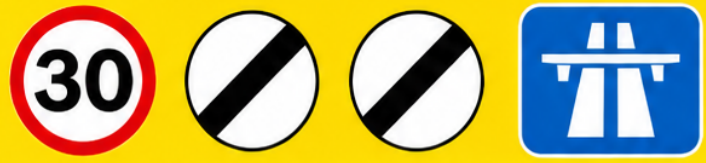
Maximum national speed limit for cars without a trailer is:

- 60 mph on a single carriageway road.
- 70 mph on a dual carriageway road.

Maximum national speed limit for cars with a trailer is:

- 50 mph on a single carriageway road.
- 60 mph on a dual carriageway road.

Speed Limits



Type of vehicle	Built-up areas* mph (km/h)	Single carriage-ways mph (km/h)	Dual carriage-ways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
Cars and motorcycles (including car-derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars towing caravans or trailers (including car-derived vans and motorcycles)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Goods vehicles (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70† (112)
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

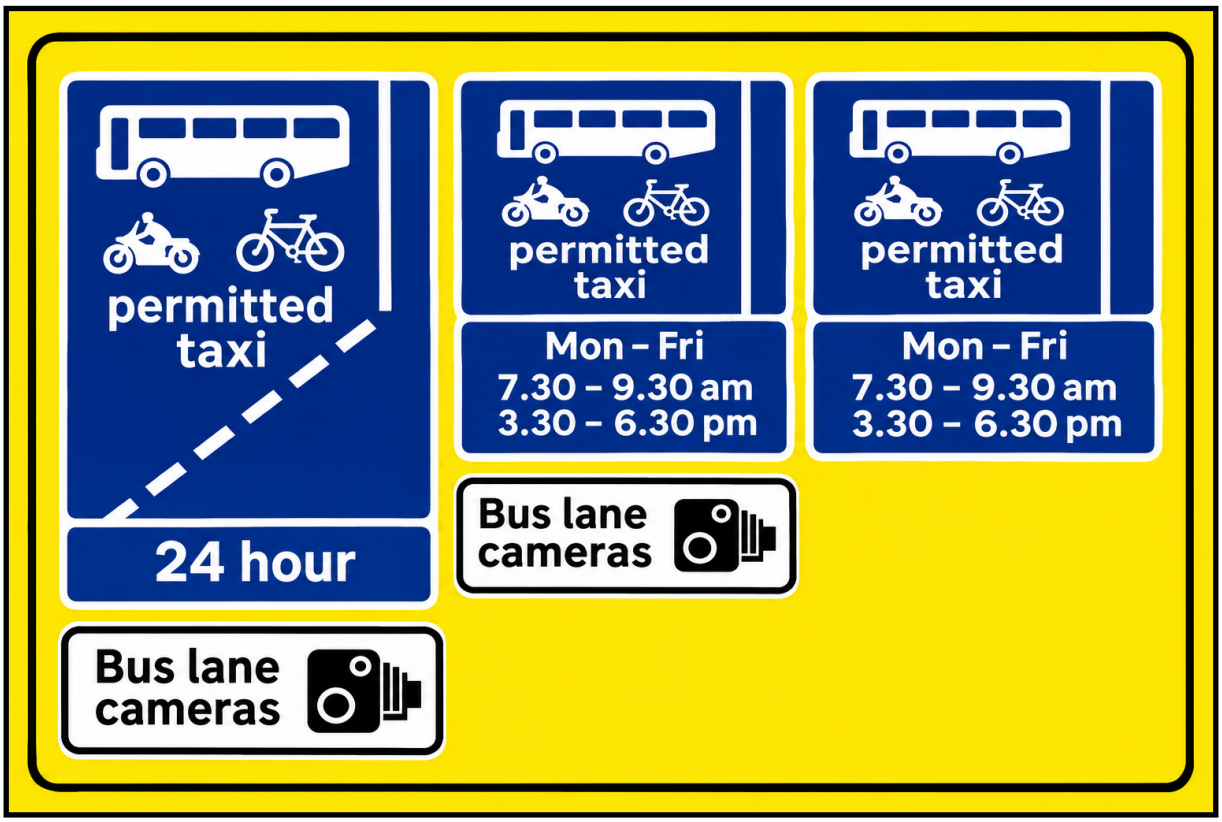
* The 30 mph limit usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.
† 60 mph (96 km/h) if articulated or towing a trailer.

Lane discipline

On a dual carriageway the right lane is for overtaking. On roundabouts cyclist and horse riders may stay on the outside edge on the roundabout even if they are going right. Large lorries and buses may also follow a different route through roundabouts, because they are bigger and swing out.

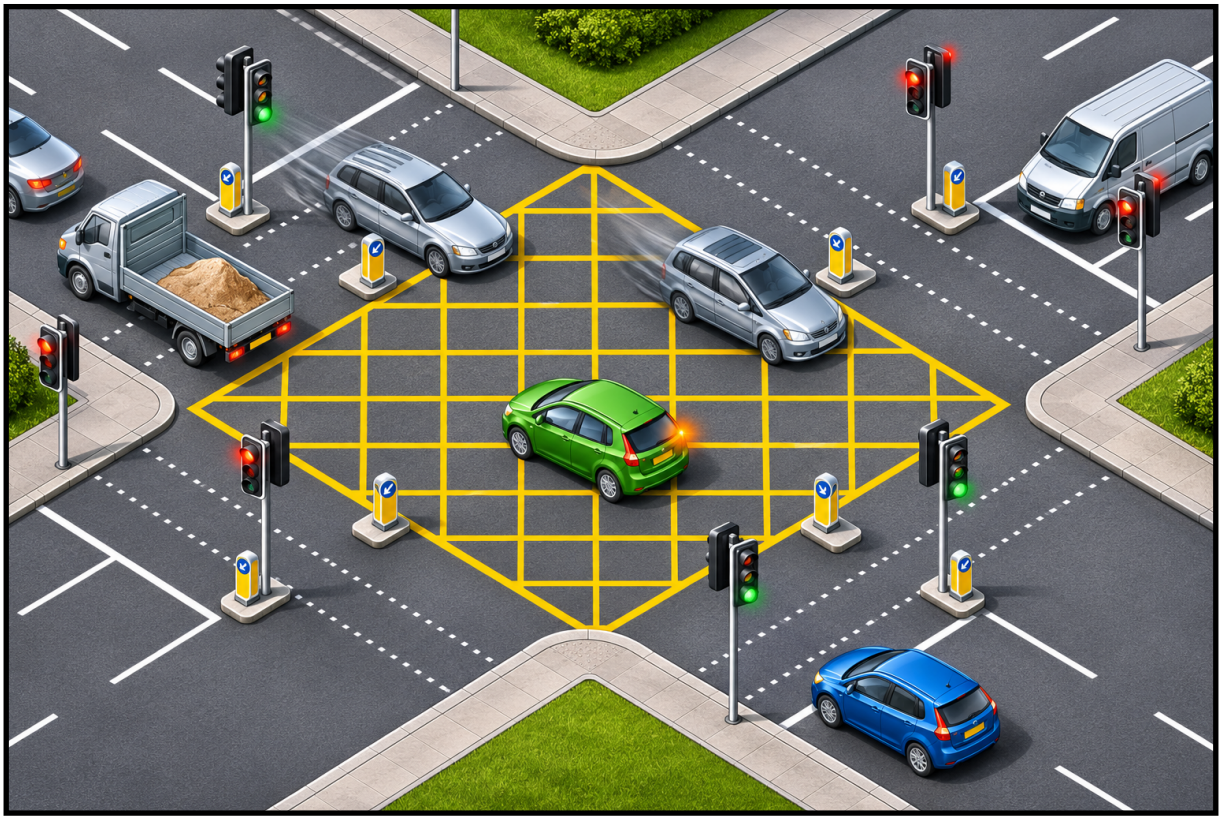
Bus lanes

Some roads have lanes for certain types of vehicles: bicycles, buses, trams, motorcycles and taxis. Look at the blue sign that goes with these lanes. The times on the sign will tell you when the lane is only to be used by those vehicles.



Yellow box junctions

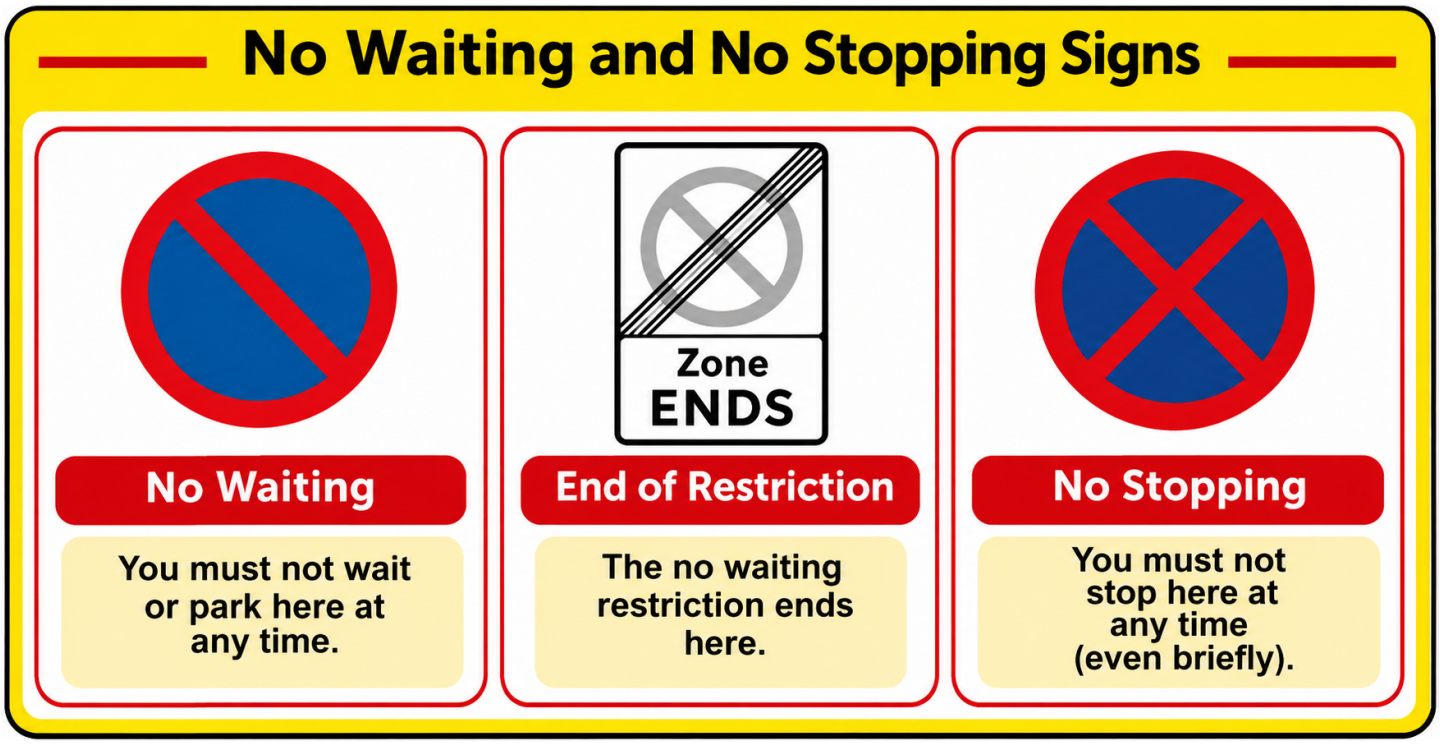
When a junction has a yellow box painted on it, keep the box clear. The only time you are allowed to wait in the yellow box is if you are turning right, the road on the right is clear of traffic and you are waiting for a gap in the oncoming traffic.The green car in the picture below is doing this.



Stopping and parking

At night time when parking on a road where the speed limit is higher than 30 mph, you must leave your sidelights on. At night time you would normally park on the left side of the road, but in a one-way street you may park on both sides of the road. Only park in a disabled space if someone in the car has a blue disabled badge. Avoid parking where you would cause an obstruction. Places where you would cause an obstruction are:

- Near the brow of a hill.
- At a bus stop.
- Opposite a traffic island.
- In front of someone's driveway.
- Where the kerb has been lowered for people in wheelchairs.
- Near a school entrance.
- Within 10 metres of a junction.
- On pedestrian crossing zigzag lines.
- On level crossings.



Overtaking, turning and reversing

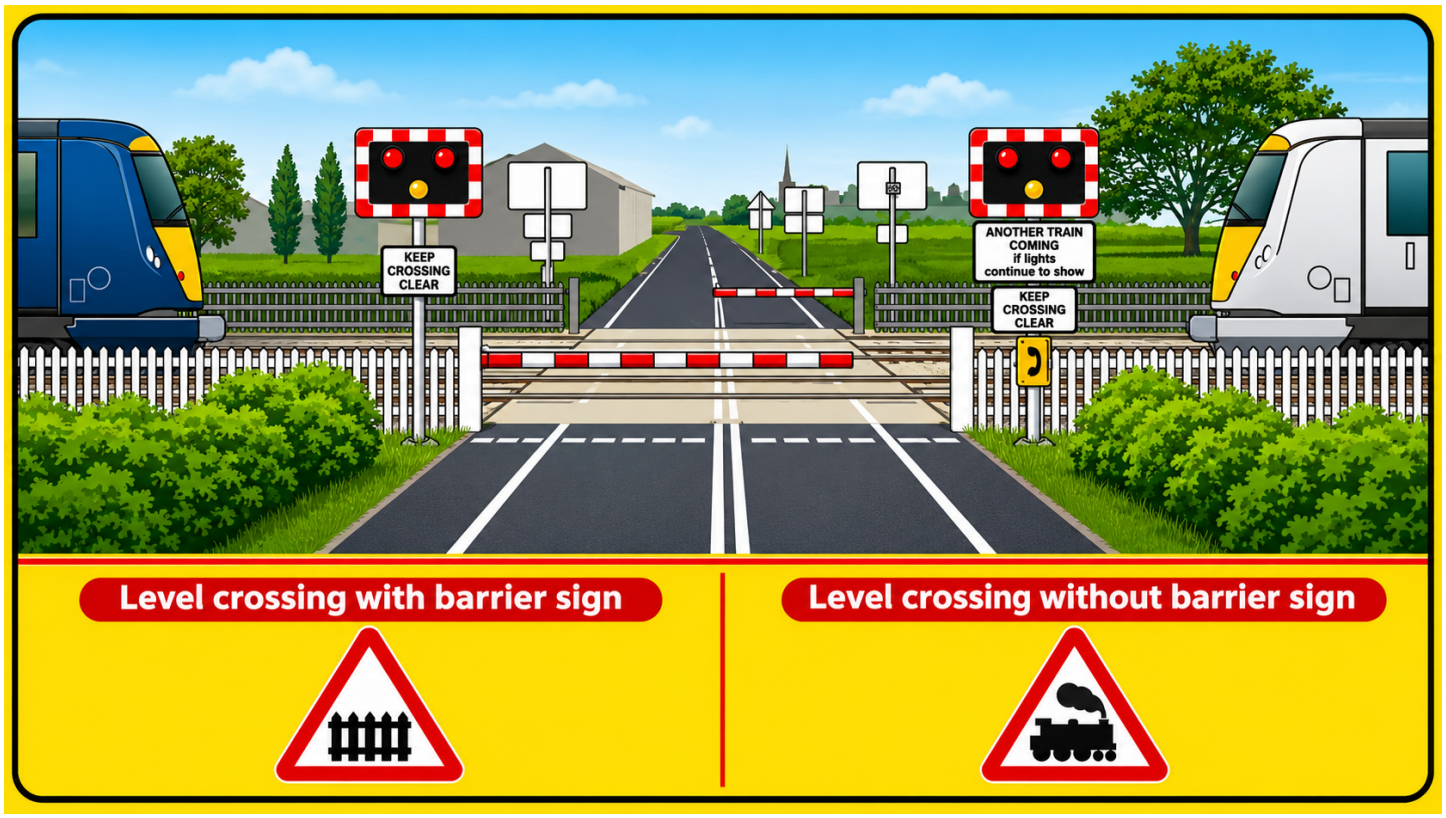
Overtaking is probably the most dangerous action in driving. If you have any doubts about whether it is safe to overtake then stay where you are. You should normally overtake on the right, but in one-way streets you can overtake on either side. Never reverse for longer than you need to and always reverse from the main road to the side road. The greatest hazard to passing traffic is when the front of the car swings out after you turn the steering wheel.

Smoking in a car

It is illegal to smoke in a car if someone in the car is under 18. If you are the driver of the car, then you must stop someone smoking if there is someone under 18 in the car. The rules don't apply to e-cigarettes.

Level crossings

Level crossings are where railway lines cross the road. If the warning lights come on as you approach the crossing, stop. If you are already on the crossing, when the warning lights come on or the bell rings, keep going and clear the crossing. If you are waiting at the level crossing and a train has passed but the red lights keep flashing, still wait as there may be another train coming.



Safety and your vehicle

Basic maintenance

You need to do regular checks to your car. Regular checks ensure: your car is safe to drive on the road, uses less petrol and creates less pollution. You may be asked to do some of these checks before your practical driving test. They are called tell me questions.

Check the following items regularly:

- Lights.
- Brakes.
- Steering.
- Horn.
- Wipers and washers.
- Oil, water and brake fluid levels.
- Battery acid level.
- The front windscreen.
- Tyres pressures.
- Tyre condition.

Tyres should be pumped up correctly to help the car's: steering, braking and fuel consumption. Tyres should have a tread depth of 1.6mm or more across most of the tyre and the the tyre wall should be without cuts. When new tyres are fitted to the car they have to be balanced. To balance it, little weights are fitted to the wheel to make it the same weight all the way around. Without this the wheel would wobble when you drive making the steering wheel vibrate.

Safety equipment

The driver of the car must ensure that children under 14 either wear a seat belt or have a child seat. When visibility is bad use dipped headlights to allow you to see the road ahead better and to allow other people to see you. Use hazard-warning lights when you've broken down or have stopped on a motorway or dual carriageway.

Security

To protect your car from thieves wanting to steal it do the following things:

- Turn the steering wheel so that the steering lock comes when you park up.
- Remove the keys and lock the car when you park up.
- Lock valuables away out of sight when you park up.
- At night, park in a well-lit area or in a secure car park.
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser.
- Fit a lock to the steering wheel or gearstick.
- Have the car's registration number marked on all of the windows.
- If the car has a removable radio, have it security coded.

Environment

To help the environment cars have a device, in the exhaust system, called a catalytic converter. It filters out harmful gases from the engine's exhaust smoke. When you service your car, you must get rid of the old engine oil and batteries carefully, because they are harmful to the environment. You can help the environment and reduce the pollution by:

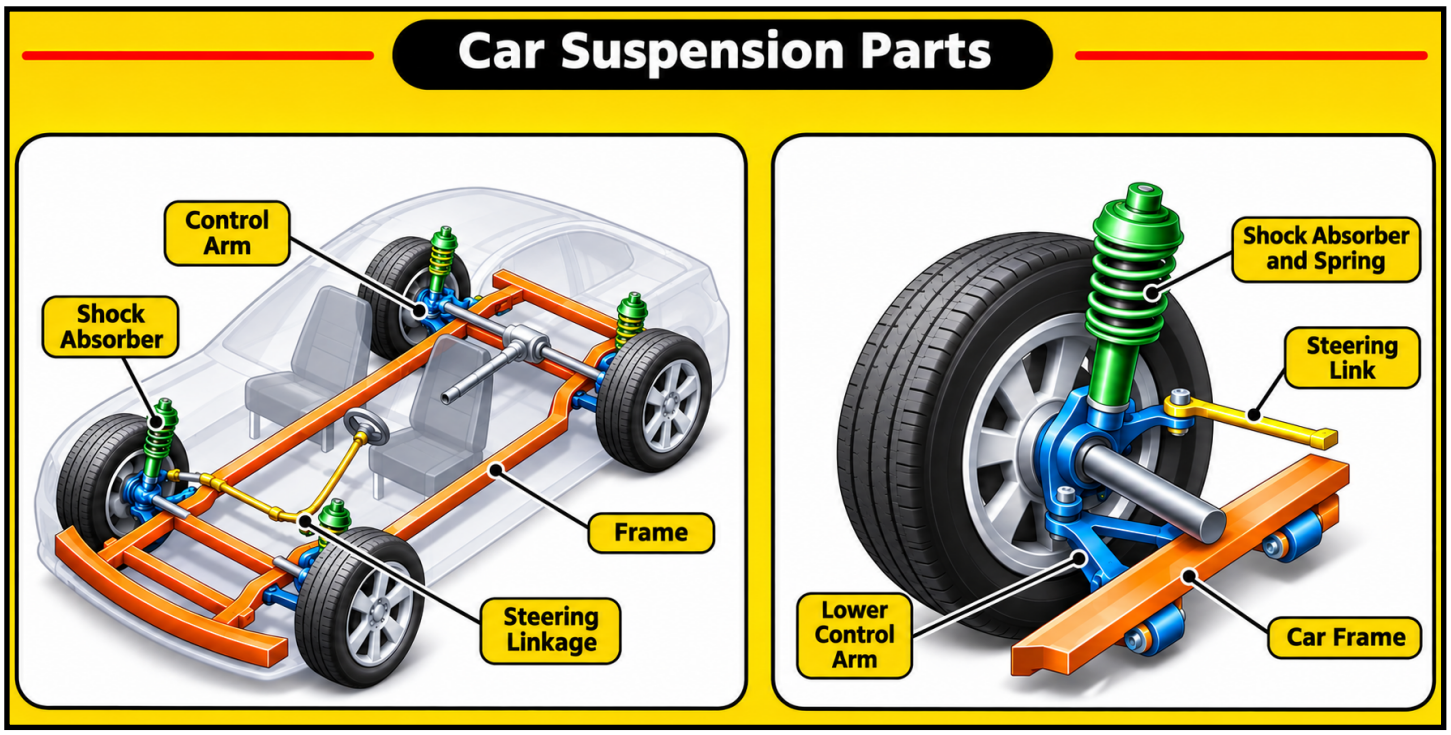
- Reducing your speed when driving when you can.
- Plan ahead when driving so, that you can drive smoothly.
- In a manual car do less gear changing by missing out gears.
- Having your car serviced regularly.
- Having your tyres pumped up correctly.
- Driving without a roof rack when you don't need one.
- Driving without extra weight in the boot.
- Using the gas gently.
- Switching off the engine when you are parked for a long time.
- Making one long journey instead of lots of short journeys.
- Walking or cycling instead of using your car.

