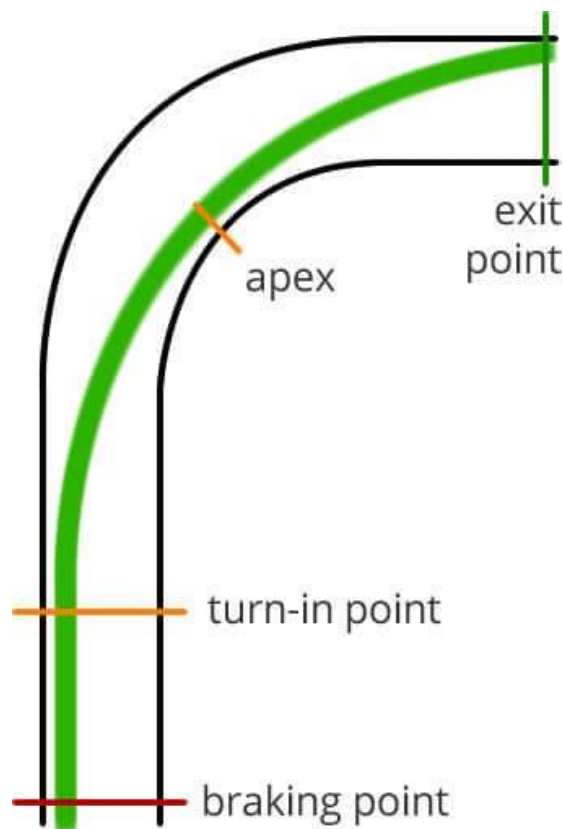# BEGINNER - THE RACING LINE

The racing line is the fastest route through a corner.

So how does it work?

The racing line uses the full width of the track to open up, or straighten the corner, enabling a driver to carry more speed through it by reducing the amount of steering or direction change needed to get through the corner.

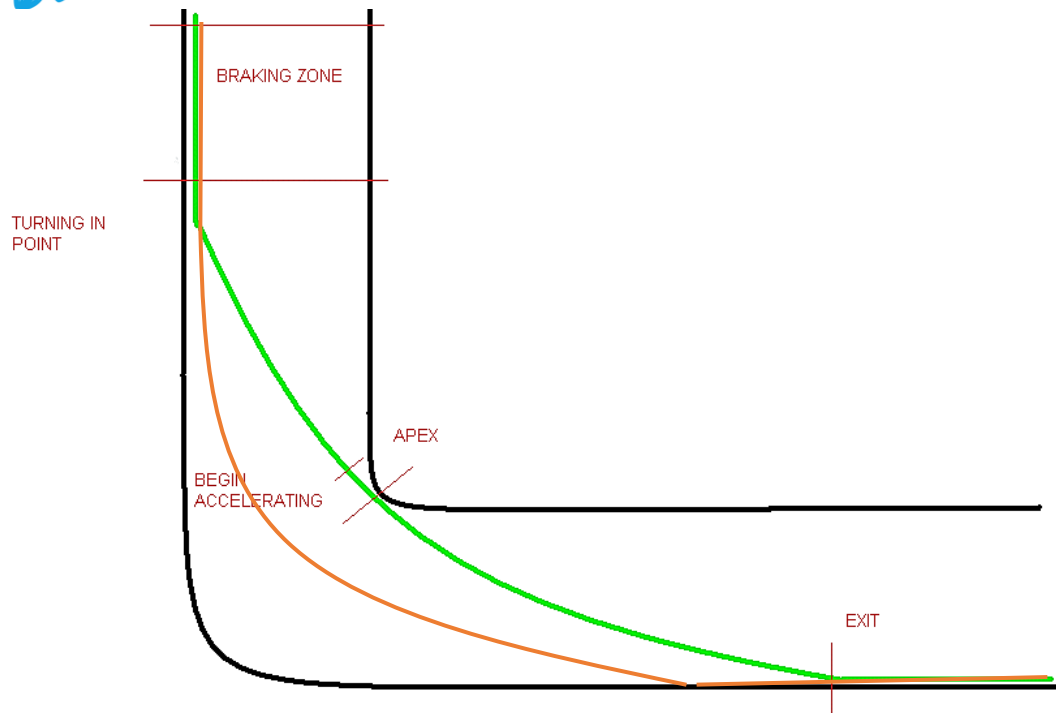It may be a bit easier to understand by looking at the diagram below.

You want to follow the green line through the corner. This is the Racing Line.

You can see that the racing line is a lot shallower than the angle of the corner itself. What we are doing is turning in to the corner before we get there and using the whole width of the track so that we can spread the change of direction over a longer distance. This allows us to use less steering input and, as a result, go faster through the corner.

Looking at the diagram, you can see that there are a couple of commonly used racing line terms marked. The Braking point, Turn-in point, Exit and Apex.

The apex of a corner is the point at which you are closest to the inside of the corner. This point helps to determine how best to exit the corner. It is very important that you get to the apex of the corner, otherwise, you run the risk of messing up that section of track.

In this diagram, if we follow the orange line, we can see what happens when we miss the apex. Suddenly, the amount of turning we have to do is increased, meaning that we cannot carry as much speed through the corner. We also start to run out of room on the exit of the corner, meaning that we may have to come off the throttle pedal, or wit until we are straight before we accelerate away. So how can we stop this from happening?

Firstly, look for your apex as you approach the corner. You're more likely to get to it if you are aiming for it. Next, make sure you brake in the right place. If you are too late on the brakes, you may well sail right past the apex. Lastly, make sure you turn in at the right point. Again, if you are too late turning the steering wheel, it is tricky to get to the apex.