

## Driving lesson M1. Straight line reversing

### Introduction

The reversing driving lessons of the Learner Driving Programme can be introduced at any point after the co-ordination driving lesson and can be combined with one or more of the forward driving lessons. It is important that each of the reversing manoeuvres is learnt in the order shown as the skills from the first manoeuvre driving lesson become the sub skills for the next manoeuvre and so on. All the reversing manoeuvres should be undertaken in quiet housing estates or car parks.

### Lesson aims and objectives

During this driving lesson you will learn how to reverse the car in a straight line, which will form the basis for all the other manoeuvres.

By the end of this driving lesson you should be able to:

- Explain about the use of seat belts during reversing;
- Explain the importance of selecting a safe, legal and convenient place when undertaking any reversing manoeuvre;
- Select reverse gear;
- Sit correctly to enable effective rear observations;
- Hold the steering wheel correctly with your right hand at the 12 o'clock position and your left hand near the 6 o'clock position;
- Explain why there is a delayed action when steering while reversing;
- Maintain a straight course;
- Use clutch control to maintain a slow speed;
- Pause periodically in order to maintain all round observations throughout the manoeuvre;
- Deal correctly with other road users while reversing;
- Complete the exercise on roads with varying gradients.

### Subject brief

The key learning points for this manoeuvre are:

#### 1. Location

Make sure that where you intend to reverse is safe, legal and convenient.

#### 2. Seating position and seatbelt

When reversing you can unfasten your seatbelt to enable you to shuffle around in your seat so that you can look through the rear window over your left shoulder.

#### 3. Position of hands on the steering wheel

When reversing you usually hold the steering wheel with your right hand at the 12 o'clock position and your left hand near the 6 o'clock position.



#### 4. Select reverse gear

If this wasn't covered in earlier driving lessons you will be shown how to select reverse gear.



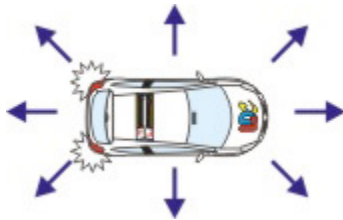
#### 5. Low speed (clutch control)

All the set manoeuvres should be undertaken at a very slow speed by using what is commonly known as 'clutch control'.



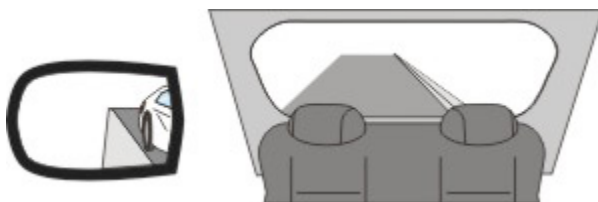
#### 6. All round awareness

While reversing you should be taking observations through the rear window of the vehicle occasionally pausing, using clutch control, to take all round observations.



#### 7. Look well back for positioning

In exactly the same way that you position the car when moving forward by looking well ahead the same is true for driving in reverse. The near side door mirror may also be useful for checking the position of the vehicle in relation to the kerb.



#### 8. Dealing with other road users

When reversing pause and wait if a vehicle appears to your rear. Particularly watch for pedestrians or children on bikes crossing to your rear, again you need to give way and wait. When crossing a driveway to your rear watch for road users emerging from or wanting to turn into the driveway.



**Highway Code study**  
Rules: 200 - 203.

## Driving lesson M2. Reversing to the left

### Introduction

The reverse round a corner manoeuvre is basically made up of two straight line reverses with a turn in between.

### Lesson aims and objectives

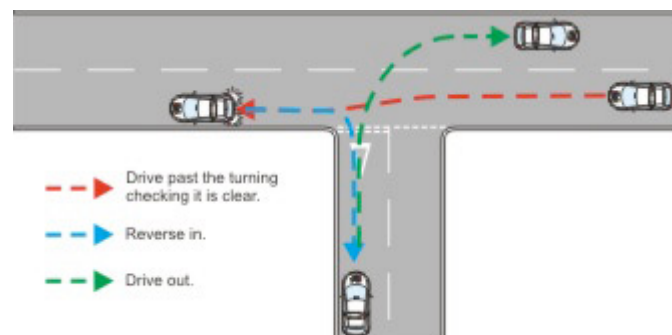
During this driving lesson you will learn how to reverse into a side road safely. By the end of this driving lesson you should be able to:

- Explain when it would not be safe, legal or convenient to carry out this manoeuvre;
- Pull up in a suitable position on the left hand side of the road just after the side road into which you intend to reverse;
- Explain the dangers caused by the car as you start to turn;
- Judge when you should begin to turn depending on the sharpness of the corner;
- Make suitable observational checks throughout the manoeuvre and especially before you turn, ensuring it is safe to proceed;
- Steer a suitable course as you turn and keep within a metre of the kerb or less if the road is narrow;
- Judge when you should begin to straighten up your steering as you enter the side road;
- Correct positioning errors;
- Deal correctly with other road users;
- Recognise when you have reversed 3 car lengths into the side road;
- Complete the exercise on sharp and curved corners on roads with and without gradients;
- Remember to fasten your seatbelt before driving away safely.

