

11. Approaching junctions

As with any other situation where you are changing speed, position or direction you will use your hazard routine (MSM) when approaching junctions, making sure that you are fully aware of how your actions will affect other road users at each step.

Mirrors: Your first job when approaching any hazard, in this case a junction, is to check your mirrors. You are doing this to make sure that it is safe to slow down and turn (you might quickly change your mind about turning if you realised that there was a large, out of control, lorry following closely behind and unable to stop!).

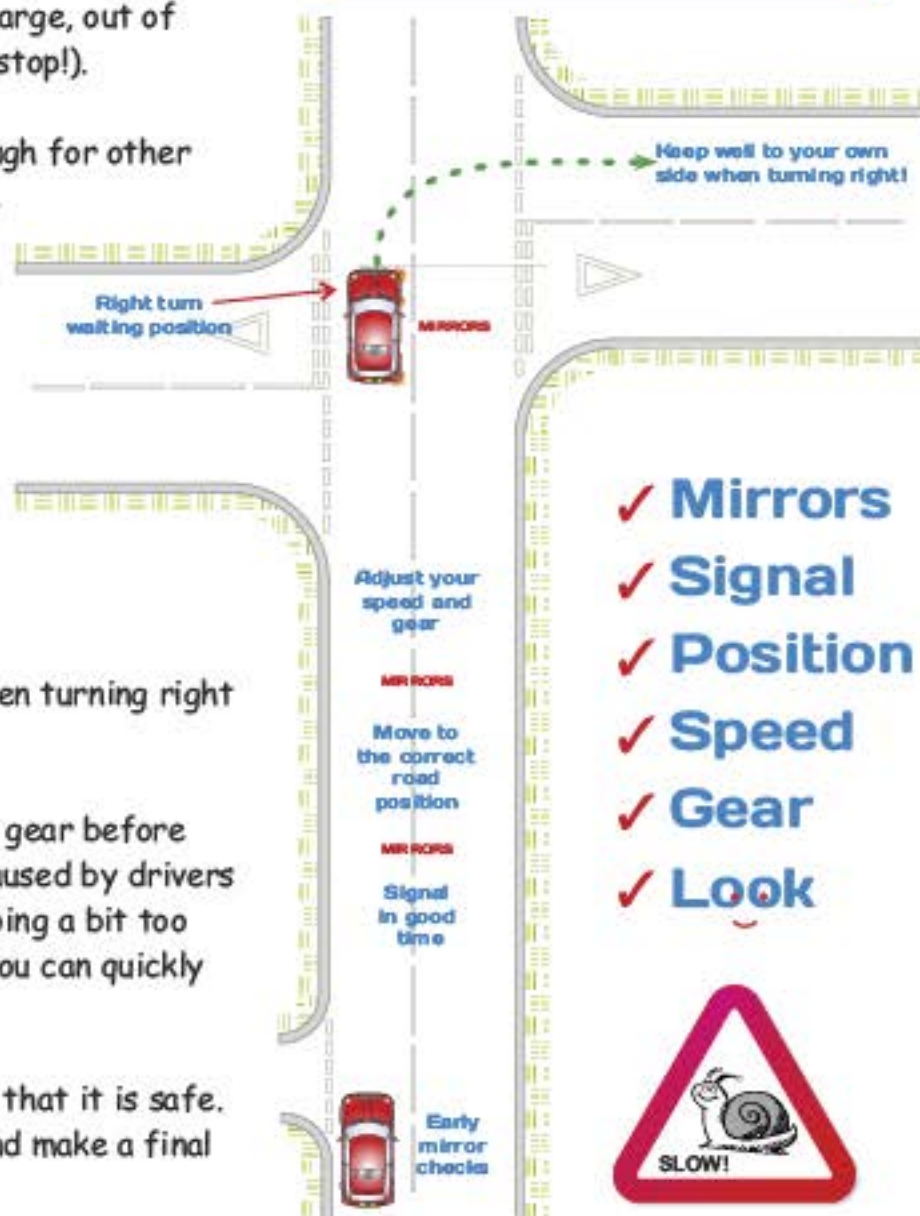
Signal: Remember that you need to signal early enough for other road users to recognise your intentions, making sure that your signals are not misleading. For example, a signal given too early might confuse someone into thinking that you are turning into a driveway, or that you are parking on the left.

Position: Move into position after you have signalled. For left turns you will normally maintain your safe driving line, for right turns it might be necessary to move towards the centre of the road.

Make sure that you do not stop too far forwards when turning right otherwise you will not have enough space to steer.

Speed: Adjust your speed and select an appropriate gear before you start to turn. Most accidents at junctions are caused by drivers who approach too quickly. If you find that you are going a bit too slow it's easy to speed up; if you are going too fast you can quickly run out of road...

Look: Before turning you must make absolutely sure that it is safe. In order to do this you will need to look all around and make a final check in your mirrors (especially the door mirrors).



Lesson Notes:

