

## Overtaking

- ✓ The key to overtaking safely is in how well you observe the road ahead. You must be certain that there is enough room to tuck back in safely afterwards. Like a pilot, you should never take off unless you know where you are going to land.
- ✓ **Assess the road:** Stay back far enough to be able to see well past the vehicle you want to overtake. Look for anything that might make overtaking unsafe - such as a side road where a car could pull out, a bend, the brow of a hill or dead ground. Also check for road markings that might make overtaking illegal, such as solid white centre lines, and for anything that might cause the driver in front to change course, such as a puddle. Also look for smaller vehicles hidden in front of the target vehicle and check for relevant road signs such as the 'no overtaking' sign or a speed limit change ahead.
- ✓ **Get in position:** If it all looks safe, check your mirrors and right shoulder (is someone else about to overtake you?), indicate right, and select a gear to allow you to overtake swiftly. Moving out to the right, close the gap between you and the target vehicle but maintain a safe stopping distance between you until you have had a clear look at the road ahead. If you notice something new that makes the situation unsafe, simply side step back behind the target car. Aborting the move before starting to pass the vehicle will prevent following drivers from boxing you in.
- ✓ **Make the move:** If everything looks ok, continue to overtake. Leave plenty of room in front of the car you have overtaken before you steer back in.

Pass your test with:

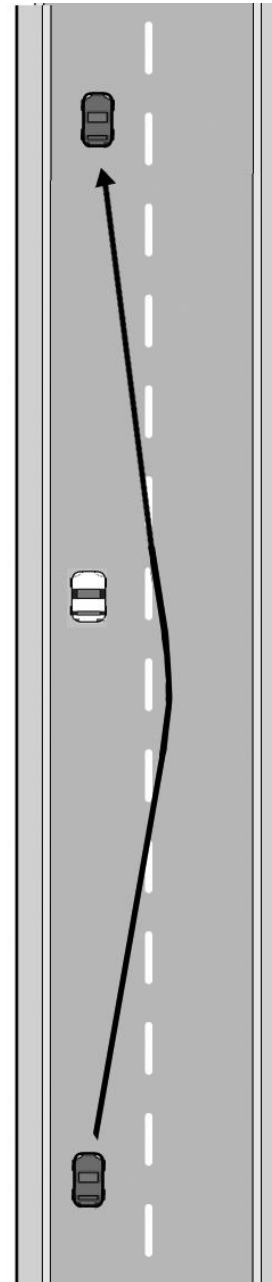
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## Overtaking - three golden questions



Overtaking is one of the most dangerous things you can do as a driver so always ask yourself these three key questions before you do it:

1. **Is it safe** - is the road clear far enough ahead? Is there any potential for the situation to change during the manoeuvre?
2. **Is it legal** - are there road signs or markings prohibiting the move? Can you overtake without breaking the speed limit?
3. **Is it necessary?** - Will it make much difference to your total journey time if the driver in front is only going slightly slower than the speed limit? Are you turning off soon anyway? Is there any point if you can only pass one or two vehicles in a long slow queue? Are you approaching a town where the speed limit is about to lower anyway?

### **Don't pressure other drivers**

It can be frustrating if you are behind a vehicle that is missing safe opportunities to overtake a slower vehicle at the front of a queue but don't pressure them by tail-gating because if they make a wrong decision the consequence could be a head on collision. Remember some drivers may not be as confident as you are.