

Left reverse

Sometimes you may need to turn your car around to drive in the opposite direction and one way to do this is to reverse into a side road on your left and then pull out again. You should never reverse onto a main road. While you are completing the manoeuvre it's vital that you keep a look out for other road users and stop when anyone gets close to you.



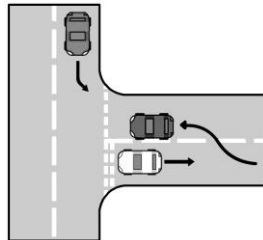
Creep and seek

You need to keep the car moving at less than walking pace so you have time to monitor your position and constantly check around for other road users. Do this by using clutch control. You should mainly look through the rear window during the manoeuvre but also make frequent checks to the right and front. Occasionally glance in your left mirror to check your distance from the kerb.



Dealing with other road users

If another vehicle arrives behind you once you have started to reverse into the new road, you should pull back around the corner to your starting position. If you remain stationary, the driver may try to overtake you, which would be dangerous near a junction - see picture. However, if the car behind gives way, allowing you room to complete the manoeuvre, then continue.



If pedestrians walk near your car, you must stop and watch them pass. Don't continue until you're satisfied there's no danger that they will cross the road near you.

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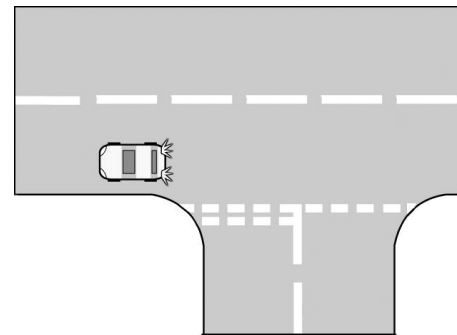
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How to do it...

1. Get in position

The examiner will ask you to pull over a few car lengths before the side road you are about to reverse into to explain what you have to do. You will then drive past the road and stop again about three car lengths past it. On the way past, look in to check there are no parked cars or other hazards near the junction that will make the manoeuvre unsafe. Also check how sharp the corner is. If you need to signal to pull over, do so after you have passed the first half of the side road.

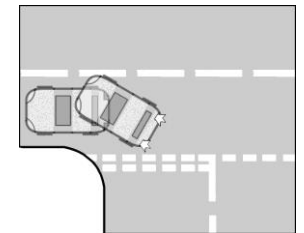


2. Reverse to the point of turn

Check around the car, then look mainly through the rear window and reverse until the back of the car is at the start of the corner - the point of turn. At this point, in your left mirror it will look like the gap between the car and the kerb is about to widen. On the way back, occasionally glance ahead to check for other road users. If anyone gets close, stop and wait.

3. Check your right blind spot

At the point of turn, check over your right shoulder to make sure nobody is in your blind spot before you steer. This is because the car will swing out to the right when you steer left. Normally you will need to steer about three quarters of a turn of the steering wheel to the left. If the corner is sharp, steer more.



4. Monitor your progress around the corner

Look through the rear window and all around as you negotiate the corner, trusting your judgement to guide you. Also check the left side mirror occasionally to make sure the gap between the car and the kerb remains just over a drain's width. If the gap gets too small steer away from the kerb, if it gets too big, steer towards it. Your instructor will give you further advice about the steering if necessary.

5. Final straight

When the car is straight in the new road, steer right to straighten the front wheels & reverse back three car lengths, looking mainly through the rear window.