

Dual Carriageways

Turning Right

Turning right onto a dual carriageway

Before turning you need to assess the depth of the central reservation to see if it will protect the full length of your car. If the central reservation is deep enough, as in illustration ①, you should:

- treat each half of the carriageway as a separate road.
- cross the first carriageway when it is safe to do so.
- wait in a safe position within the central reservation.
- proceed only when you have a safe gap in the traffic on the second carriageway.
- use the MSM/PSL routine, indicating your intention to join the carriageway in good time.

If the central reservation is not deep enough to protect the full length of your car, as in illustration ②, you must:

- not proceed to cross until the carriageway is clear in both directions.
- not emerge, if to do so would cause any other road user to change speed or direction.

After you have joined the carriageway you should:

- take up your normal driving position in the left hand lane.
- check your mirrors.
- accelerate to an appropriate and safe speed for the road and traffic conditions.
- not overtake until you are used to the road and traffic conditions of the new.

Turning right from a dual carriageway

There will sometimes be gaps in the central reservation for turning right. You should:

- use the MSM/PSGL routine on approach.
- signal right and move to the right-hand lane much earlier than normal because of the faster speeds.
- look out for signs, lane markings and filter lanes on approach.

Tip: Look for signs alerting you to a higher speed limit on the dual carriageway as this needs to be considered when assessing the speed of oncoming traffic.

Quick Quiz

1. True or false? Provided the first carriageway is clear you may drive to the centre and wait for a gap in the traffic on the second carriageway.
2. Why is it important to be aware of the speed limit before emerging onto a dual carriageway?
3. What is the overall stopping distance for a vehicle travelling at 70 mph?
4. What do the traffic signs above mean?