### Subject brief

The safest and easiest way to turn around and go back in the opposite direction is to drive all the way around a roundabout or around the block. If this is not possible, the next best, and most common solution is to reverse into an opening on the left.

The reverse to the left is basically two straight line reverses with a turn in between. Therefore the only new part is the turn. But the turn introduces some additional learning points.



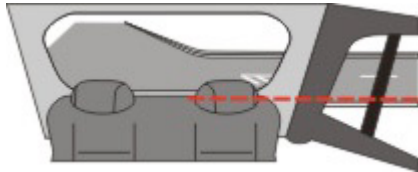
Drive past the turning checking it is clear.

### 1. Location

You must never reverse from a side road into the main road. You would only consider reversing into a side road on the left that was a give way junction and had little or no traffic emerging out of it. Again you would need to consider whether it was safe, legal and convenient.

### 2. Position of hands on the steering wheel

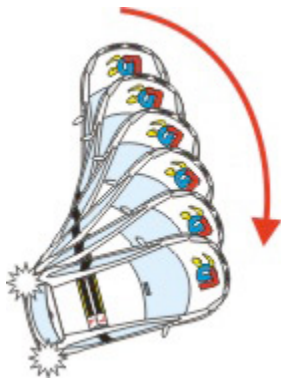
At the point you start to turn you will need to use both hands and the pull push method of steering although it may be offset to the left so that you can maintain observations over your left shoulder.



When looking to the rear the effect of turning the steering wheel on the vehicle's position is much less pronounced. The effects of steering also appear to be delayed. This is why it is easy to oversteer when reversing.

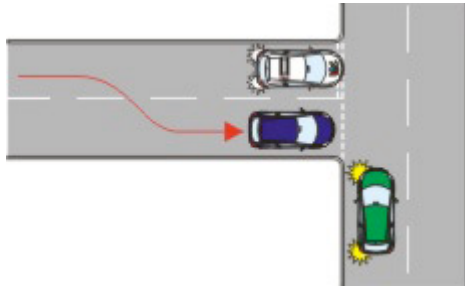
### 3. All round awareness

Because you intend to turn into a side road against the flow of traffic extra observations are needed into the side road. Extra observations are also needed to the front as the front of the car will swing out as you turn and may present a hazard to passing traffic on the major road.



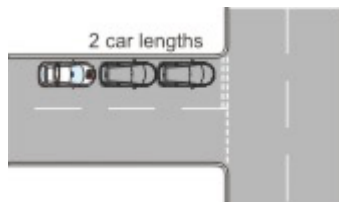
### 4. Dealing with other road users

When reversing to the left be prepared to abandon the manoeuvre and drive forward to the start position. Until you are well back into the side road, it is potentially very dangerous for other vehicles to overtake you so close to the junction.



### **5. Distance you need to reverse into the side road**

When reversing to the left you should reverse for a reasonable distance (i.e. about 2 car lengths) into the side road. This makes the junction safe for other vehicles to negotiate and gives you time and space to move away safely.



## Driving lesson M4. Bay Parking

### Introduction

Bay parking is an essential skill to learn if you are parking in multi storey or supermarket car parks. The skills required are very similar to those needed for the reverse to the left and the reverse to the right.

You often see drivers struggling trying to reverse out of parking bays especially at night or if they have passengers in the back seats, however drivers who have reversed in can drive straight out. Not only is it safer to reverse into a parking space it is more eco-friendly as you will not use extra fuel manoeuvring when the engine is cold.

### Lesson aims and objectives

By the end of this driving lesson you should be able to:

- Recognise a parking space you are able to reverse into;
- Explain the dangers to look out for while undertaking this manoeuvre;
- Judge when to steer into the middle of the parking bay;
- Make effective observations throughout the manoeuvre;
- Deal correctly with other road users.

### Subject brief

When parking in a car park it is safer to reverse into a space than drive into it, so it is vitally important that your observations are effective and you keep the speed of your vehicle down to a very slow walking pace. Remember that pedestrians use car parks as well and may walk in front of or behind your vehicle.

