

## Dual carriageways

- ✓ **The basics:** A dual carriageway is a road with a central reservation in the middle - a crash barrier, grass verge etc (but not just paint). It usually has more than one lane on each side. The speed limit for cars is 70mph, unless signposts indicate a lower limit.
- ✓ **More dangerous than motorways:** Although the speed limit for cars is the same on both roads, certain road users who are banned from M-ways are allowed on DCs - eg cyclists, pedestrians, learner drivers etc. They could cause traffic to slow down suddenly, so look a long way ahead so you can reduce speed or change lanes in time. Respond to brake lights early.
- ✓ **Managing space:** Keep in the centre of your lane & at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front of you on a dry road, or 4secs behind on a wet road. Certain vehicles have to keep to a slower speed on DCs (eg HGVs can only do 50mph), so be prepared for gaps in traffic to close quickly. Monitor mirrors frequently so you can predict the actions of other drivers. Hold the wheel firmly when they overtake, especially large vehicles, in case a slipstream sucks you towards them. If they cut back in front of you too close, drop back asap. Try to keep space alongside you, so you always have an escape route. On busy DCs position diagonally with cars in adjacent lanes, so you don't get side swiped if they change lanes suddenly.
- ✓ **Avoiding a crash:** Most accidents on DCs happen near junctions. When approaching a junction, change lanes early if you need to accommodate joining traffic and watch out for drivers who wish to leave the DC making a sudden dash for their exit road. More details about joining and leaving DCs are overleaf.

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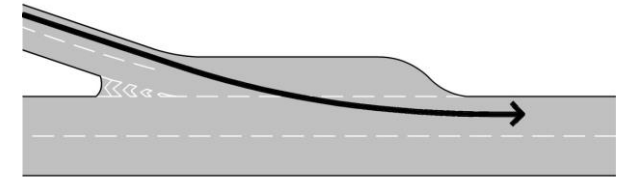
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## Joining a dual carriageway using a slip road...

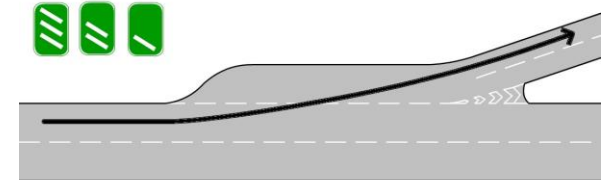
On the slip road build up your speed to match the traffic on the main carriageway, so your entry is a simple lane change.



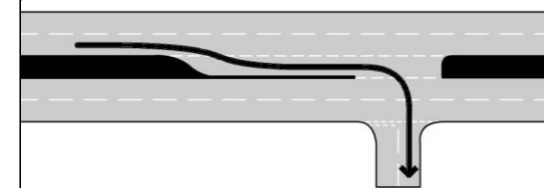
If there are slow moving vehicles in the left lane of the slip road, use the right lane to pass them because if you approach the main carriageway too slowly, it may be hard to find a gap. Signal right as the two lanes of the slip road merge. Use your mirrors to find a gap in the traffic, then check your blind spot & join the main carriageway. Other vehicles may move out of lane one or adjust their speed to accommodate you. If you can't find a safe gap, stop at the end of the slip road & wait there for a gap.

## Leaving a dual carriageway using a deceleration lane...

Signal left at the countdown marker with three stripes. Avoid slowing down until you are in the deceleration lane, otherwise you may disrupt the flow of traffic on the main carriageway. Once you are off the dual carriageway, keep checking your speed as you may be desensitized to speed.

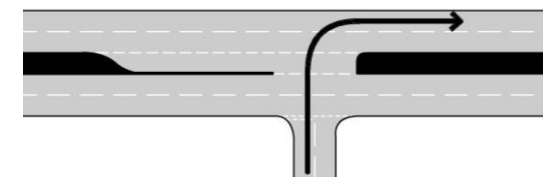


## Dual carriageway T-junctions...



When turning right from a dual carriageway into a side road, signal early because you will need to slow down on the main carriageway before entering the central reserve area.

When turning right onto a dual carriageway from a side road, you can wait in the middle for a gap only if your whole car fits within the central reserve area. For the best view, position straight.



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