

Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **Highways, Freeways and Tollways**.

Highways, Freeways and Tollways



Let's take a closer look at
Highways, Freeways and Tollways.

Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Driving on the Highway

In general, driving on a highway, motorway or tollway is not much different than driving anywhere. Except perhaps it is generally faster - with speeds averaging 80km/h to 110km/h.

Most highways, for the sake of safety, are divided roads, where roads travelling in opposite directions are separated by a barrier or distance.

Most highways will also have at least two lanes - and up to five or more.



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Tollways

More and more, tollways are becoming a part of life for all drivers. A tollway is just a highway you have to pay to drive on. How much you pay depends on how far you travel on the tollway, and perhaps even at what time you travel.

In the good old days, you'd have to stop at a tollbooth and drop in a few dollars per trip. These days, you can purchase a receiver that sits in your car, automatically tracks when and how far you travel on any toll roads in your state, and charges you automatically.

All you hear is a beep as you are charged.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Divided Roads. Most major highways in Australia are divided roads. This simply means that the traffic travelling in opposite directions are placed on two different roads, separated by distance, or a median strip of concrete or garden.

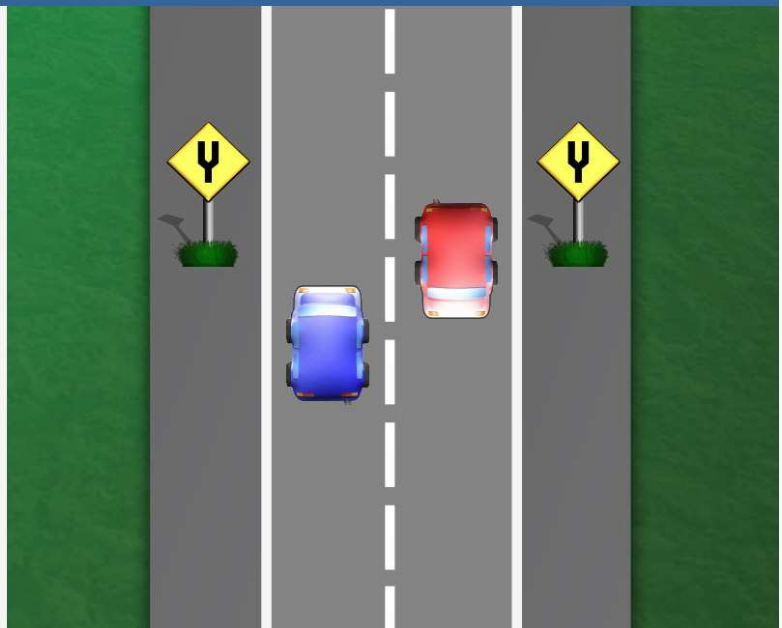
You can see an example in the image below. We'll be using a divided road in the example for this lesson.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

The sign indicated here tells you that the road you are currently on will shortly become a **divided road**.

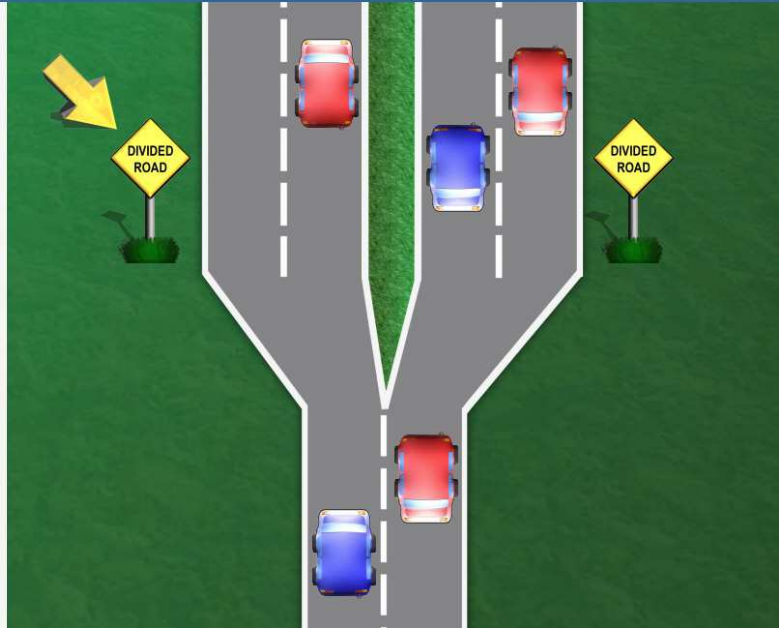
Until the divided road is reached, this road is still a two way street.



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Here, the indicated sign tells us that the divided road has begun. The two left lanes now travel in the same direction, and the two right lanes travel in the opposite direction.

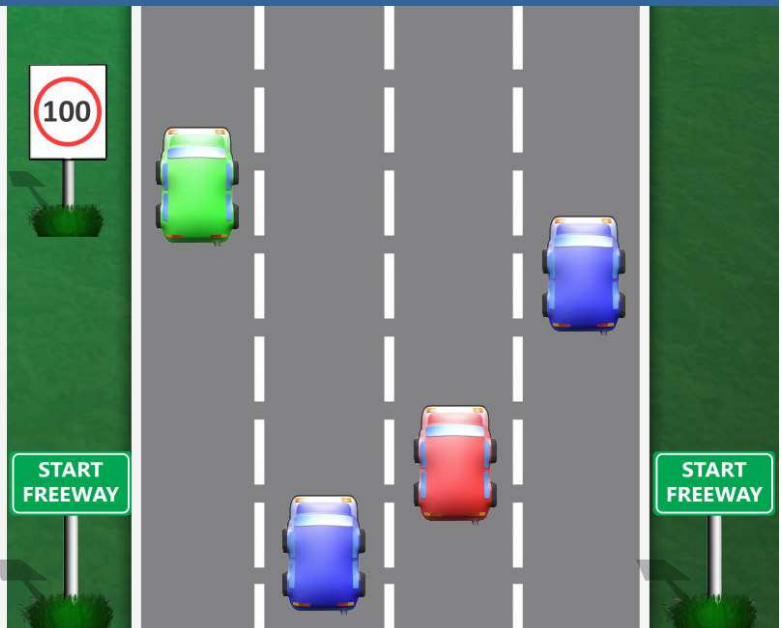
The lanes are separated by what is termed a *median strip*.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Pictured here is a typical freeway, or tollway (like a freeway, but you pay to drive on it). This particular freeway has four lanes, and is travelling from south to north.

And remember - leave at least three seconds between you and the vehicle in front of you.

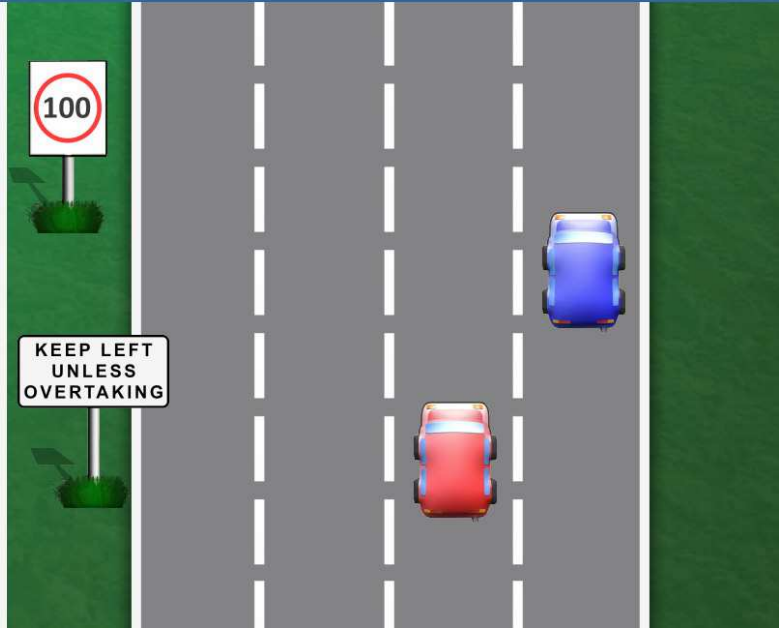


Highways, Freeways and Tollways

When on a multi-lane highway, where the speed limit is more than 80km/h, you must not drive in the right-hand lane unless you are:

- Overtaking.
- About to Turn Right.
- About to Perform a Legal U-Turn.
- Avoiding an Obstacle.