When choosing a bay to reverse into make sure you have sufficient space to park and open your doors. The configuration of the car park will determine how you line your vehicle up to start your manoeuvre.

### 1. Location

Choose the bay you want to reverse into and pull up about two car lengths past it. Select reverse gear and prepare the car to move.

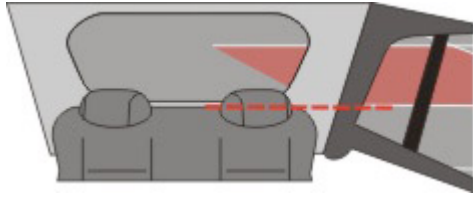


### 2. Observations

Take good all round observations to make sure it is safe to move.

### 3. Position to turn

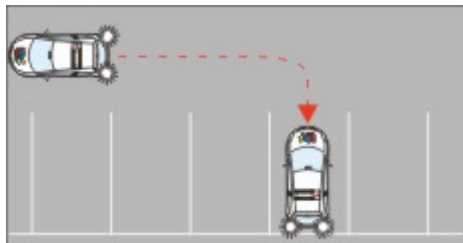
Look behind and reverse slowly until the first white line of the bay you are reversing into appears to be in line with the top of the back seat through the left rear passenger door window.



At this point take good all round observations again and if it is safe to carry on steer full lock to the left (or right if reversing into a bay on the right) as the car moves slowly into the bay.

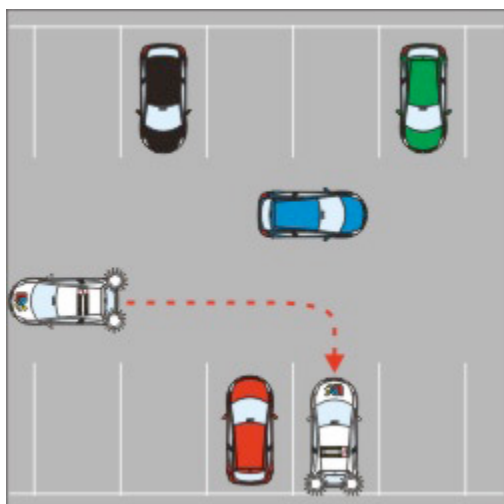
Throughout this manoeuvre you should be looking through the rear window, you can however take glances in your door mirrors if this helps you to successfully position the car.

As the car becomes straight and parallel with the white lines, straighten the steering as appropriate so that your car finishes parked straight and centrally between the two white lines.



### **Sharp corner park**

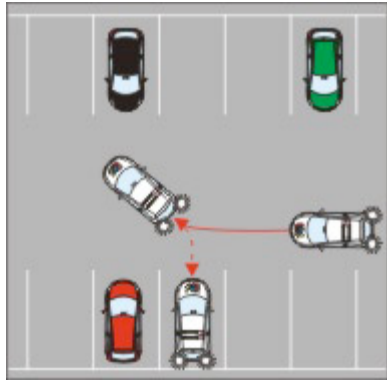
When reversing from the left into a bay as shown below it is almost identical to a left hand reverse round a sharp corner.



### **Diagonal park**

Another way to reverse into a parking bay is to pull forward diagonally in front of the bay you wish to turn into and reverse, as shown in the diagram below.





## **Driving lesson M5. Turn in the road**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of the turn in the road manoeuvre is to turn the car to face the opposite direction by using the forward and reverse gears. At this stage in the program you should have mastered all the component skills that make up this manoeuvre; the angle start, reversing to the left and reversing to the right. The key to this manoeuvre is fast steering and slow speed via good clutch control.

### **Lesson aims and objectives**

By the end of this driving lesson you should be able to:

- Explain when it would not be safe, legal or convenient to carry out this manoeuvre;
- Turn full right lock briskly as you drive the car very slowly towards the far side kerb and then straighten the wheels rapidly just prior to reaching the kerb;
- Turn full left lock briskly as you reverse the car very slowly towards the near side kerb and then straighten the wheels rapidly just prior to reaching the kerb;
- Repeat the above steps as necessary before completing the final step of the manoeuvre;
- Use clutch control to deal with any upward and then downward slope caused by the camber in the road;
- Take all round observations before and during each step of the manoeuvre remembering to look over your left and then your right shoulder as you reverse;
- Apply the handbrake between each step;
- Deal correctly with all other road users;
- Complete the exercise on wide and narrow roads with differing cambers and on roads with occasional traffic.

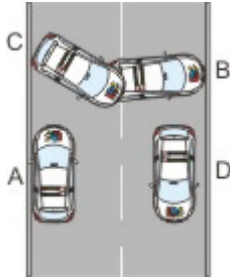
### **Subject brief**

If you found yourself in a dead end road it might be the only manoeuvre that you could use to turn around safely.

The start of the turn is similar to an 'angle start'. As you move across to position B, you will be using clutch control to maintain a slow, safe speed and using your observational skills to keep looking for other vehicles around your car. Steer briskly to the right as you start to move, but before you reach the kerb at position B steer briskly to the left.

After you have stopped at position B, you will reverse to the left (after a slight uphill start). Move across to position C, but before you reach the kerb steer briskly to the right.

From this point move across to position D which is your normal driving position.



The additional learning points for this manoeuvre are:

### 1. Location

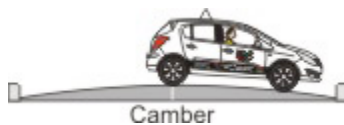
Choose a location that is quiet and where you have as much room as possible. Avoid locations where there are trees or posts or other obstructions near or on the kerb. Keep away from parked vehicles and ensure that you will be easily seen by approaching traffic. Once your vehicle is broadside across the road (i.e. in positions B or C in the earlier diagram) you are very vulnerable to approaching traffic from either direction.

### 2. Steering

Being able to change the lock of the steering wheel briskly just before you reach point B and point C is the key to completing the manoeuvre in as few movements as possible.

### 3. Handbrake and clutch control

The camber of the road may require you to apply the handbrake at point B and C to prevent the car from rolling forward and backwards. It will also require you to use your previously learnt clutch control and braking skills.



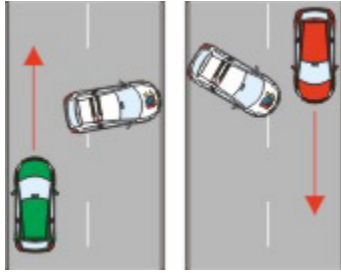
### 4. All round awareness

All round observations are particularly important to this manoeuvre as you need to be aware of traffic approaching from either side of your vehicle while watching for

pedestrians who might cross from the front or the rear. Therefore when you are moving forward you are continually looking from side to side while looking ahead. When reversing you continually move from looking over your left shoulder to your right shoulder as appropriate.

### 5. Dealing with other vehicles

The manoeuvre should not be started until the road is clear of traffic in both directions. Once you have completed the first leg, any traffic that is waiting can pass behind you if they want to. Similarly, before commencing the third leg you can allow any waiting traffic to pass in front of you if they want to. The same would apply if it took further movements forwards and backwards to complete the manoeuvre.



## 6. Number of movements needed

It may not always be possible to complete the manoeuvre in three legs or movements. Additional movements forward and backwards may be needed particularly if the road is very narrow. The procedure for these additional movements is basically the same.

## Driving lesson M6. Parallel parking

### Introduction

The parallel park is an essential skill to learn if you want to be able to park in town on the street. More often than not there is insufficient space to drive forward into a vacant parking space and therefore your only option is to reverse in.

### Lesson aims and objectives

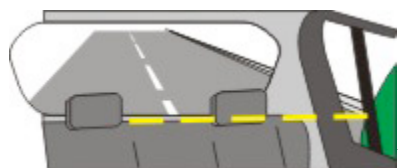
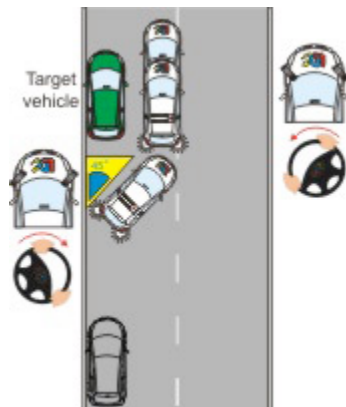
By the end of this driving lesson you should be able to:

- Explain when it would not be safe, legal or convenient to carry out this manoeuvre;
- Pull up in a suitable position along side the car you intend to park behind and immediately select reverse gear to warn other road users of your intentions;
- Explain the dangers that the car presents as you undertake this manoeuvre;
- Judge when you can begin to turn to the left and straighten the wheels to enable you to reverse the car towards the kerb at an angle of 45 degrees;
- Make effective observational checks throughout the manoeuvre and especially before you turn, ensuring it is safe to proceed;
- Judge when you can begin to steer to the right and straighten the wheels to enable you to reverse the car alongside and parallel to the kerb;
- Deal correctly with other road users;
- Complete the manoeuvre within two car lengths from the back of the parked vehicle in front and less than half a metre from the kerb.

