

Crossing traffic

- ✓ There will be occasions when you have to cross the path of other traffic to get to where you are going - eg when turning right into a side road or negotiating a crossroads. The cars whose path you cross have priority, so don't cause them to slow down or stop.
- ✓ **The walk across rule:**
You should try to time your arrival at the junction with a gap in the oncoming traffic, so you don't have to wait. To help you decide if the gap is big enough, you can use the 'walk across rule'. If you think there is time to walk across the road, there should be time to drive across it, so long as you remain on the move. However, if you have stopped to wait, it will take about twice as long to get across. Trust your instincts - if your stomach says no, don't go.
- ✓ **Check your exit is clear:**
Always make sure your exit road is clear before crossing traffic. Look deep into side roads before starting to turn because if something blocks your path, you may have to stop with the back of your car still sticking out into the main road. Equally, always double check there is room to complete the turn when emerging right from a side road onto a main road, particularly in heavy traffic.
- ✓ **Right turn boxes:**
If there is a box in the middle of the main road opposite your right turn, drive into it so you are out of the way of following traffic. Before the box, there will be a hatched area bordered by a broken line - avoid driving into this area unless it is safe to and necessary. Only enter hatched areas bounded by a solid line in an emergency.

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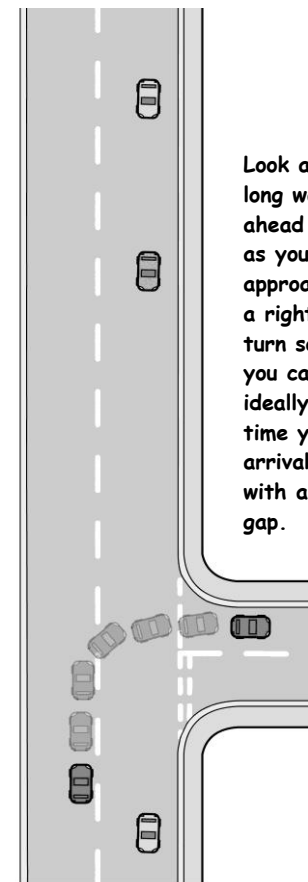


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* When turning right into a side road, if you can't time your arrival with a gap and have to wait, make sure you're poised to go when an opportunity arises. Have your hand on the handbrake and be ready at the biting point as your gap approaches. Just before you go, have a final look in your right mirror to make sure nobody is about to overtake you.

* In busy traffic oncoming vehicles are more likely to create a gap for you, especially if they can see that cars are waiting behind you in a queue. Professional drivers are more likely to do this, so look out for lorry drivers and bus drivers etc.

* Sometimes oncoming vehicles will flash their headlights to prompt you to pass in front of them, but this is not an official signal and could be misinterpreted. For example, a driver waiting in the side road might think he is the one being flashed and pull out just as you are about to turn in. Always check the situation is completely safe before responding to flashing headlights and do not flash in this way yourself.



Look a long way ahead as you approach a right turn so you can ideally time your arrival with a gap.

Check ALL paths of oncoming traffic before deciding if it is safe to go

A common accident scenario at junctions is when drivers start to emerge left before looking to the left because they expect that lane to be clear - only to find someone in their path who is overtaking parked cars. Don't put yourself at risk - check thoroughly at junctions so you're 100% sure it's safe to go.