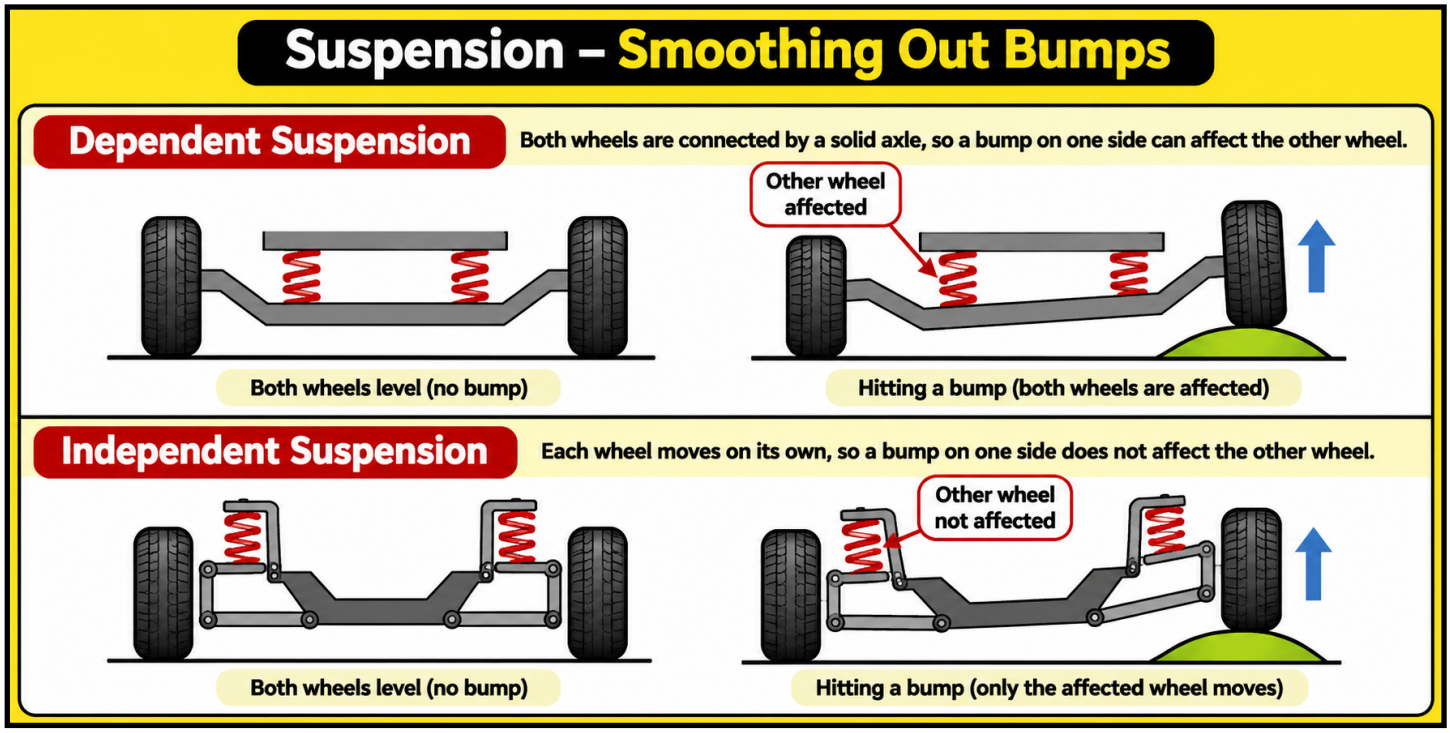
Avoiding congestion

Congestion is another word for a traffic jam. You will have a better journey if you plan your route before you set off, avoid busy times and allow plenty of time for your journey. To plan your route you could use a map, a sat-nav or an internet route planner. In some cities there is a congestion charge, that drivers have to pay, to enter the city centre. In some cities there is a clean air zone and drivers with polluting vehicles have to pay a charge to enter it. Some drivers don't have to pay these charges, though.

Defects

Warning lights on the dashboard tell you that there is a problem with the car. When a warning light comes on it could be too dangerous to continue driving. To understand what a warning light means look it up in the car's handbook. If your car pulls to one side when you brake, then the brakes may need adjusting. The car's suspension has a spring and a shock absorber. They both work together to give the car a smooth ride over bumps. The spring softens the ride of the car, when driving over bumps, by making the car bounce instead of jolt. The shock absorber prevents the car bouncing too much. If your car bounces too much going over bumps, then the shock absorber may be damaged. You can check the car's shock absorber by pushing down the corner of car, to see if it bounces too much.





Safety margins

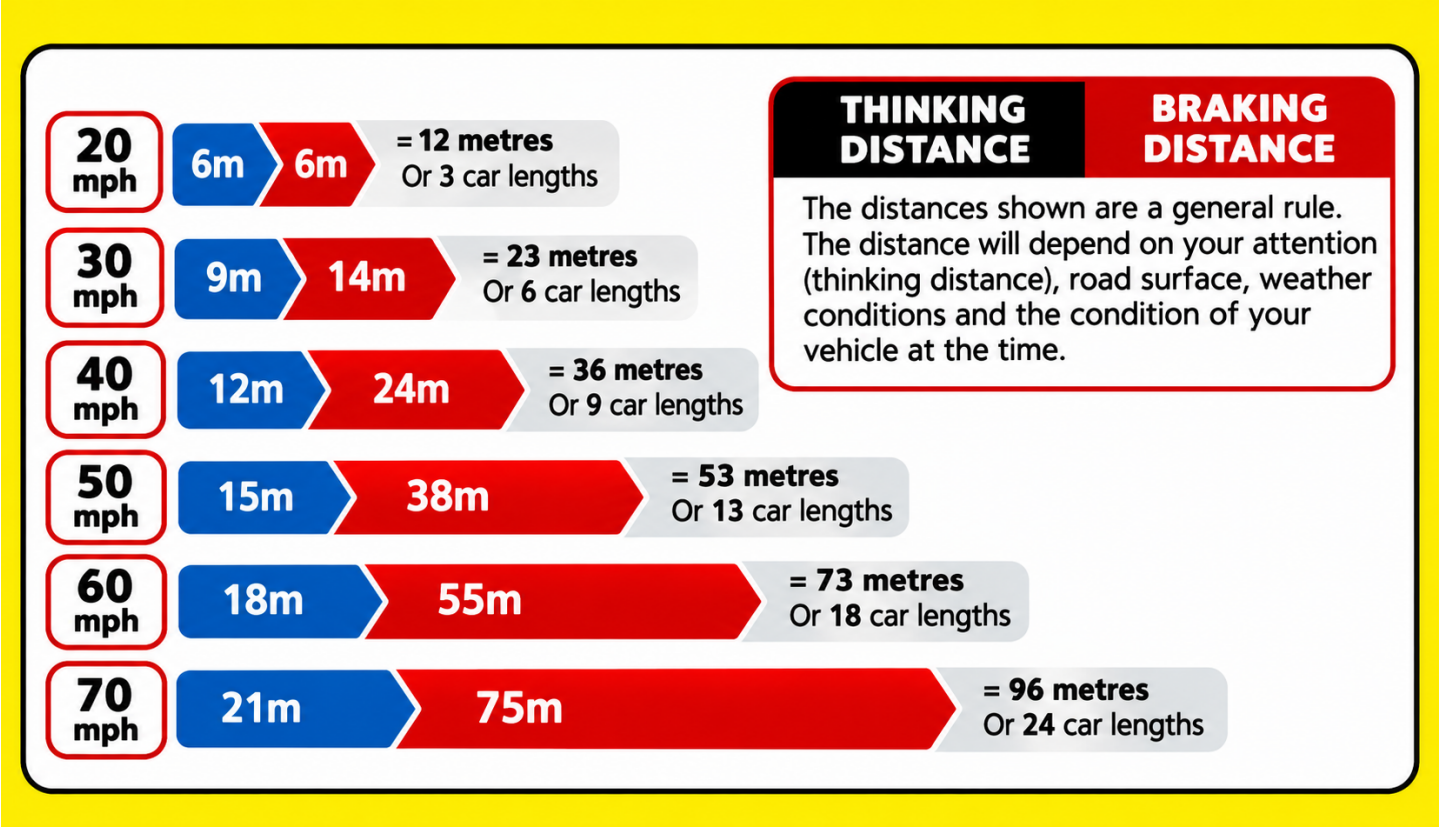
Questions about gears and coasting

Some of the questions in this section involve understanding the choice of gear in a manual car and coasting. You may need to read the section in this book, about the clutch and gears, before doing the questions.

Click here to read the clutch and gears section

Stopping distances

You must leave enough room, between you and the car in front, to be able to stop when the car in front stops. Your overall stopping distance is made up of the thinking distance and the braking distance. You will need to learn and remember those distances from the Highway Code. Those distances in the Highway Code are for an alert driver on a dry road. In rain or ice the distances are longer. In rain the distances are 2 times longer or double. In ice the distances are 10 times longer. You can use the two-second rule to keep a safe gap when you are driving faster.



The two second rule

In dry weather leave a **two-second-time gap** between you and the car in front. (As shown in the picture below).
In wet weather leave a **four-second-time gap** between you and the car in front (2 times longer or double).
In icy weather leave a **twenty-second-time gap** between you and the car in front (10 times longer).



Weather conditions

When driving in bright sunlight, with the sun low in the sky, it's difficult to see indicators lights. This is because the sunlight blinds you.

Before driving in freezing winter weather, you must clear snow and ice from your:

- Windows.
- Lights.
- Mirrors.
- Number plates.

When driving in freezing winter weather:

- Brake early and gently.
- Stop and clean your windscreen if the windscreen wipers can't clear it.
- In a manual car drive in a higher gear to avoid wheel-spin when you accelerate.

When driving in fog:

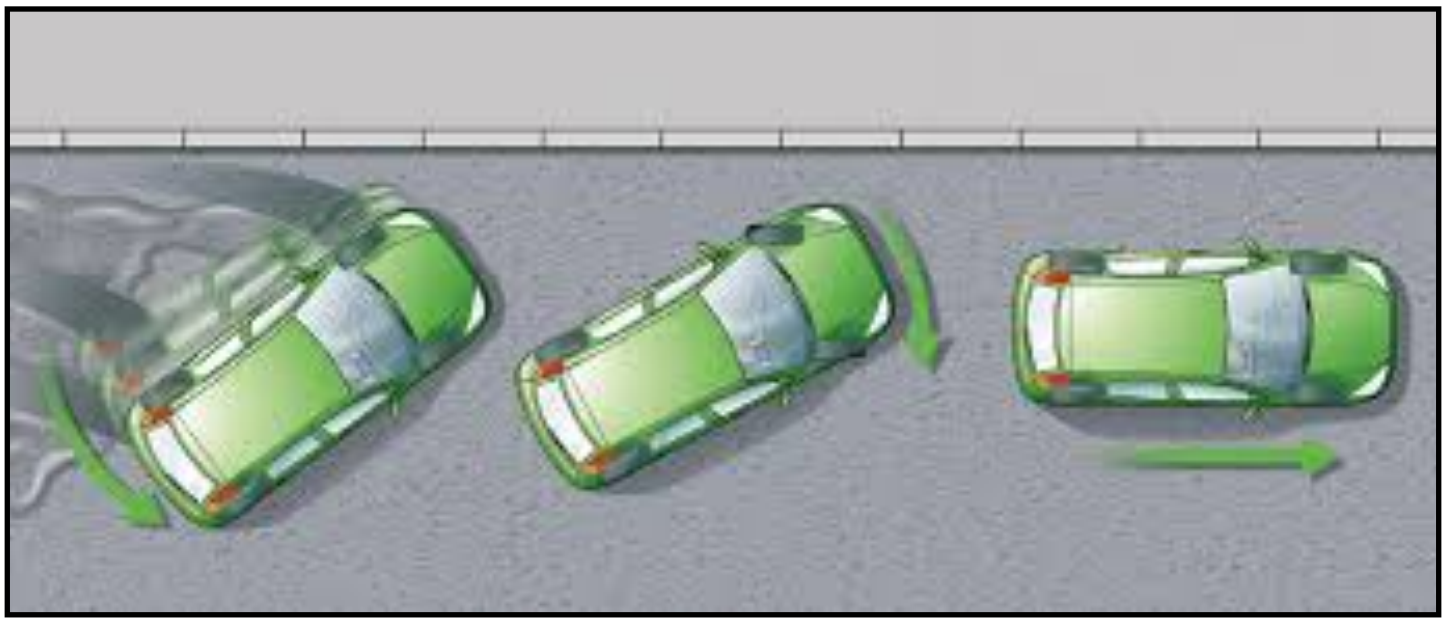
- Allow more time for your journey.
- Slow down when you can't see far ahead.
- Drive further back from the car in front of you.
- Use dipped headlights or front fog lights.
- Only use rear fog lights when visibility is less than 100 metres.

Skidding

The driver is the main cause of skidding. You need to adjust your driving to cope with road, weather and traffic conditions. Skidding is most likely to happen when the road is wet, snowy or icy. Ice on the road will make the road look shiny like glass. If you drive on to some ice the steering wheel will go light, because the tyres have lost their grip of the road. If there is a chance of skidding drive slower, steer gradually and in a manual car drive in a higher gear.

When driving in heavy rain the car may aquaplane. This happens when driving through big puddles and the water lifts all four tyres off the road. The tyres lose their grip on the road and the car skids sideways. If this happens come off the gas and avoid braking until the steering feels normal again. If the car skids steer into the skid. So, if the back of the car slides to the right steer to the right. This is shown in the picture below.

Anti-lock brakes or ABS help to prevent the car from skidding. When you do an emergency stop in a car with anti-lock brakes, you press the brakes and keep pressing them until you stop. Anti-lock brakes, however, do not work well on loose road surfaces such as gravel or dirt tracks. This is because the road surface is loose and not firm so, the tyres do not grip the road as well as tarmac. Traction control helps to prevent the tyres from spinning when the car accelerates. Electronic stability control uses the car's anti-lock brakes and traction control to prevent the car from skidding.



Vehicle handling

Questions about gears and coasting

Some of the questions in this section involve understanding the choice of gear in a manual car and coasting. You may need to read the section in this book, about the clutch and gears, before doing the questions.

Click here to read the clutch and gears section

Driving through a ford

A ford is a road where a river flows over the road and you have to drive through the water. During or after heavy rain a ford is likely to be too deep to drive through. There may be a marker on the wall, called a depth gauge, telling you how deep the water is. When you drive through a ford drive slowly and in a low gear. Driving in a low gear will keep the engine revs high and avoid the engine stalling. After driving through a ford test your brakes. Wet brakes do not work as well as dry brakes. There are two photos of fords below showing the white depth gauges on the walls.





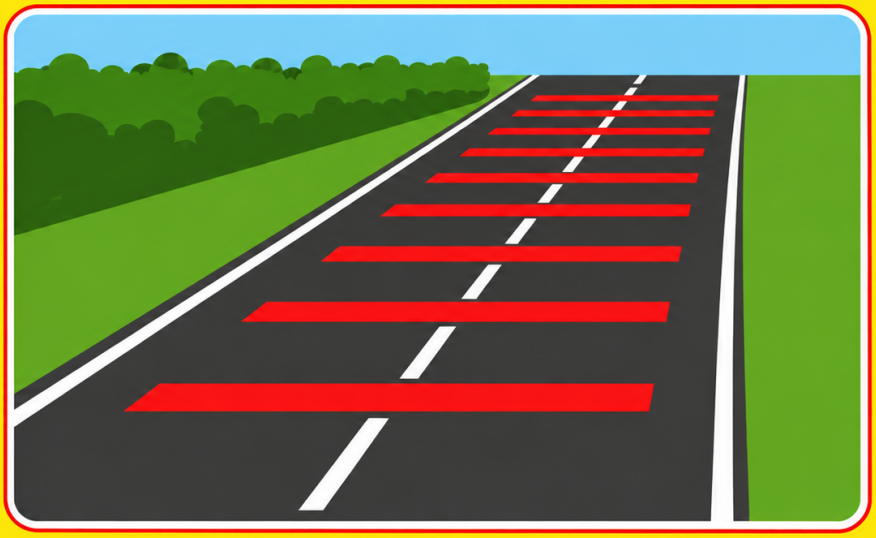
Traffic Calming

Sometimes when you drive up to a roundabout or junction, on a fast road, there may be rumble strips on the road.

These are painted lines across the road.

As you get closer to the roundabout or junction the lines get closer together, giving the you the impression you are going too fast.

This makes you slow down.



Tramway Only



Tram-tracks are laid in concrete when they are built into the road.

They are not put into tarmac.

This sign means the route is for trams only.

Give Way to Trams



The concrete has a rough surface texture, which helps your tyres to grip the road better.

The steel tracks have a smooth surface texture, which makes your tyres grip the road worse.

Give way to trams at the crossing.


Middlewood
118
SUPERTRAM


Halfway
106
dayrider
£3.50
SUPERTRAM

Vehicle loading

Questions about gears and coasting

Some of the questions in this section involve understanding the choice of gear in a manual car and coasting. You may need to read the section in this book, about the clutch and gears, before doing the questions.

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Introduction

Loading a vehicle means putting things into the boot or onto the roof of your car. It also refers to towing a trailer or caravan. As the driver of the car you must ensure that your car is loaded correctly when you fill the boot or put things on the roof. When you load your car with extra weight you will need to pump your tyres up more. In other words, you will need to increase the tyre pressure or inflate the tyres.

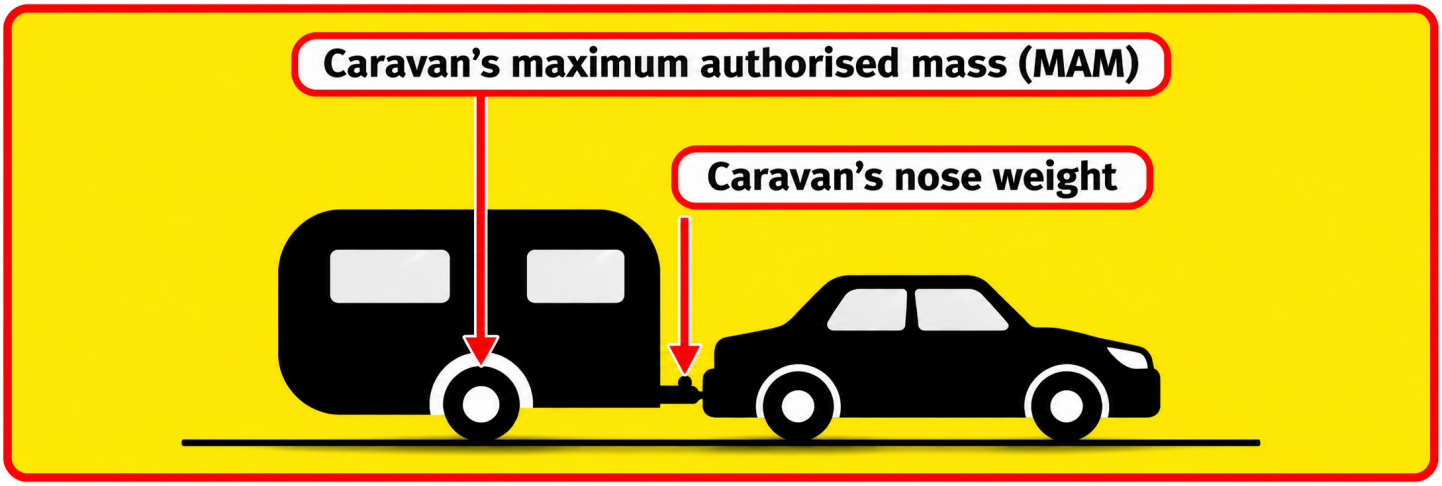
Passengers

All passengers should wear seatbelts. As the driver of the car you must make sure that children under 14 wear a seat belt, sit in a child seat or baby carrier. If you are towing a caravan the passengers should be in the car and not the caravan.

Towing

If a caravan starts to swerve or snake, come off the gas and slow down to get control back. On a motorway your maximum speed will be 60mph when you are towing. Also, you can only drive in the right lane when it's a two lane motorway. If the motorway has more than two lanes keep out of the right lane. When towing on a national speed limit road your speed limit will be 60mph on a dual carriageway and 50mph on a single carriageway.

The nose weight is how heavy the front or nose of the caravan is. The maximum authorised mass (MAM) means the weight of the trailer or caravan and the maximum load that can be carried safely when it's being used on the road. It will be listed in the trailer or caravan owner's manual and is normally shown on a plate or sticker fitted to it. The maximum authorised mass, that your car can tow, will be listed in your car's handbook.



Vehicle stability

Anything tied to the roof must be fastened securely, ideally to a roof rack. Something heavy tied to the roof can make the car unstable and wobble when you drive it.



Vulnerable road users

Introduction

Vulnerable road users are people or vehicles that have no or very little protection, when they are involved in a crash. Such as:

- Horse riders.
- Cyclists.
- Motorcyclists.
- Pedestrians.

The most vulnerable types of pedestrians are:

- Older people.
- Disabled people.
- Children.

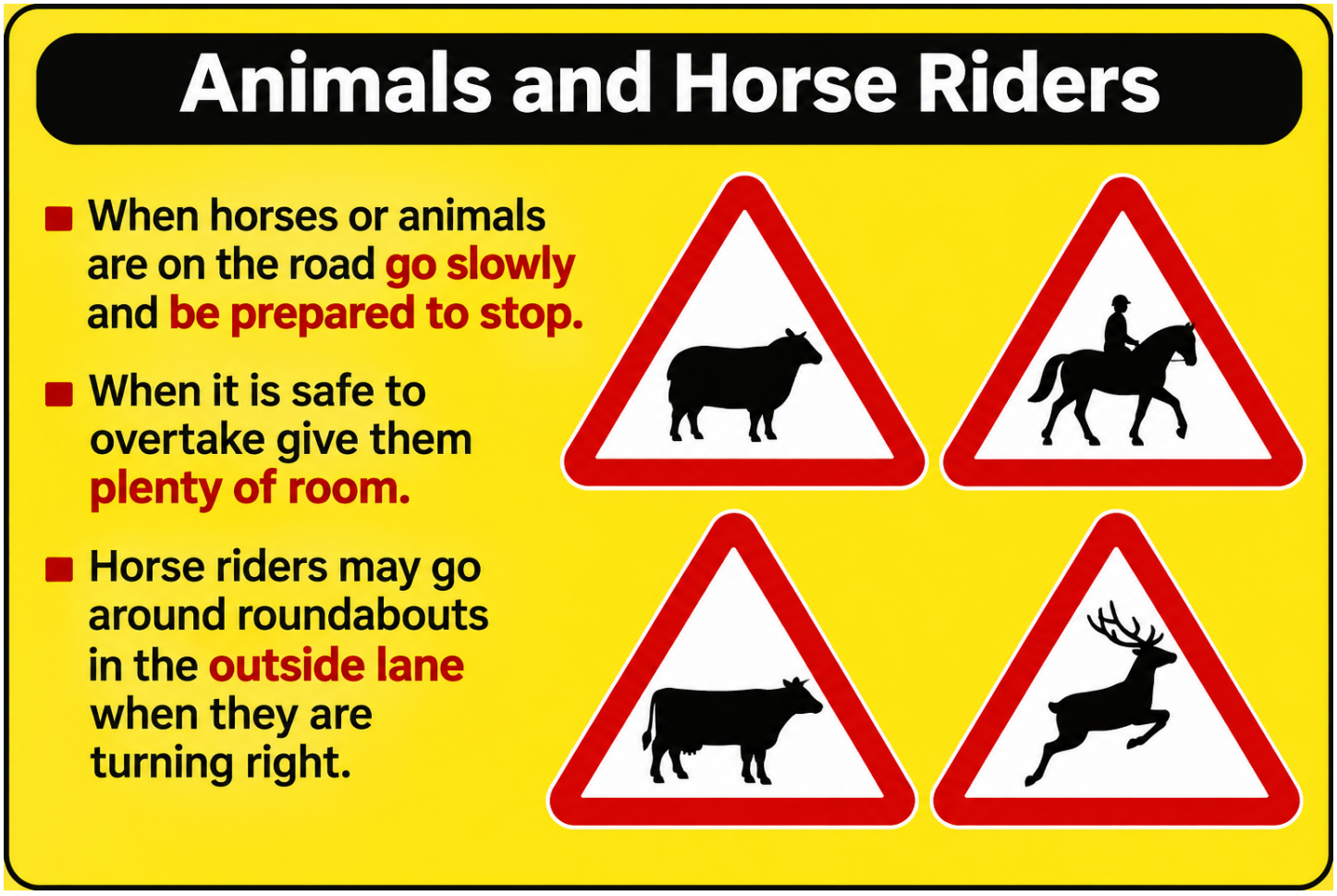
The most vulnerable types of drivers are:

- Learner drivers because they are still learning and lack experience.
- Older drivers because their reactions are slower.

Learner drivers

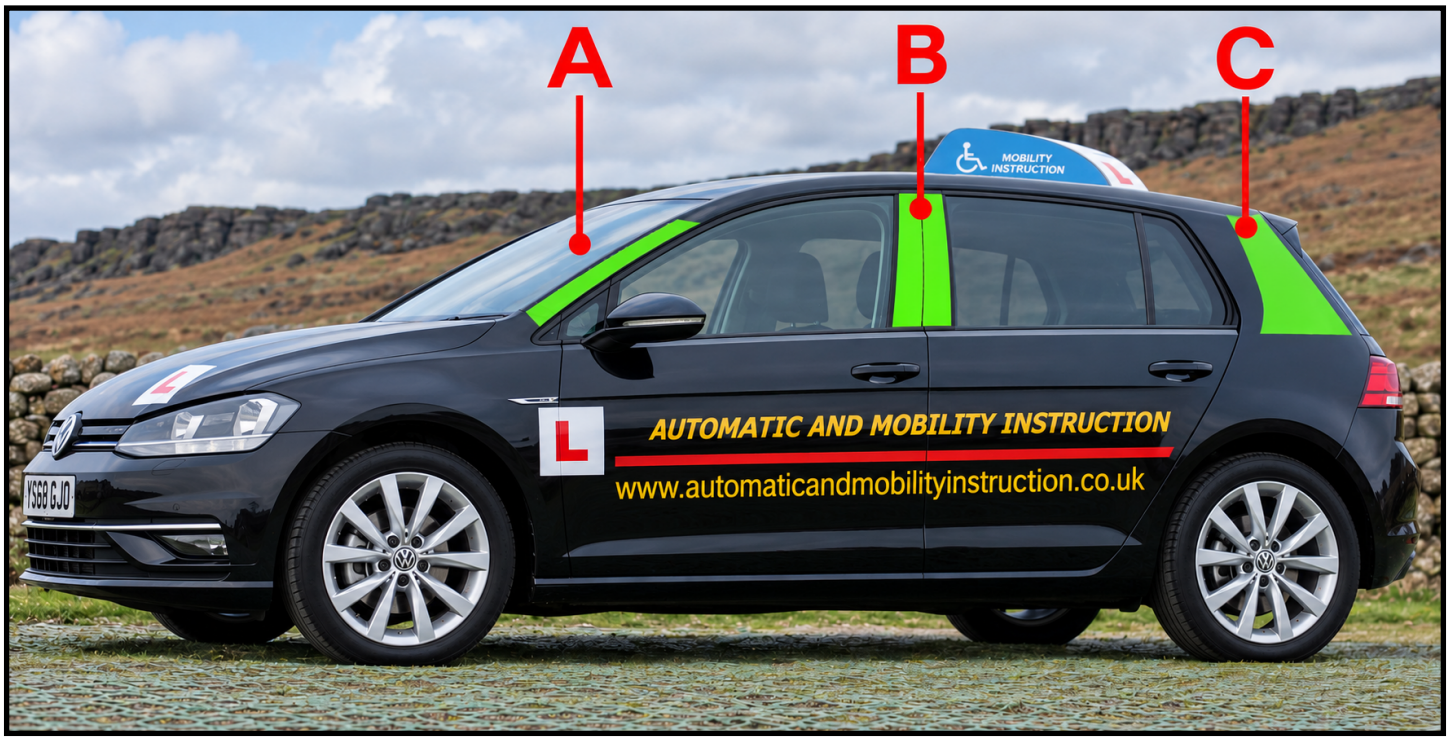
When you are following another learner driver, they may make mistakes. Be patient and give them more time.

Animals and horse riders

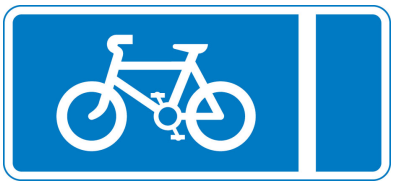


Cyclists

Cyclists follow the same rules as cars drivers, but with a few differences. At traffic light junctions there may be two stop lines. The furthest one is for cyclists, the nearest one is for cars. Cyclists planning to turn right will look over their right shoulder first before moving and changing position. When you are looking to pull out from a junction look carefully for cyclists. They are harder to see, because the door pillars on your car create blindspots. This is shown in the picture below. Cyclists may go around roundabouts in the outside lane, when they are turning right.







Older and disabled people

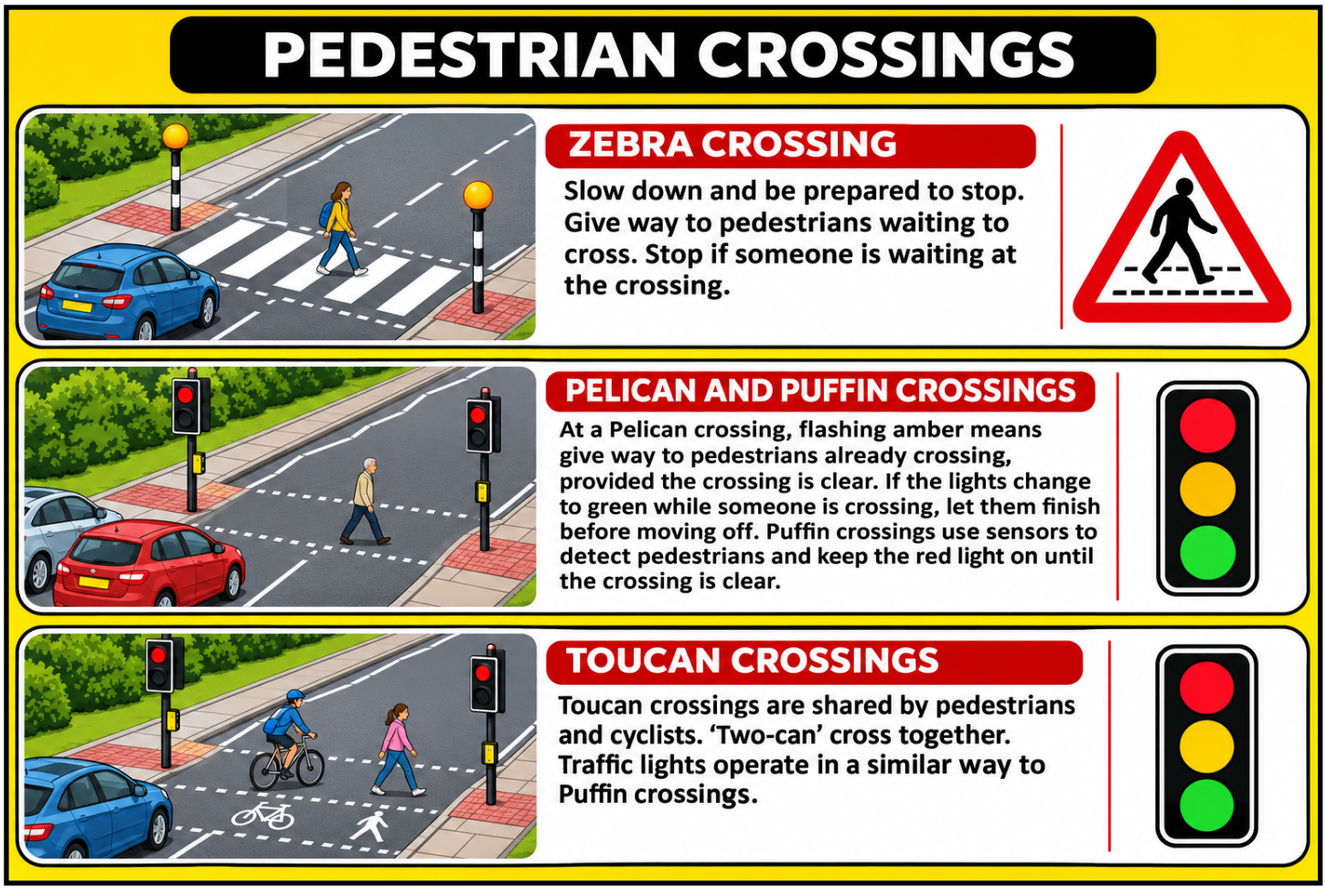
Older and disabled people may need extra time to cross the road. Someone, who is deaf, may not be aware of you when you drive near them. Someone, who is deaf, may have a dog with an orange lead and a yellow or burgundy coat. Someone, who is deaf and blind, may have a dog with red and white checked coating and may carry a white stick with a red band.

Children



Pedestrians

On country roads pedestrians should walk on the right side of the road so that they are walking towards oncoming traffic. At night, when large groups of people walk together, someone at the front should carry a white light and someone at the back should carry a red light.

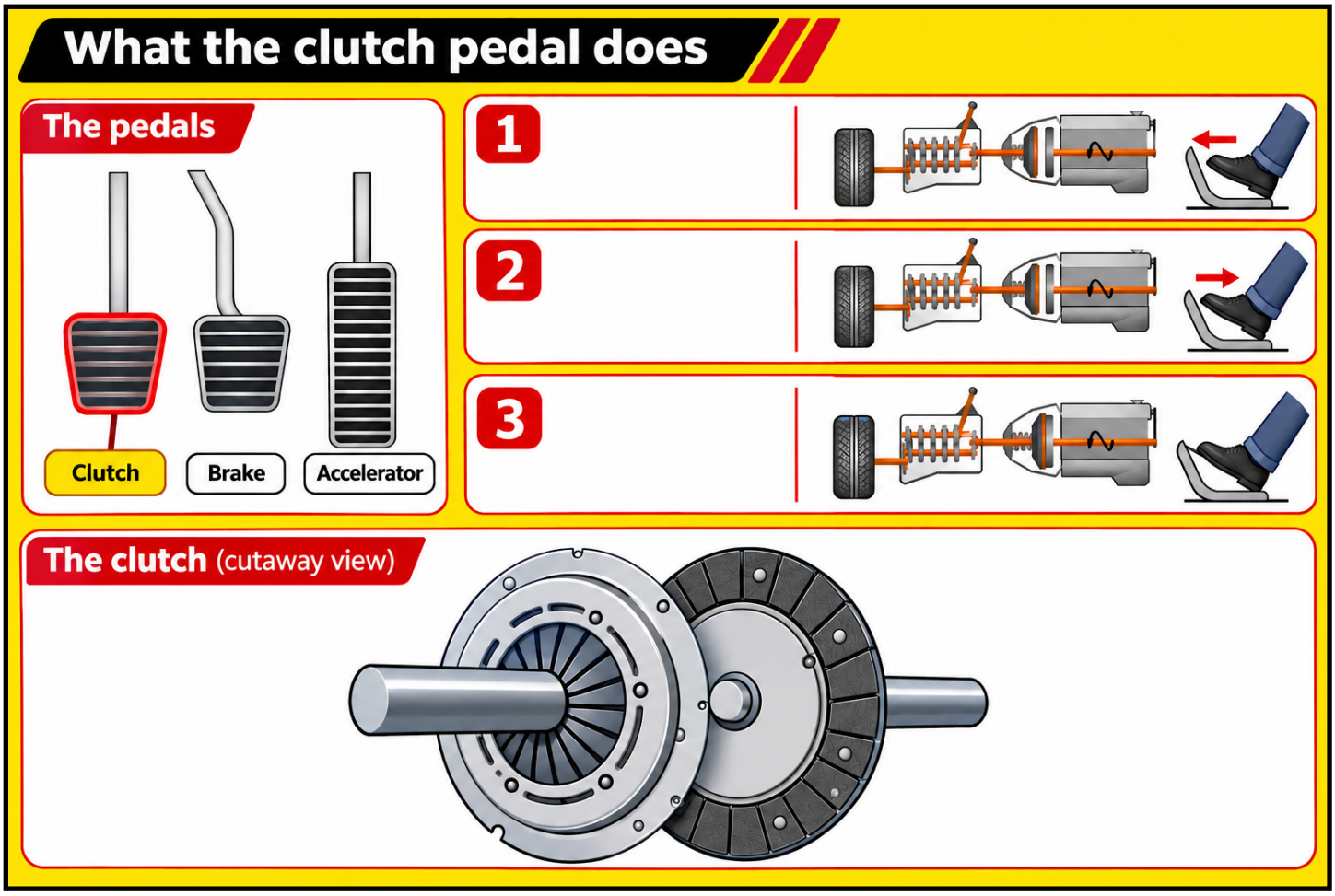


How to answer questions about the clutch and gears

To answer some questions, you will need to understand a little bit about the clutch and how someone driving a manual car chooses the correct gear. If you have only ever driven an automatic car you will find these questions difficult to answer. This section will help you to understand what the clutch and gears do.

The Clutch

The clutch pedal operates the clutch. In a manual car you would operate this with your left foot, but in an automatic car the car does this for you. The clutch connects the engine to the gearbox and wheels. It is made up of two spinning circles one is connected to the engine the other is connected to the gearbox and wheels. When the spinning circles are touching each other the engine can send power to the wheels, through the clutch, to make the car move. The spinning circles separate when you press the clutch pedal down. When you change gear in a manual car you need to press the clutch pedal down first to separate the engine from the gearbox. You can then move the gearstick to change gear. After changing gear you bring the clutch pedal back up to connect the engine to the gearbox to allow the engine to send power to the wheels, through the clutch.



Picture A

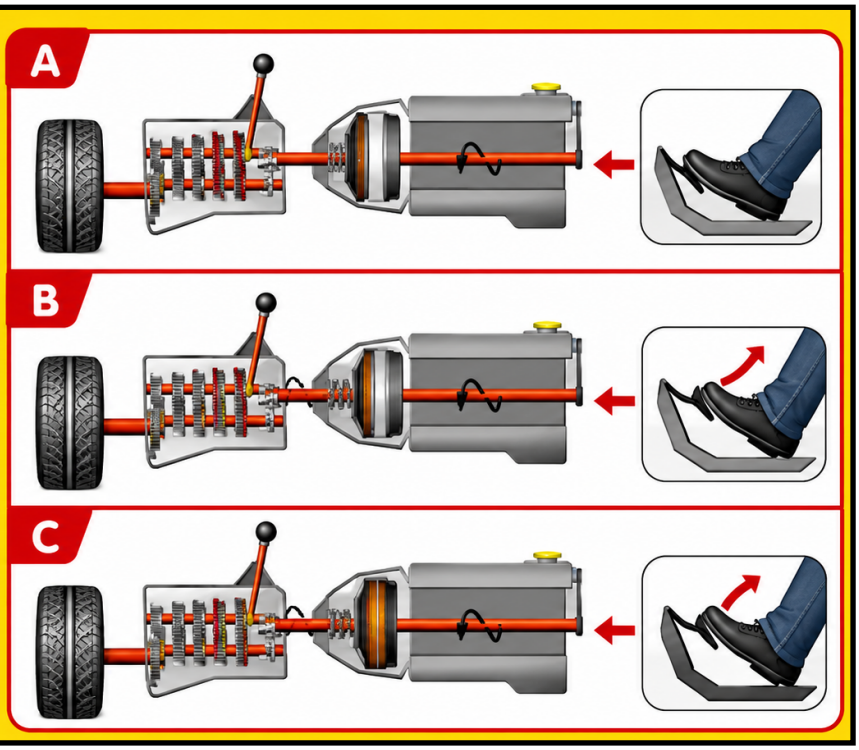
- The clutch pedal is pressed down.
- The engine isn't connected to the gearbox and wheels.
- The engine cannot pull the car.
- The gearstick can be moved to change gear.

Picture B

- The gearstick has been moved to a new position.
- The new gear has been selected.
- The driver starts to bring up the clutch pedal.
- The engine starts to pull the car again.