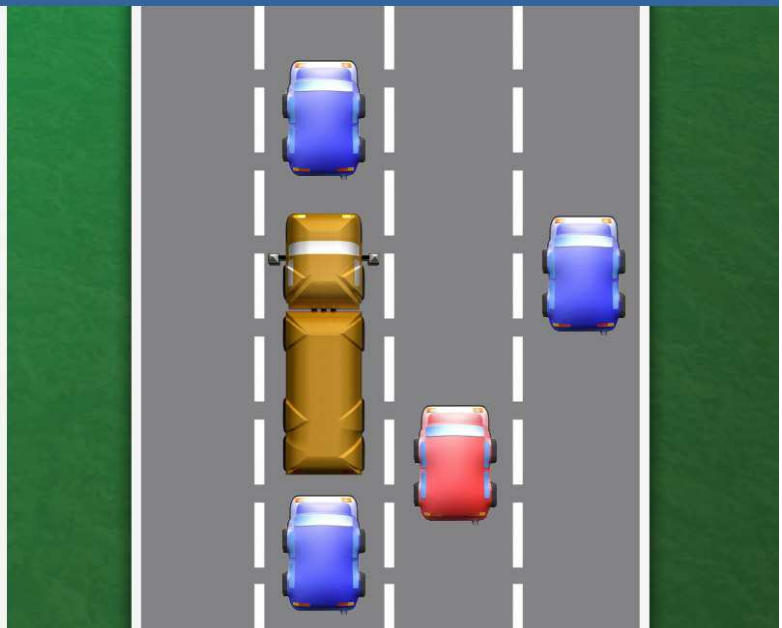
The same rules apply if a **Keep Left Unless Overtaking** sign appears - regardless of the speed limit.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Large Vehicles. On any road, you need to take extra care around large vehicles, like trucks. And you will find a lot more trucks and heavy vehicles on highways than on suburban streets.

These vehicles need a lot of room to stop. And a lot of room to turn. And, because of the size of these vehicles, their drivers don't have the all-around vision that a car has.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

When dealing with large vehicles, you really just need some common sense.

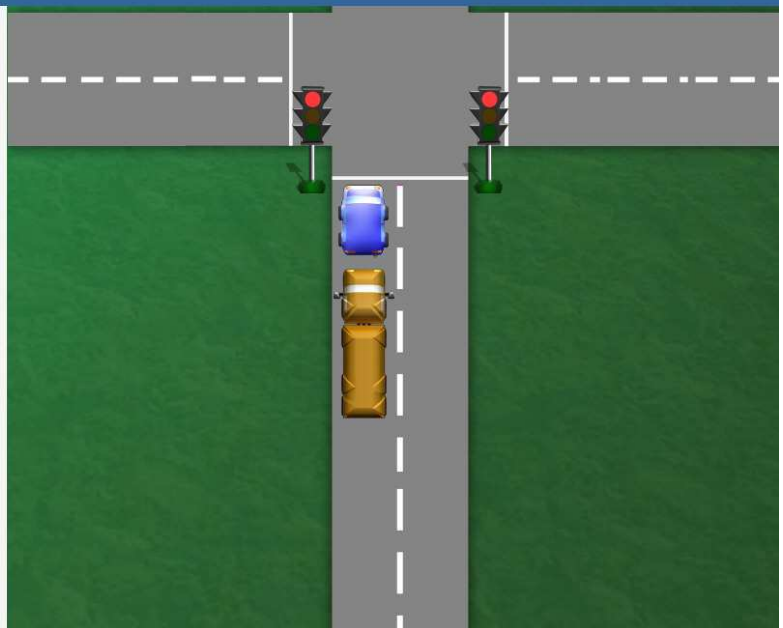
They are large, heavy vehicles that require a lot of space, and a lot of room to stop. You must keep this in mind when driving around them.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

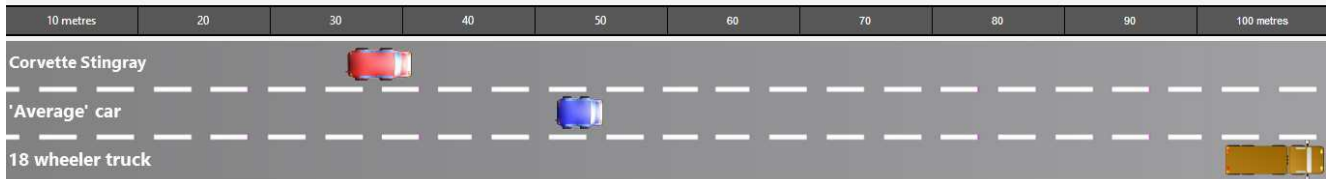
When dealing with large vehicles:

- Don't follow too closely.
- Do not change lanes too closely in front of a large vehicle.
- Understand they cannot stop in the same distance as you can.
- Give way if they need to change lanes or turn.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

60km/h, dry road, vehicle comparison.



Above is a comparison of how long it takes larger vehicles to stop, compared to cars.

