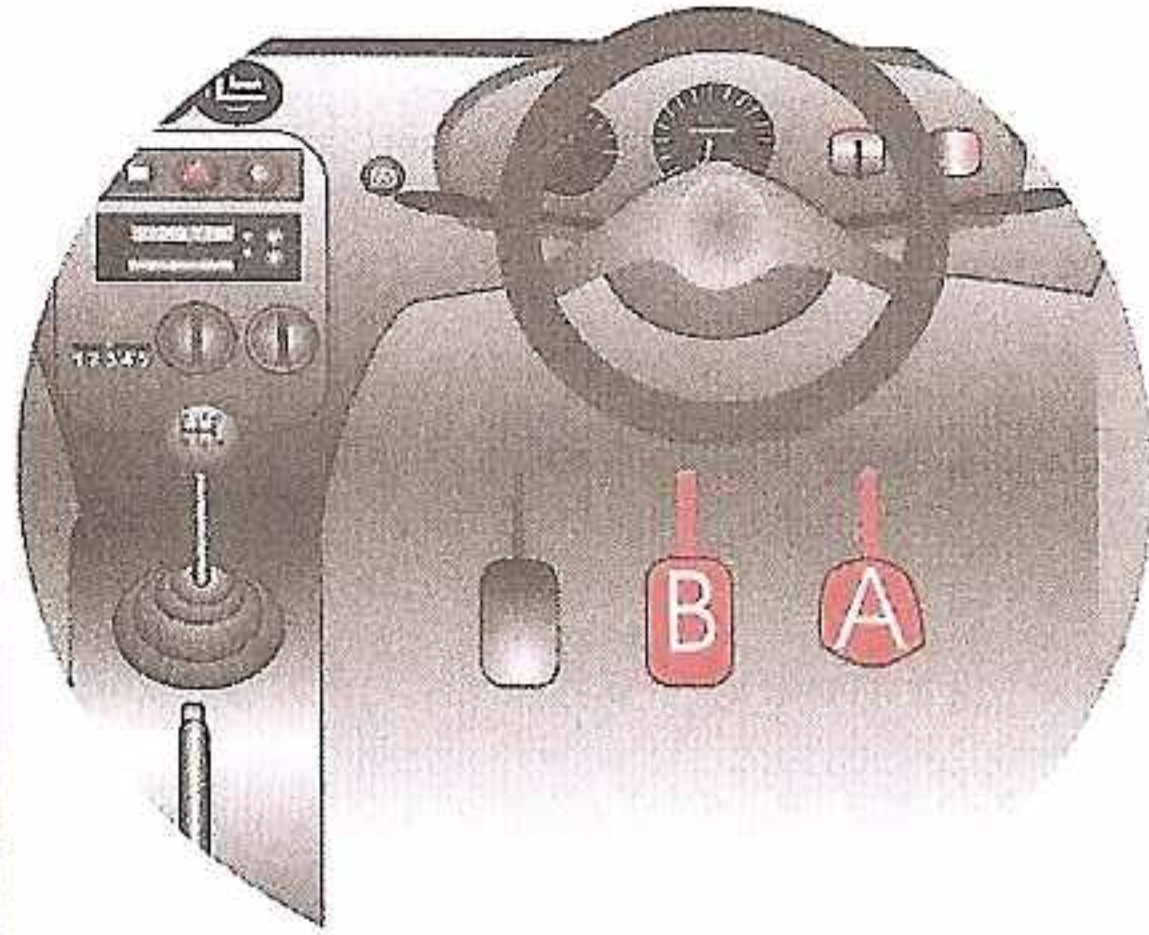


The Accelerator & Footbrake



THE POSITION OF THE ACCELERATOR (A)
AND THE BRAKE (B) PEDAL.

The Accelerator

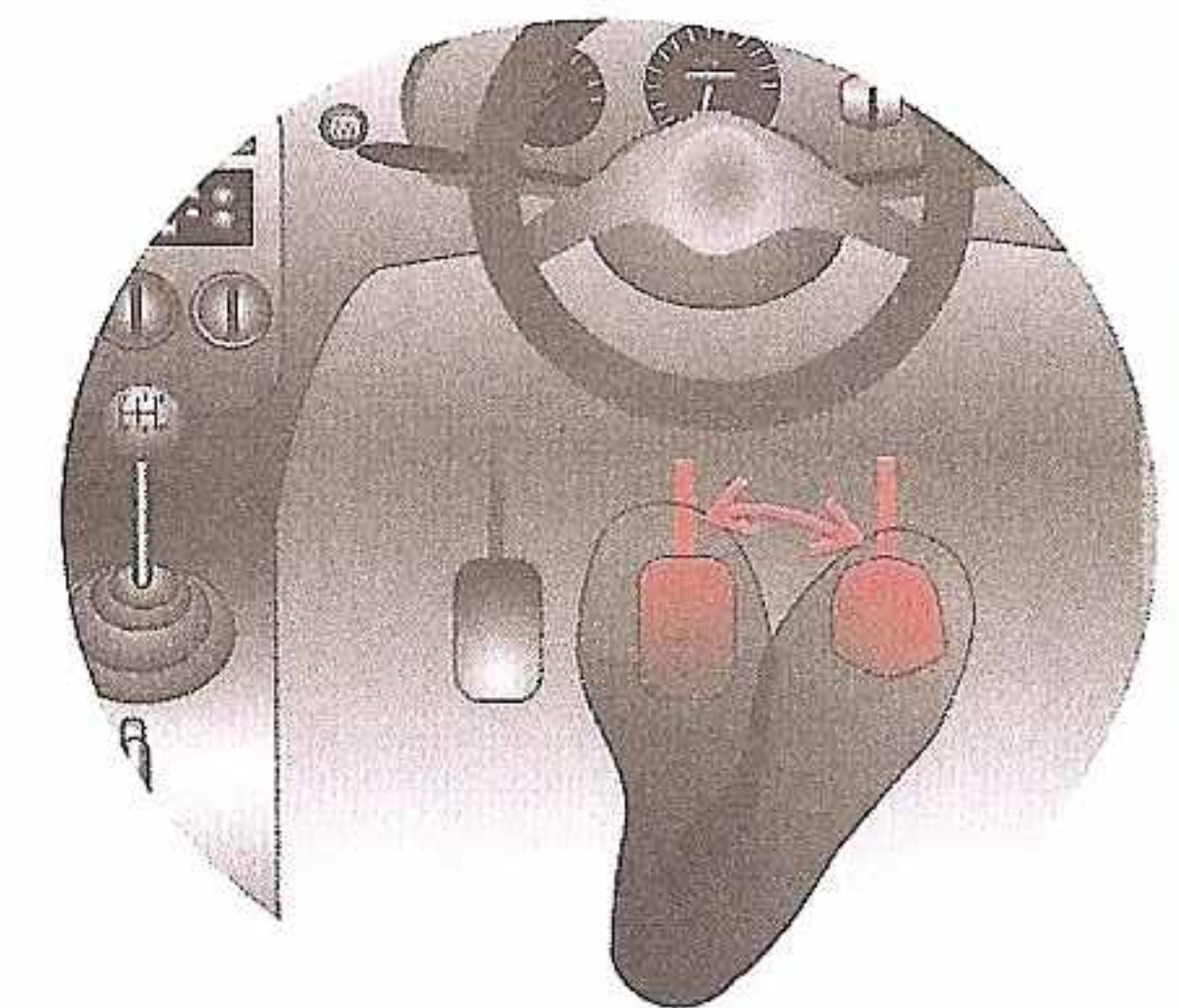
Purpose: Controls the rate at which fuel is supplied to the engine.

Use: The accelerator, or 'gas pedal' as it is commonly referred to, is controlled by the right foot. Gas pedals are normally quite sensitive and getting 'the feel' for how much pressure to apply is important and takes practice. The more you press down on the pedal the more you increase the flow of fuel to the engine. This then increases the engine power and speed at which it turns. Provided there is a gear selected and the clutch is raised this will in turn increase the speed of the vehicle. When the pedal is released the engine speed decreases and (provided a gear is engaged) so slows the vehicle down. This slowing down effect should not be used instead of braking.

The Footbrake

Purpose: Like the 'gas pedal', the footbrake, also helps to control the speed of the vehicle. It is used to slow down and stop the vehicle by activating brakes. The footbrake also activates the brake lights which gives warning to other road users that you are slowing down.

Use: The footbrake, like the 'gas pedal' is also controlled by the right foot and is commonly referred to as the 'brake'. This of course makes sense as you would never need to go faster and slower at the same time. When the brake pedal is pressed down the brakes are applied on all four wheels and the vehicle will begin to slow down. The more pressure you apply the quicker the vehicle will slow. You should press lightly on the brake pedal at first and gradually increase pressure as the vehicle begins to slow, then ease off the pressure



YOU SHOULD POSITION YOUR RIGHT FOOT IN
FRONT OF THE BRAKE PEDAL AND SWIVEL IT
ON THE HEEL TO USE THE 'GAS' PEDAL.

Quick Quiz

1. True or false? On a level road, when you release the accelerator the car continues to travel at the same speed until you apply the footbrake.
2. What factors, other than speed, will affect the amount of pressure necessary when braking?
3. Why do you think it is important that your brake lights are working correctly?
4. What is meant by 'progressive braking'?