

# Approaching Junctions to Turn Left

## MSM/PSGL

The MSM/PSGL routine is fundamental to safe driving. It is the routine we apply when performing any manoeuvre (a change of position or speed) and when dealing with any potential hazard (anything which **may** cause a change of position or speed). The routine offers us a logical system in our driving which helps to develop better vehicle control and safer driving. It is important that you learn this routine and practice it throughout your driving.

### MSM/PSGL

**Mirrors:** Check your mirrors in good time to assess the position and speed of traffic behind you. Check that it is safe to carry out the manoeuvre.

**Signal:** Based on your observations consider whether it is necessary and safe to give a signal. If it is, signal your intention to change direction or speed in good time, being careful not to mislead others.

**Manoeuvre:** This is broken down into the following steps:

**Position:** It is not always necessary to alter the position of the vehicle (as illustrated), however, when a change of position is needed, move into position in plenty of time. This helps to reinforce your signal and intention to manoeuvre. If you have to move out around an obstruction, like a parked vehicle, then you should check your mirrors again before moving back to the normal driving position.

**Speed:** Once you have taken up your position you need to make sure your speed is appropriate to carrying out the manoeuvre safely. Using the footbrake progressively gives you control and again signals your intentions.

**Gear:** When the speed is right you need to consider selecting a gear which will allow you to maintain control of the vehicle throughout the manoeuvre. This is usually 2nd or 1st, whichever is appropriate to the road and traffic conditions. Your foot must come completely off the clutch pedal before starting the turn at the junction.

**Look:** You will of course be looking ahead and assessing throughout the routine on approach. However, this is where the decision to proceed or wait has to be made.

This part is broken into four deciding factors:

**Look** - what can you see? **Assess** - is it safe to proceed? **Decide** - based on what you have assessed. **Act** - carry out your decision to proceed or wait.

Once you have made the turn into the new road, you should check your centre and right mirrors again. This is a check for any other road user who might try to overtake.

## Quick Quiz

1. True or false? We should always apply each part of the MSM/PSL routine when driving.
2. What is meant by a misleading signal?
3. Why is it important that the car is at the correct speed before selecting the gear?
4. When performing a left turn (as illustrated above) what would you be looking for on approach?