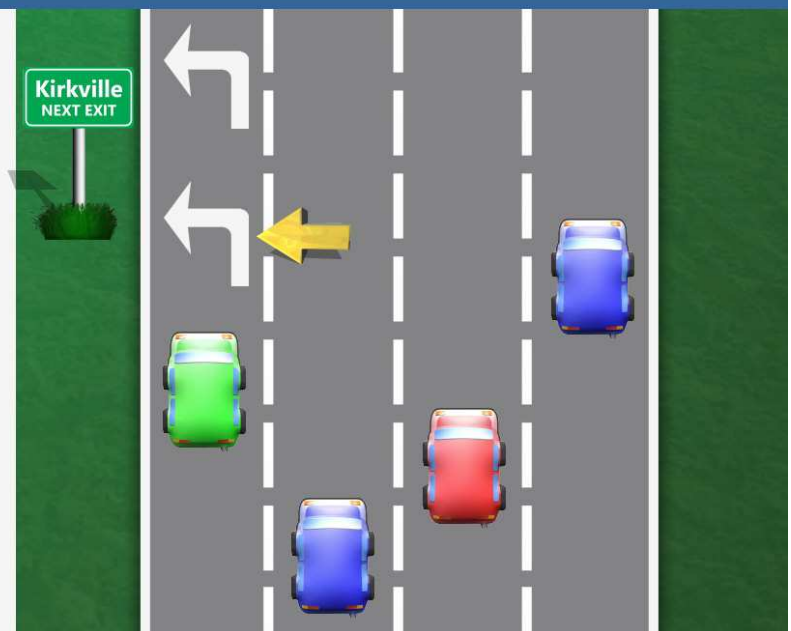
Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Exits on freeways are denoted like the one you can see here.

Signs like this will point out all exits, suburbs, roads, or points of interest. Any you generally get plenty of warning, with each exit marked several times.

Here, the sign tells us the exit that leads to **Kirkville** is the next exit on the left.

The white arrows in the left-hand lane indicate that this lane is the one to be in if you want to go to **Kirkville**. In this case, the green car must take the exit.

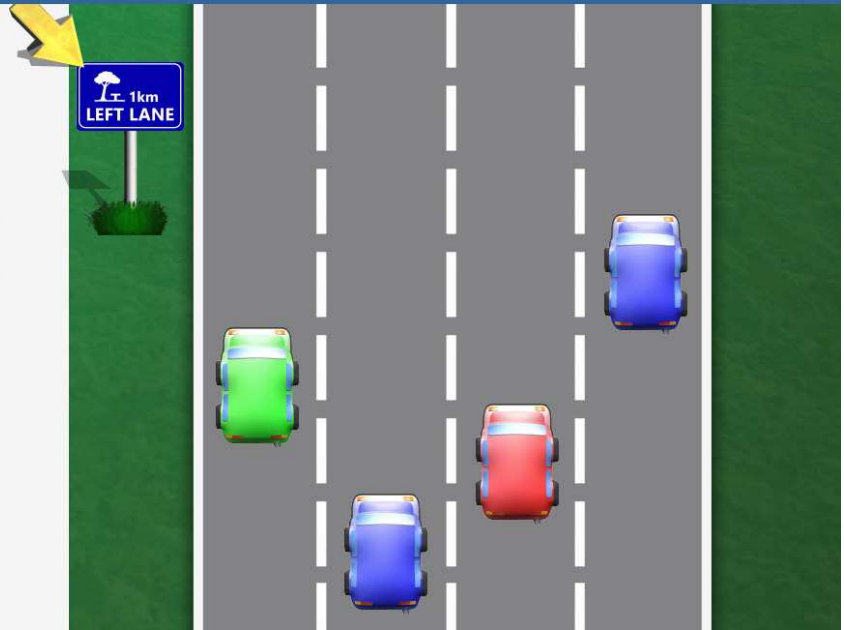


Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Not only are suburbs and main streets marked, but all essential facilities that are around a freeway exit will be noted.

Here, this sign tells you that a rest stop is available in 1km, and you'll need to be in the left lane to exit at this rest stop.

Rest stops are an area designed to let you take a break, stretch your legs, go to the toilet, grab a snack, etc.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

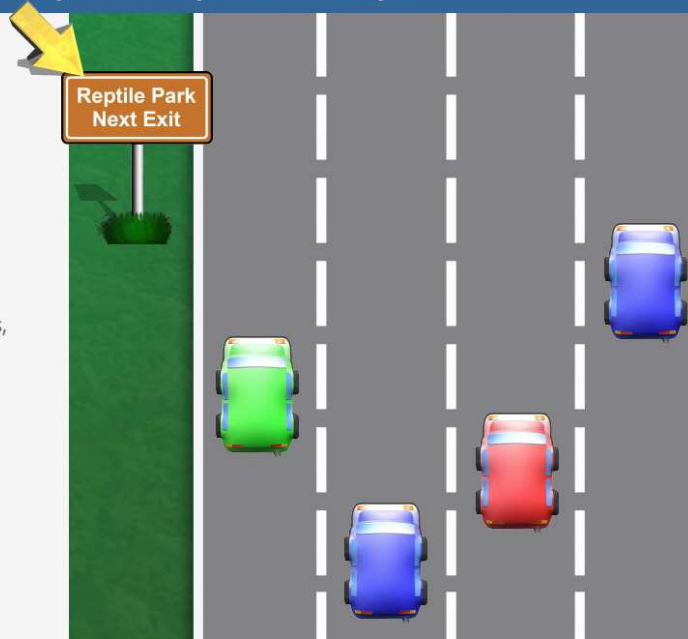
As mentioned, it is not only rest stops that will be pointed out on these blue signs. Toilets, service stations, restaurants and other services are highlighted for you.