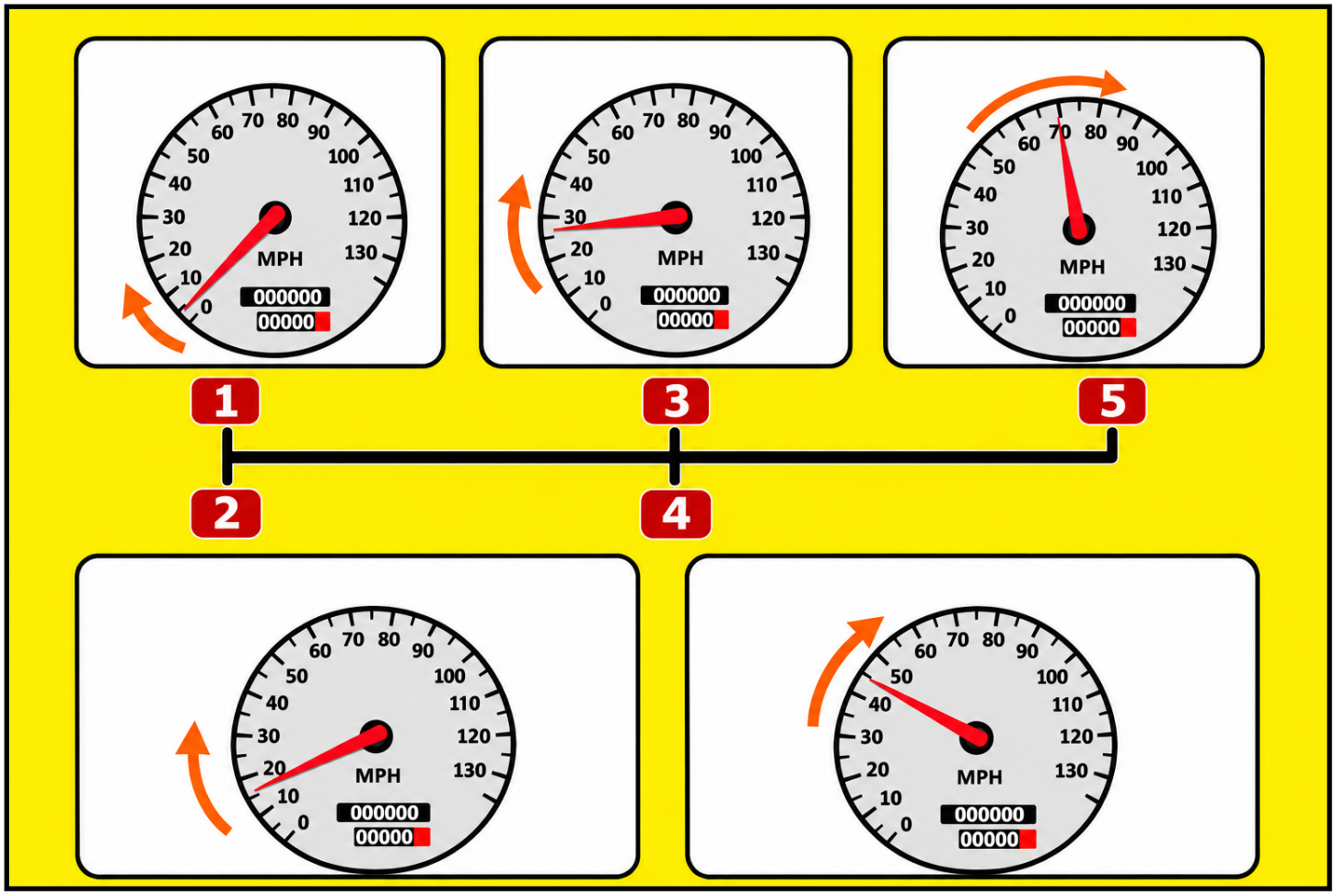
Picture C

- The clutch pedal is now fully up.
- The engine is connected to the gearbox and wheels.
- The engine can pull the car with its full power.



Accelerating and decelerating

In a manual car, when the car moves off from a standstill it will be in 1st gear. As the engine revs increase and the engine makes more noise, the car goes faster. There comes a point where the engine revs get near the limit and the car cannot go any faster without a change of gear. When you change up to 2nd gear the car goes at the same speed with less engine revs. As the engine revs increase and the engine makes more noise, the car goes faster. Once again there comes a point where the engine revs get near the limit and the car cannot go any faster without a change of gear. When you change up to 3rd gear the car goes at the same speed with less engine revs. As the car goes faster you need to change up through the gears. As the car goes slower you need to change down through the gears.



When you have a choice of gear

Sometimes in a manual car, for the speed that you are driving at, you may have a choice of more than one gear. For example, on a flat road at 30 mph you may have a choice of either 3rd or 4th gears. If you choose the lower gear, the engine will rev more to keep the car going at 30mph. If you choose the higher gear, the engine will rev less to keep the car going at 30mph. When the engine revs less it is harder for it to pull the car and so when you use the gas the car will only accelerate slowly. When the engine revs more it is easier for it to pull the car and so when you use the gas the car will accelerate quickly.

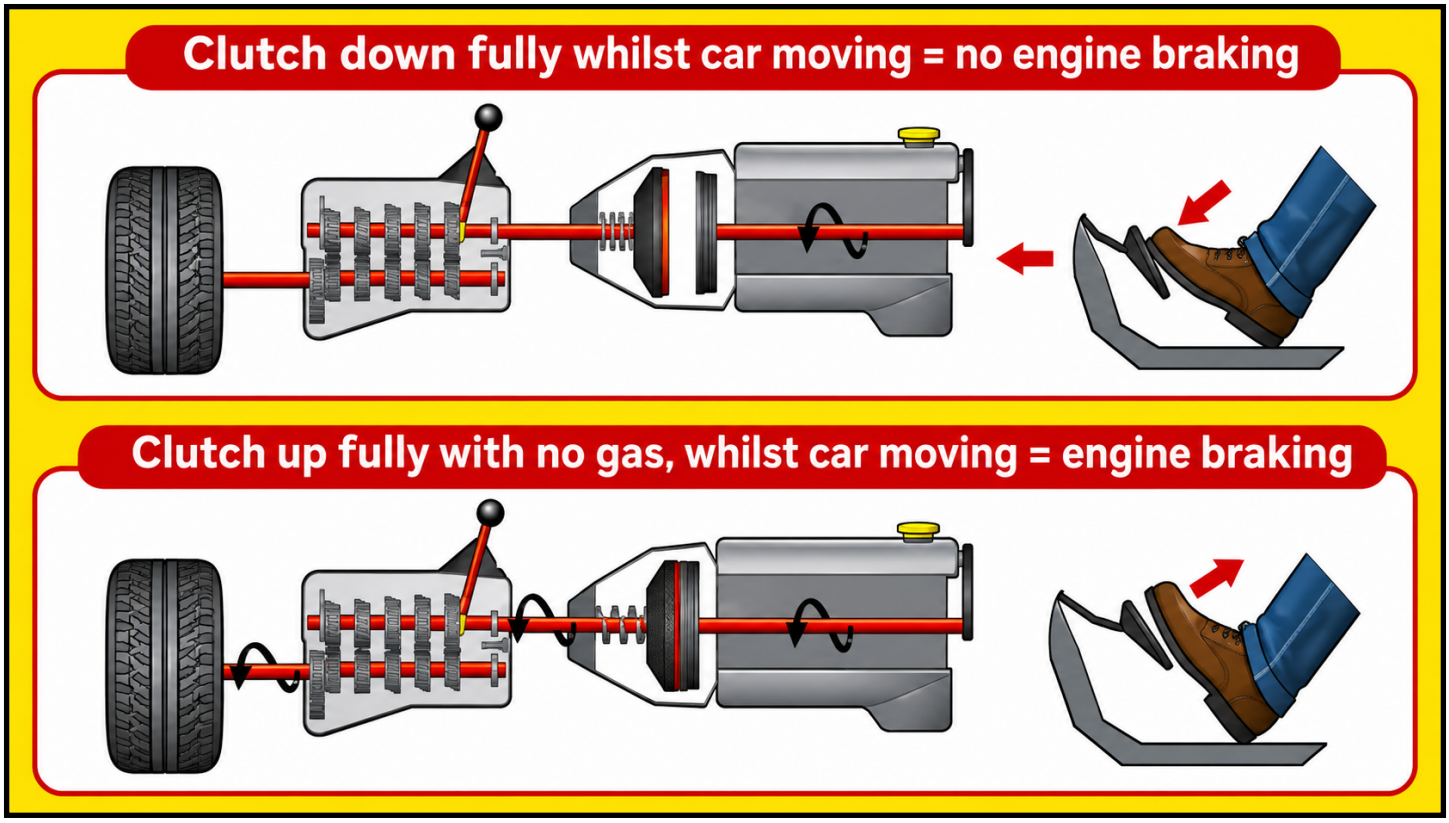
Driving through flooded roads and in snow

When you drive through a flooded road, you would choose the lower gear. This would make the engine rev more and it would be less likely to stall if water gets in the engine. When you drive in snow you would choose the higher gear. This would make the engine rev less and when you press the gas the car would be unable to accelerate quickly and so this would prevent the wheels from spinning in the snow.

Which gear to use on hills

When you drive up a hill you would choose the lower gear, because it is easier for the engine to pull the car when it revs higher. When you drive on a flat road you would choose the higher gear, because it is easier on a flat road for the car's engine to pull the car. When you drive in the higher gear and the engine revs less and this would also save fuel. When you drive down a hill gravity will make the car want to go faster. As well as using the brake to slow the car down you can use something called engine braking. To use engine braking you would select a lower gear. Lower gears are usually used for lower speeds, so this helps to prevent the car from going too fast down the hill.

If you were to drive in neutral or with the clutch down, this is called coasting. When you are coasting down a hill you have no engine braking and the car would go too fast. Coasting is bad, because you have less control of your car.



What help is available when taking the theory test?

Can I get any help when taking the theory test?

When you book your Theory Test you will be asked if you need additional support during the test. If you mark the 'yes' box to this question you will be asked what test support you need. In many cases, special arrangements can be made to help you during the test. If you have learning difficulties, problems with reading or writing, or have required additional help with examinations at school or college, then you may be able to get help with the question part of the Theory Test.

What help is available?

The following accommodations are available for everyone without having to provide proof, but they must be requested when booking the test:

- Spoken voiceover test using headphones.
- British sign language on screen.
- Coloured screen overlays.

If you are Deaf/deaf you may request the following without having to provide proof of hearing difficulty, but again they must request this when booking the test:

- A face to face British Sign Language interpreter signer.
- Lip speaker.
- Listening aid or hearing loop.

The following accommodations will require proof of special needs to be provided:

- Extra time to take the test.
- One to one reader/recorder.
- A separate room.

The following accommodations are also available, but are only provided in exceptional circumstances. They require your pupil to provide more exacting proof of special needs:

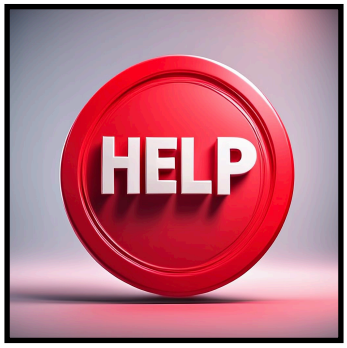
- Oral language modification (OLM).
- A theory test done in your own home.

The following accommodations are available for the hazard perception part of the theory test. Again, these will need to be requested in advance and you may need to provide proof:

- Pausing for a rest between clips if you suffer from motion sickness.
- Using an adapted mouse if you have a physical disability.

What do the accommodations mean?

- **Spoken voiceover test using headphones.** This is where you can have an English speaking voiceover on a headset. No proof of specific needs is required for this, just ask for this when booking your test.
- **British sign language on screen.** This is where you can have BSL on the screen with the questions. This is available for anyone and no proof of specific needs are required; just ask when you arrive at the test centre.
- **Lip speaker**. This is a hearing person who has been professionally trained to be easy to lipread.
- **One to one reader/recorder.** This is where a person will read the questions on the computer screen word for word and then record your answer. They are not permitted to explain the meaning of the English language.
- **A separate room.** This is where you take the test in a private room to avoid distractions from other people.
- **Oral language modification.** This is where a specially qualified person will reword the questions and answers to make them easier for you to understand. They wont be able to change the technical language, that you should be expected to know for this subject, but they can change the sentence structure and other non-technical words and phrases. To obtain this you need to prove, that you have severe difficulties with language comprehension.
- **A theory test done in your own home.** This is where the examiner comes to your home and the theory test is done in the familiar surroundings of your house. This is useful for anyone, who suffers from agoraphobia or severe anxiety.



How do I book a theory test if I have specific educational needs?

