



5

Junctions and roundabouts

Junctions take many forms – we can turn left, right or straight over, major to minor or minor to major. We may have to stop or give way. It is essential that we follow the rules of the road, the road markings and deal appropriately with other traffic movement. Extra care needs to be afforded to vulnerable road users and extra caution applied.

Roundabouts are generally a complicated form of a junction. The principles for dealing with both are generally the same. Early vision and accurate information are what allow you to make your plan to stop or proceed with safety.

5a Junctions

5b Roundabouts

5c Information

5d Position

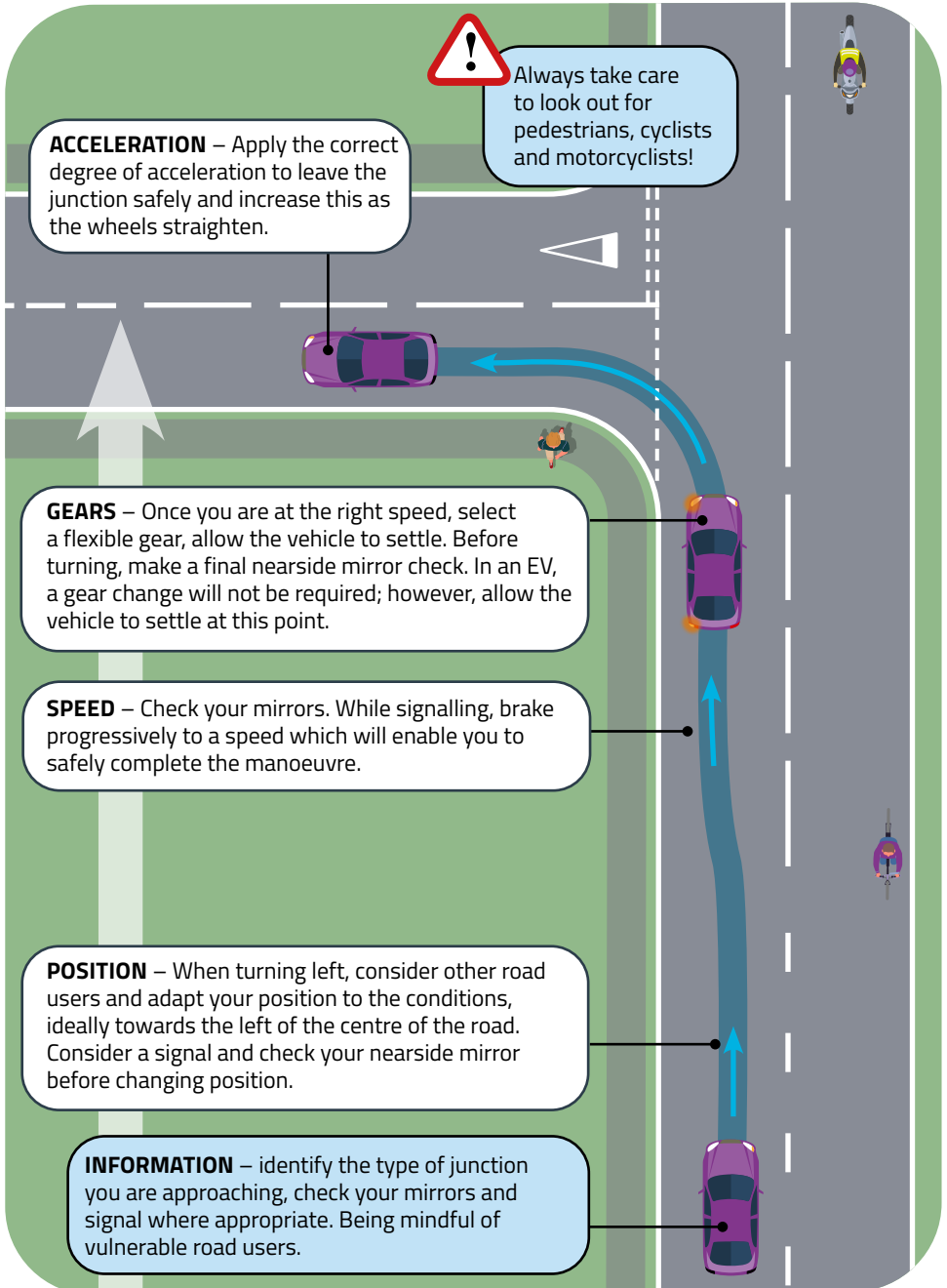
5e Speed

5f Gear

5g Acceleration

5a Junctions

Below is an example of a left turn (major to minor). Look at how IPSGA is applied to making a left turn into a junction



5b Roundabouts

When approaching a roundabout, the aim is to keep the car moving as long as it is safe to do so; an aim summed up in the phrase 'planning to stop but looking for information to go'

POSITION – Check your nearside mirror, reconsider signals, then move to the left-hand lane in time for your exit.

ACCELERATE – As you turn off the roundabout, accelerate smoothly to an appropriate speed, bearing in mind the driving conditions.

ACCELERATE – Choose an appropriate gap in the traffic and accelerate smoothly onto the roundabout, constantly checking all your mirrors and reconsidering signals. Always avoid disrupting the flow of other traffic.

SPEED – Check your mirrors. Decelerate smoothly to a speed that allows you to stop safely if required but will allow you to roll onto the roundabout if information allows

GEARS – Once you're at the right speed to enter the roundabout, and before turning, select the appropriate gear and reconsider a signal. Make a final mirror check.

POSITION – Check your mirrors and approach the roundabout according to which exit you plan to take. When turning right, carefully steer the car towards the centre of the road.



'Brakes are for slowing, gears are for going!'

Advanced drivers use this mantra to remind themselves of the correct way to decelerate. Use your brakes to slow your vehicle, then, once you have reached your target speed, block change into the correct gear to progress. Don't use your gearbox to slow yourself down.

INFORMATION – identify the type of roundabout you are approaching, how many exits, how many lanes on approach and traffic flow as we approach.

Constantly re-evaluate your information and where appropriate revisit the phases of IPSGA

5c Information

Information is crucial to safely negotiating roundabouts and junctions. There are, therefore, a number of skills and behaviours that advanced drivers should demonstrate

Advanced drivers must be able to:

Identify the type of junction system you are approaching

Remember:

- Signs on approach to a roundabout detail its size, the location and often the angle of the exits
- On a large roundabout – give priority to traffic from the right
- On a mini roundabout – give way to traffic from the right, also give priority to traffic closely approaching the roundabout
- Assess a series of mini roundabouts individually
- T-junctions and left and right turns will be signposted
- Stop or give way at a T-junction

Monitor your speed and distance on approach

- Monitor your speed on approach to a roundabout or junction, especially if it is located at the end of a motorway or dual carriageway slip road, or on a road where the national speed limit applies
- Allow time to gather the relevant information and make a suitable plan on approach
- Make appropriate decisions about whether to give way or take precedence. If in doubt, stop
- Remember: planning to stop sometimes allows sufficient time for an you to gather information and proceed safely without stopping
- Take care to signal correctly so as not to mislead other road users
- Remain vigilant, never assuming that other road users' signals are accurate

Assess the speed and position of other road users

- Scan all road users' movements to anticipate intentions
- Make appropriate decisions on whether to give way or take precedence
- Having entered a roundabout, remain aware of traffic joining from other entry points
- If a junction has approaches with limited vision in any direction, be prepared to slow down or stop to gain information before entering
- Be particularly mindful of vulnerable road users

Identify hazards and prepare for situations that may arise

- Use visual clues to predict possible hazards and prepare for situations that may arise
- Prioritise your response to any hazard in a safe, controlled manner

Identify the best position to enter, negotiate and leave the junction or roundabout

- Use the information gathered to make the right plan to deal with entry to a roundabout, route around it, and exit

Check mirrors and/or blind spots before deciding on your actions

- Make effective use of mirrors and check blind spots before taking actions, such as:

Changing speed, lane or direction
Choosing whether or not to use signals

Consider your signals prior to changing position

- Apply signals in good time, taking care not to mislead or confuse other road users

Accurately identify the first entry gap that is safe to use

- By timing arrival correctly, it may be possible to keep moving onto the roundabout
- If it is necessary to rush into a gap, waiting may have been a better option

Identify the correct exit and look for an early view into the exit road

- Look to exit by using road signs, counting other exits or using sat-nav instructions, and position appropriately being aware of other road users around you
- Look for an early view into the exit route to put a plan in place to deal with any hazard

5d Position

Advanced drivers must be able to:

Adopt the appropriate position without causing others to alter course or speed

- On identifying the type of roundabout or junction, decide what position to take for the chosen route
- Within reason, an early adoption of the correct position will be beneficial
- Take a straight line through a roundabout if it is safe and no other road users are present
- Check mirrors and/or blind spots prior to taking such a line
- On a mini roundabout, avoid driving on the painted disc
- Stay in lane if there is any doubt as to whether safety will be compromised or confusion caused
- If traffic is queuing on entry to a roundabout, consider using the lane of least resistance. Be aware of any prohibiting road markings and don't cause confusion to other road users
- If the junction is controlled by a stop sign, you must physically stop



5e Speed

Advanced drivers must be able to:

Accurately adjust speed in relation to the physical features of the junction or roundabout and traffic flow

- Understand how the tightness of a turn, any positive or negative camber, and the physical size and offset of a roundabout will influence speed
- Understand that speed will also be influenced by other road users on, or likely to join, the roundabout
- Remember: rushing into a gap but then having to slow down may cause problems for other road users
- Approach junctions at a speed that allows safe compliance with a give way or stop sign

5f Gear

Advanced drivers must be able to:

Select and engage the appropriate gear for the speed and circumstances

- Consider which gear will be both flexible and responsive without causing the engine to labour or over-rev
- Try to engage a gear suitable for the whole roundabout
- Change a gear (if required) while the vehicle direction is fixed
- In most circumstances, use first gear to move away from stationary
- Automatics, EVs and hybrids will self-select at this point

5g Acceleration

Advanced drivers must be able to:

Maintain correct acceleration application on entering, negotiating and leaving the junction or roundabout

- Once the correct entry speed for a roundabout is achieved, use the accelerator to maintain or adjust it
- If conditions allow, increase speed and accelerate away from a junction or roundabout