Take a chance when driving on a freeway to pop into these rest stops or restaurants. It will help you fight fatigue.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

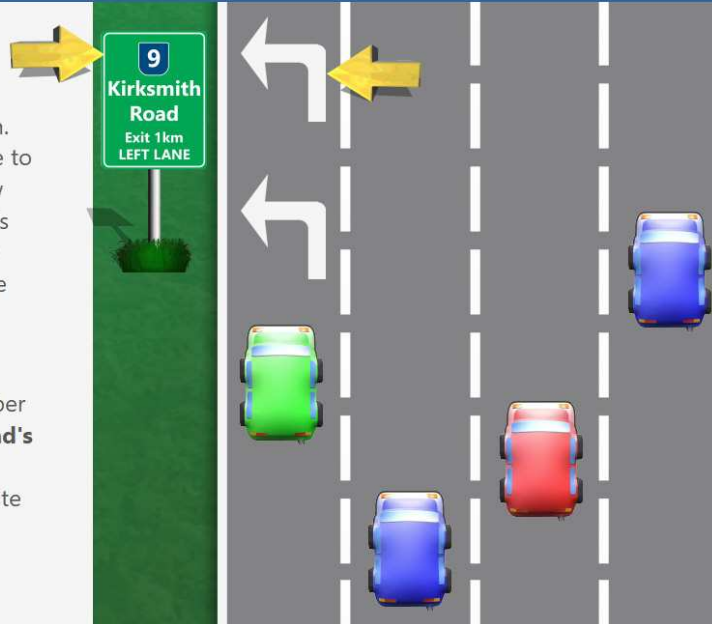
You'll see on most highways signs that point out local attractions, tourist drives, or photo opportunities.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Here, this sign tells us that exit to **Kirksmith Road** is coming up in 1km. Again, you need to be in the left lane to take this exit (confirmed by the arrow markers on the road). The green car is in this lane, and must turn left at the exit - unless it changes lanes to move to the right.

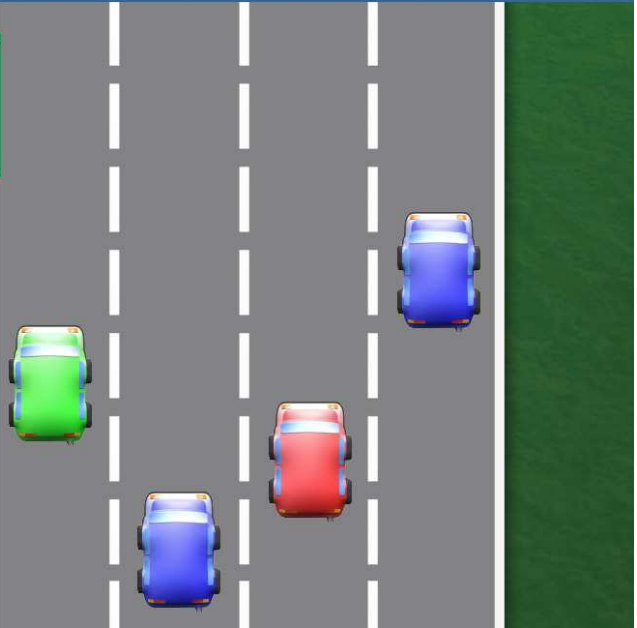
See the number **9** at the top of this sign? This number denotes the number of the highway that is **Kirksmith Road's** designation. Not a number so much required in this day and age of satellite navigation systems.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Oftentimes the large signs on a freeway are not displaying exits, but rather how far it is, on this road, to certain towns and cities.

The **M1** text is the name of the motorway.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Here, the indicated sign tells us that this is the exit for **Kirksmith Road**.

Note that the left-lane that was previously going straight ahead now itself exits to the left and acts as the exit to **Kirksmith Road**. Once again, check the arrows on the road to confirm this.

The green car has to take this exit, as it is in the left-hand lane, which can only turn left. The other cars all go straight ahead.

