

13. Emerging

www.driveractive.com

'Emerging' is the term used to describe the process of leaving a side road to enter, or cross, a main road. When leaving a side road it can be useful to think of the junction as 'open' or 'closed' - these terms relate to the view into the main road.

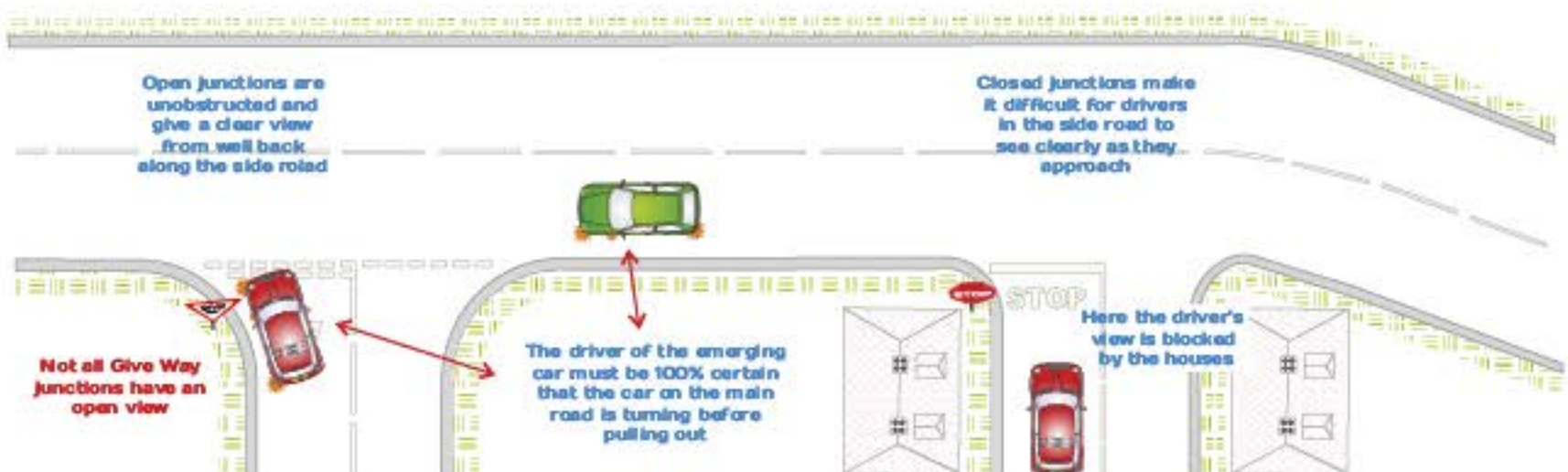
An **open** junction is one where you have a clear view into the main road (both to the left and right) well before you arrive at the 'mouth' of the junction. A **closed** junction is just the opposite, your view is restricted until the very last moment of the approach.

As you approach junctions you need to take early observation to gain information about the road layout. In the case of an open junction, early observation provides information about traffic movement in the new road and will sometimes enable you to carry on without stopping because you will see the road is clear.

Your approach speed must be slow enough to enable 'effective observation' - this means that you need plenty of time to look for traffic in order to decide whether you can emerge safely. Most emerging situations junctions will need first gear (even when you don't stop), especially in town.

Be especially careful if there is a vehicle approaching from your right on the main road that's signalling left to turn into the road from which you are emerging. The signal may have been left on by mistake (see the diagram). Also take special care at unmarked junctions - other drivers might not know who has priority.

Emerging safely takes practise. If you remember that your aim is safety rather than speed you will soon gain success. If in doubt, wait! Remember that the traffic on the main road has priority.



Lesson Notes:

