

Moving off and stopping



MOVING OFF

To move off safely, follow this routine:

- i) prepare the car at the biting point
- ii) look around to check it is safe to move off
- iii) signal, if necessary, then release the handbrake & go.

An easy way to remember the order of actions is to think of the acronym **POM**. P is for prepare, O is for observe, M is for move.

P: To prepare the car, first check the gear stick is in neutral and the handbrake is on, then start the engine. Next push the clutch down and select first gear, then press the gas pedal a little so the engine is humming. Then bring the clutch up until the engine tone changes to a lower tone. This is the *biting point*.

O: To observe all around the car, you should first check your left blind-spot by looking through the rear side window on the left. Then check the left side mirror, the middle mirror, the road ahead and the right side mirror. Finally check the right blind-spot by looking through rear side window on your right. (Reverse the order when pulling off from the right hand kerb).

M: If it is safe to go, signal - but only if this would be helpful to someone. Then release the handbrake. At this point the car shouldn't move, if your feet are correctly at the biting point. To get the car to move, bring the clutch up 5mm at the same time as pressing the gas pedal 5mm. This position is known as the *driving point*. Wait until you have travelled half a car length, then bring the clutch all the way up with a little more gas. Steer out about 1m from the kerb. Before accelerating, check the middle mirror again.

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All about stopping...



STOPPING

There is a routine for stopping too - **MSM**. This stands for mirrors, signal, manoeuvre.

Mirrors: Once you have found somewhere to park, check the rear view mirror and the left side mirror (or right side mirror if you are parking on the right).

Signal: If there is anyone around who could be affected by your actions, signal left (or right if you are parking on the right).

M: Press the footbrake gently to slow down to walking pace, gradually steer in until you are about 30cm from the kerb, then straighten up while looking well ahead. Press the clutch down just before the car stops. Pull up the handbrake and select neutral.



Choose a good spot to park

On your driving test your examiner will ask you to pull over at the side of the road several times. You must choose somewhere to stop that is safe, legal and convenient. Below are some examples of places where you should not park:

- Less than 10m from a junction
- Near the brow of a hill or a bend
- Across a driveway
- On, or partly on, a pavement
- At a bus stop or in a bus/cycle lane
- Where road markings or signs forbid it
- Anywhere where it would be an inconvenience to others
- In a parking bay with your wheels outside of the bay...or with the car at a funny angle!