A suggested exit speed of **65km/h** is also displayed.



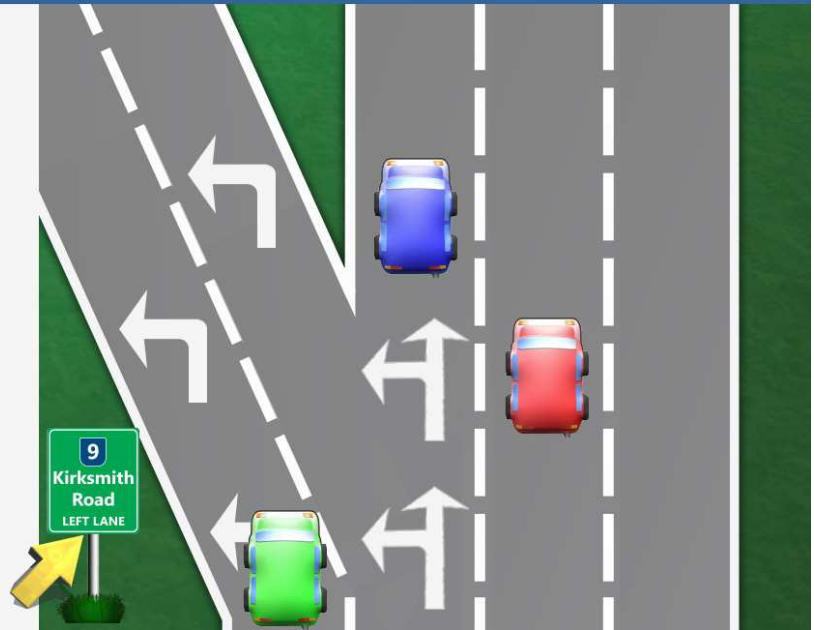
Highways, Freeways and Tollways

This time, two lanes split off to the left for the **Kirksmith Road** exit. You can take either lane to exit here.

Note that the second lane from the left contains an arrow that indicates this lane can be used to turn left, or to go straight.

The green car, in the left most lane, must turn left towards the exit. The blue car has a choice - as the lane they are in can go left or go straight ahead. The red car can only go straight from their lane.

If turning, use your left indicator at least 40m before the exit.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

The sign indicated here confirms where each lane is headed.

The left-most lanes can be used to head to **Kirkville** and **Jackville** (called the **Kirksmith Road** exit), while the two right hand lanes go forwards, with **Smith St** the next main exit.

The green car is off to **Kirkville / Jackville**, and the blue and red cars are off to **Smith St** or further.

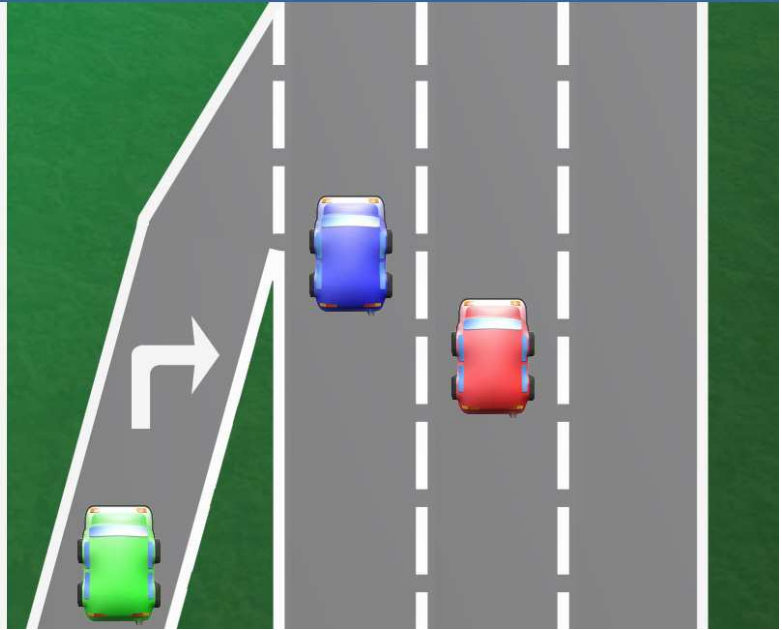


Highways, Freeways and Tollways

When entering a freeway, you may be entering from a ramp, or smaller road. Keep in mind that the cars already on the freeway may be travelling quite quickly.

If entering a freeway from a ramp, you'll generally have a long ramp - plenty of time for you to get your speed up so you can enter the freeway without any danger.

The green car here is about to join the freeway. In this particular case, they must give way to cars already on the freeway, so of course must take all care.