### Subject brief

#### Parallel parking

The parallel park manoeuvre requires you to pull alongside the target vehicle you intend to park behind. Try to line up your left door mirror with the front end of the target vehicle.



Having checked that it is safe to commence the manoeuvre you gradually reverse until your rear wheels are level with the back of the target vehicle. At this point begin to apply sufficient left hand lock until your car is

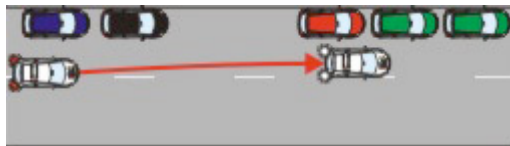
diagonal to the kerb at about a 45 degree angle. When the back of your vehicle is about 2 feet from the kerb apply sufficient right hand lock so that the vehicle becomes parallel to the kerb. Continue to reverse slowly and steer to the left to straighten the wheels of your vehicle.

Should you need to move forward to correct your position you may do so provided you can still pull away from behind the vehicle in front without having to reverse again. Irrespective of this the manoeuvre must be done within two car lengths of the rear of the target vehicle.

The additional learning points associated with this manoeuvre are as follows:

### 1. Location

Carefully assess the parking space to ensure it is at least one and a half car lengths in size and that it is safe, legal and convenient.

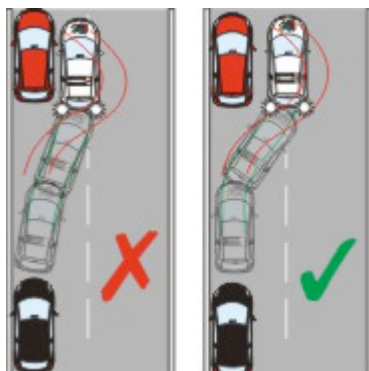


### 2. Signal your intentions clearly

Make sure your intentions are known by slowing down well before the parking space and by positioning yourself reasonably close and parallel to the vehicle that you intend to park behind. Immediately get ready to reverse. The brake and reversing lights become a signal to following traffic as does the change in position.

### 3. Target car position

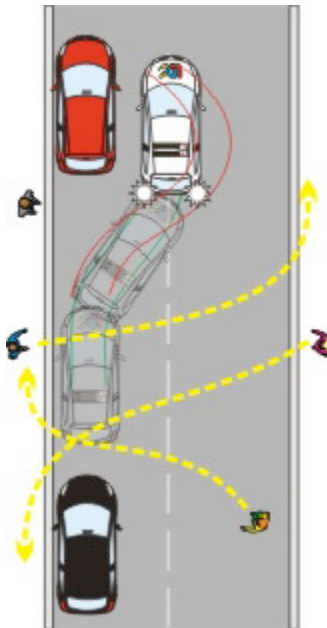
Try to position your car parallel to the target vehicle allowing sufficient room for oncoming vehicles to pass or following vehicles to overtake but not so close that it prevents you from completing the manoeuvre in the space available. The closer you are to the target car the more difficult it will be to get a suitable angle to reverse into the space available.



### 4. All round awareness

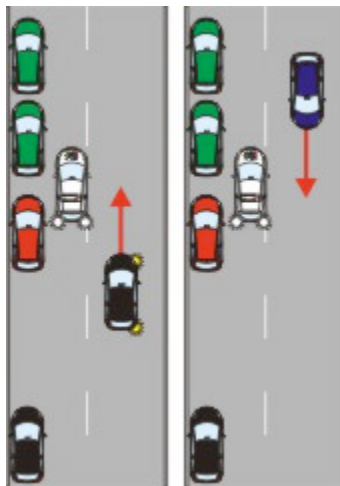
Watch out for pedestrians from either side of the road who may cross behind you as you attempt to reverse. This will require you to be continually looking over your left and right hand shoulders being careful to pause using clutch control when your view to the rear is temporarily lost in the switch over. Check that you will not present a

hazard to passing vehicles as your vehicle swings out. Similarly ensure you will not hit the rear of the target vehicle with the front of your car as you swing in.



### 5. Dealing with other road users

You must always give way to other road users. You must give way to any pedestrians crossing behind and avoid swinging the car out into the path of overtaking or oncoming vehicles.



### 6. Keeping calm

Other experienced drivers will appreciate that if you rush this manoeuvre you will end up taking longer and run the risk of hitting something or someone. Therefore if traffic appears once you have started the manoeuvre you will usually find that they give you priority. Under no circumstances allow yourself to be hurried when doing this exercise.