All special needs requirements must be notified to DVSA when booking the theory test – tick the box to say that you want additional support for your test. Requests for additional support when taking the theory test and notification of special needs must be made via the on-line booking service:

Standard Accommodations: Headphones & computer voice-over and the on-screen BSL interpreter service do not require proof of special needs but must be requested when you make the on-line booking. Tick the box and this will be arranged for you. The booking can be completed and paid for on-line if you choose either of these options.

Non-standard Accommodations: If the candidate needs extra time, a face to face reader/recorder, if an OLM test is required or if a separate room is necessary then proof of Special Needs will need to be provided. The booking will not be able to be completed on-line, DVSA will contact you to explain what proof is required and where you need to send it. The same procedure should be followed for Deaf/deaf candidates requiring a face-to-face BSL interpreter but no proof of hearing difficulty is required. If the booking cannot be completed on-line; enter all the details you can and leave your contact details, DVSA will provide you with a booking reference and then contact you by phone or email to discuss the accommodations requested, they will also explain what proof is required and tell you how to send it.

DVSA are currently advising candidates to notify them of any special needs when they book the theory test, but you can start the booking process before you are ready to take the test and state that you will decide when and where you wish to take the test later; this would give you additional time to get the necessary proof of special needs and for DVSA to consider this proof.

What proof or evidence do the DVSA need?

Deaf/deaf candidates needing a face-to-face BSL interpreter do not need to provide proof of hearing difficulties but requests for other non-standard accommodations will need to be supported with proof of special needs, this could be – a letter or email from School / College (stating what Special Needs provision was made when taking tests/exams) or from your GP (detailing the medical condition and Special Needs requirements) on headed paper should be sufficient.

It has also been confirmed that DVSA will accept online dyslexia screening products assured by the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) as proof of Special Needs – this would be suitable for those out of education or those who have not been formally diagnosed.
Click here to visit the British Dyslexia website

This contains a link to the quick screen dyslexia test from Pico Educational Systems Ltd, which is an online dyslexia screening product assured by the BDA. This proof should be adequate for those requesting extra time or a face-to-face reader/recorder.

If you have had a driving mobility assessment a report from the occupational therapist conducting the assessment will provide proof, that should be accepted by DVSA if a face-to-face reader/recorder is being requested.

For OLM tests, evidence of severe difficulties in language comprehension will be required by DVSA. This evidence would normally state that OLM has been required when taking exams at school or college and would take the form of a statement of educational needs from an educational professional or a report showing comprehension scores (which would need to equate to below 8 years of age) to warrant the service; a JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) Form 8 showing a cognitive processing standardised score of 69 or less would also warrant the service. For those out of formal education a report from any educational establishment attended or from a medical professional explaining the severe difficulties in language comprehension will be considered. If you have had a driving mobility assessment a supporting report from the occupational therapist conducting the assessment may be accepted by DVSA.

DVSA will consider the application and the evidence provided, they will then confirm back in writing that they have agreed to the request and will provide you with alternative dates for you to take the test at the test centre you have chosen, this letter will confirm the reference number that must be quoted when booking the test.

You should then contact the customer care team by phone, on the number given in the confirmation letter, quoting the reference and requesting the extra time, a reader/recorder or an OLM test, whichever is needed and the most convenient test date to take the test; if you have difficulty getting through by phone send an email to the address provided on the confirmation letter with a contact telephone number and ask them to ring back (put ‘special needs accommodations’ in the subject box).

Payment for the test will be taken once the booking is completed.

How do I book a theory if I have a physical disability?

If any specific requirements are needed due to physical disability these should be arranged when booking the test. These are:

- Wheelchair access to the building.
- Height adjustable desk.
- Bespoke design of computer mouse.
- Configuring a mouse operation rather than a touch screen.

DVSA theory test booking service

Telephone: 0300 200 1122
Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Click here to email DVSA customer services

Click here to book a theory test



Disability Driving Instructors (DDI)

About us

- We are a not for profit community interest company limited by guarantee (company number 8570552).
- We are a full member of driving mobility.
- We are an association of specialist driving instructors.
- We have a register of specialist instructors.
- Pupils can access the register through our website.
- We help disabled pupils get impartial advice about learning to drive.
- We liaise with the DVSA and DVLA on matters relevant to drivers with disabilities, medical conditions, specific educational needs and deafness.
- We provide training courses for driving instructors in the following areas:
  - Specific educational needs and anxiety.
  - Disabilities and medical conditions.
  - Sign language.

Our contact details

Click here to visit the DDI Website

Click here to visit the DDI Facebook page

Click here to visit the DDI Facebook group

Click her to visit the DDI youtube channel

Click here to email us

0844 800 7355



Glossary

Word	What the word means
Advisory	You only follow the advice that you are given if you want to.
Anti-lock braking system (ABS)	This helps to prevent skidding by stopping the wheels from locking up when you brake.
Anticipation	Thinking about what could happen next.
Aquaplaning	This happens in heavy rain when you drive through a big puddle and the water lifts all four tyres off the road. The tyres lose their grip on the road and the car skids sideways.
Blind spot	An area that you can't see in your mirrors.
Car's handbook	This book explains how the controls and buttons on the car work and tells you how to operate the different features on your. It also tells you about simple maintenance.
Catalytic converter	This removes some of the harmful pollution from the smoke in the exhaust system.
Cattle	Lots of cows.
Central reservation	The bit of grass in the middle of a dual carriageway, which separates the two roads.
Coast or coasting	This is when someone driving a manual car with gears drives with the clutch pedal pressed down or drives with the gearbox in neutral. It is a bad way of driving because you do not have full control of the car's speed.
Colour blind	A person with this can see. They are not blind. Some colours look the same to them, though.
Compression	Squashing something.
Compulsory	You must follow the advice that you are given.
Congestion	A traffic jam.
Consideration	Thinking about other people.
Contra-flow system	When you get traffic travelling on the opposite side of the road. You get them on motorways and dual carriageways when there are road works. You also get them in one-way streets.
Courtesy	Being patient with other drivers and being polite.

Decreasing	Making it lower.
Demister	These controls keep the windows clear and the car warm or cold. They are usually found underneath the radio.
Depth gauge	This is a marker on the wall at a ford telling you how deep the water is.
Dip in the road or dead ground	When the road drops down enough to hide an oncoming car.
Diver your attention	This means that you will be distracted and not concentrating on your driving.
Double	2 + 2 = 4. 4 is double of 2.
Double red lines	This is when you get two red lines at the side of the road near the kerb. Double red lines mean no parking and no stopping.
Double white lines	This is when you get two white lines in the middle of the road.
Double yellow lines	This is when you get two yellow lines at the side of the road near the kerb. Double yellow lines mean no parking at anytime.
Driving technique	This the way that you drive the car.
Dual carriageway	Two roads put together to make one road. On each of the roads traffic goes only in one direction.
DVLA	Driver and vehicle licencing authority.
DVSA	Driving and vehicle standards authority.
Eco safe driving	This means driving in a way that is better for the environment and the air that you breathe. This is driving in a way to make less smoke come out of the back of the car. In an automatic car you drive this way anyway.
Electric sensor	An electric thing that can see things moving or people walking.
Electronic stability system (ESC)	This helps to prevent skidding by using both the anti-lock and traction control systems together.
Emerge	This is when you pull out or move off at a T-junction or roundabout.
Ensure	This means to make something happen or to allow it to happen.
Environment	This is all the living things around you and the air that you breathe.

Exhaust system	This is a metal pipe that goes underneath the car. The front of the pipe connects to the engine and the back of the pipe comes out at the back of the car. The smoke, pollution and fumes from the engine go down the pipe and come out at the back of the car. The back of the pipe is open to allow the smoke out. To clean the pollution out of the smoke, the exhaust system will have a catalytic converter in it.
Filler cap	The cap for the petrol tank that keeps the petrol in.
Ford	This is road where a river flows over it and you have to drive through the water.
Four-wheel drive (4x4)	This is when the engine is connected to all four wheels of the car instead of just two wheels. When you use the gas pedal you will get more grip. When you use the brake pedal the grip is the same, though. Four-wheel drive is useful when you drive in snow or on a muddy field.
Hand held phone	This is when you hold your mobile phone in your hand to use it.
Hands free kit for phone	Allow you to use your mobile phone without holding it in your hand.
Hard shoulder	This is the lane or parking bay on the left of a motorway that cars use when they break down.
Immobilizer	This is a part of a car alarm that stops thieves from starting the engine.
In operation	When it is working.
Incident	This is an accident or a car breaking down or when something goes wrong.
Increasing	Making it higher.
Inexperienced	A driver that hasn't done a lot of driving such as a learner driver.
Inflate	Pump up the car's tyres.
Lack of tyre noise	This means that the tyres are quiet. This is usually because you are driving on a slippery or icy road.
Least	The lowest or smallest.
Low engine revs	This is when you press the gas pedal gently.
Mandatory	You must follow the advice that you are given.
Maximum	The highest one or a limit. A speed limit is a maximum speed for the road.

Minimum	The lowest one or the least.
Obey	You must do what it tells you to do.
Observation	Looking all around.
Oncoming car	Cars coming towards you.
Out of operation	Broken or not working.
Over inflate	The car's tyres are pumped up too much.
Park and ride	This where people driving to the city centre can park in a car park near the city centre and then get on a bus or tram to finish the journey.
Peak times or rush hour	When the roads are busy with people going to work or coming home from work.
Priority	This is who goes first.
Qualifies	The things you must be able to do, to get something.
Quayside	This is where boats are tied up in a harbour.
Reducing	Making it lower.
Response	An answer to a question is a response.
Shock absorber	This part of the car's suspension stops it bouncing too much.
Single carriageway	One road with two-way traffic going in both directions on it.
Spillage	When you spill something on the floor.
Stability	This is whether or not your car wobbles when you drive it. If you reduce the stability of the car it will wobble more when you drive it. If you increase the stability of the car it will not wobble when you drive it.
Stalling	This is something that can happen in a car with gears. It happens when the driver works the car's controls wrongly causing the engine to stop. The driver then has to turn the key and start the engine again.
Static hazard	A hazard that stays still.

Suspension	This connects the four wheels to the car. It makes the car go over bumps smoother.
Tailgating	This means driving too close to the car in front.
Traction control system	This helps to prevent skidding by stopping the tyres from losing grip when you speed up.
Tyre tread depth	This is how deep the groove in the tyre is. It should be more that 1.6mm. If the tyres are not pumped up enough or under inflated the car will use more petrol.
Under inflate	The car's tyres are not pumped up enough.
Unmarked	Where a road or junction does not have any road markings painted on it.
Valid	This is how long something last for
Vibrate	This is when something wobbles quickly.
Vulnerable road users	These are people or vehicles that have no or very little protection, when they are involved in a crash, because they are not inside something. For example: pedestrians, cyclist, motorcyclists and horse riders.
Windscreen pillar	The metal part of the car between the windows.