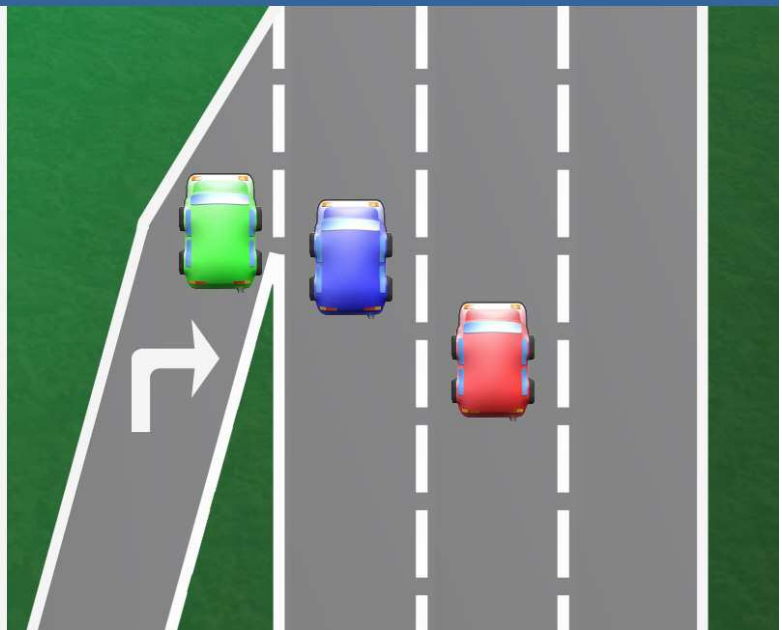


Highways, Freeways and Tollways

In this case, the green car timed their run to the freeway nicely, and was able to get onto it without an issue.

The less experience with freeways you have, the more careful you need to be entering a freeway, or any larger road.

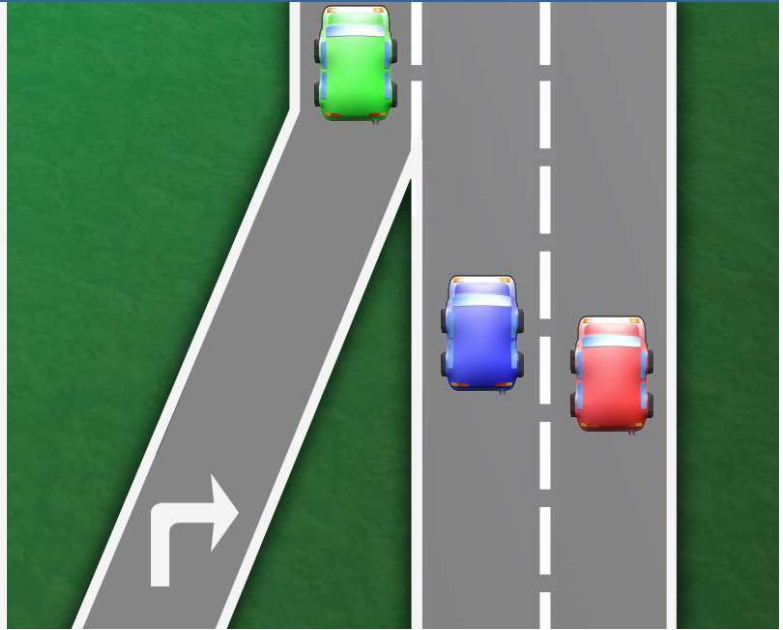
You must give way to oncoming traffic.



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In most cases, when entering a freeway from a ramp, you'll be given your own lane to turn in, as seen here.

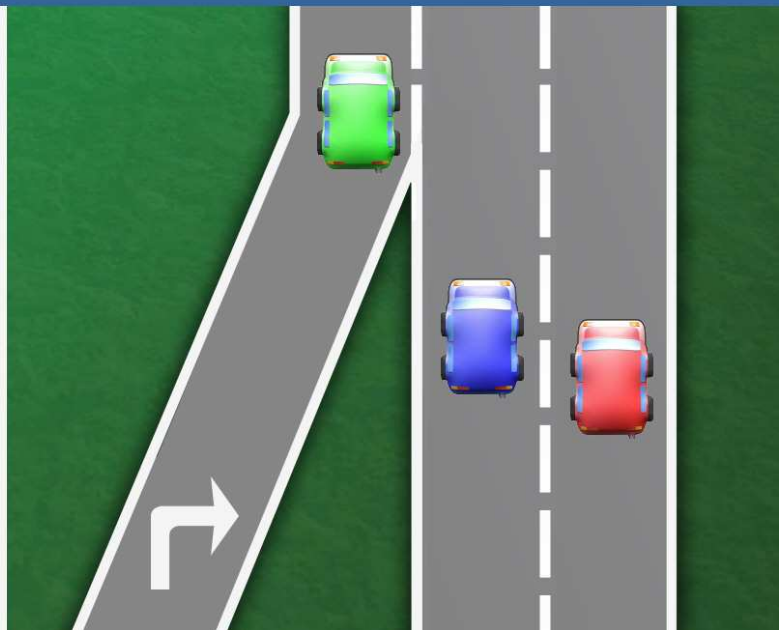
But every time you enter a larger road like this, with your own lane or not, ensure that no other cars will impede your entry to the freeway - either in front of you, or beside you.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

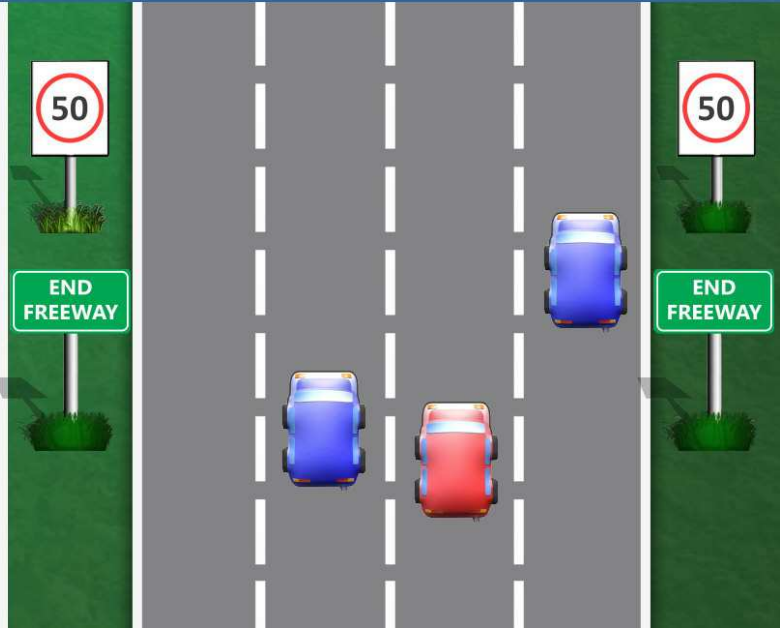
If you are driving on the freeway, say, in the blue car in this diagram, ensure that you watch what is happening with the cars as they enter the freeway.

They may decide to move directly into your lane without looking, so be aware.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

The **END FREEWAY** sign here indicates freeway conditions have ended. It is likely to be accompanied by a reduced speed limit as well.



Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Be Prepared. In the lesson called **What are you Going to Do?**, we cover this in more detail. In brief, when travelling out of town, or in a sparsely populated area:

- Ensure someone knows where you are, the route you are taking, and where and when you are expected;
- Carry spare water, spare fuel and a funnel.
- Ensure your spare tyre is pumped up, and you have a jack in the car if you need to change a tyre.
- Ensure you have a working phone.



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SUMMARY

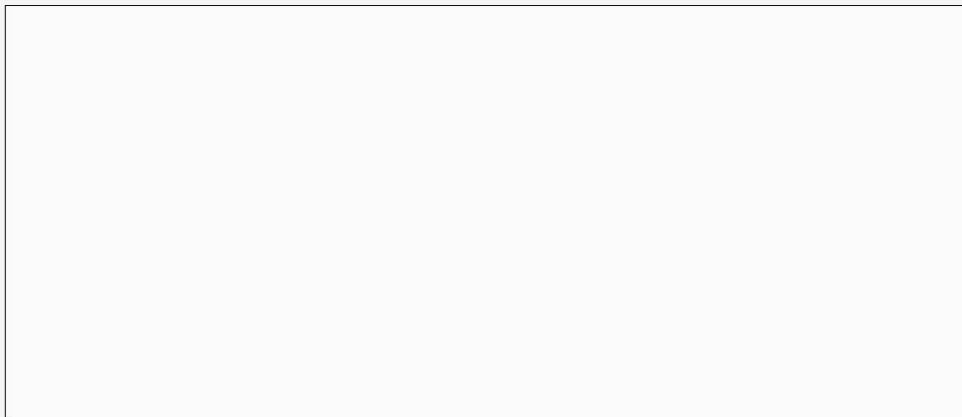
A summary of what we've discussed in **Highways, Freeways and Tollways**:

- The differences between highways, freeways and tollways.
- Entry and exit signs.
- Exiting a freeway.
- Entering a freeway.
- Rest stops.
- Driving around large vehicles.

FINISH LESSON

Highways, Freeways and Tollways

Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.



SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE

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