

29. Using car parks

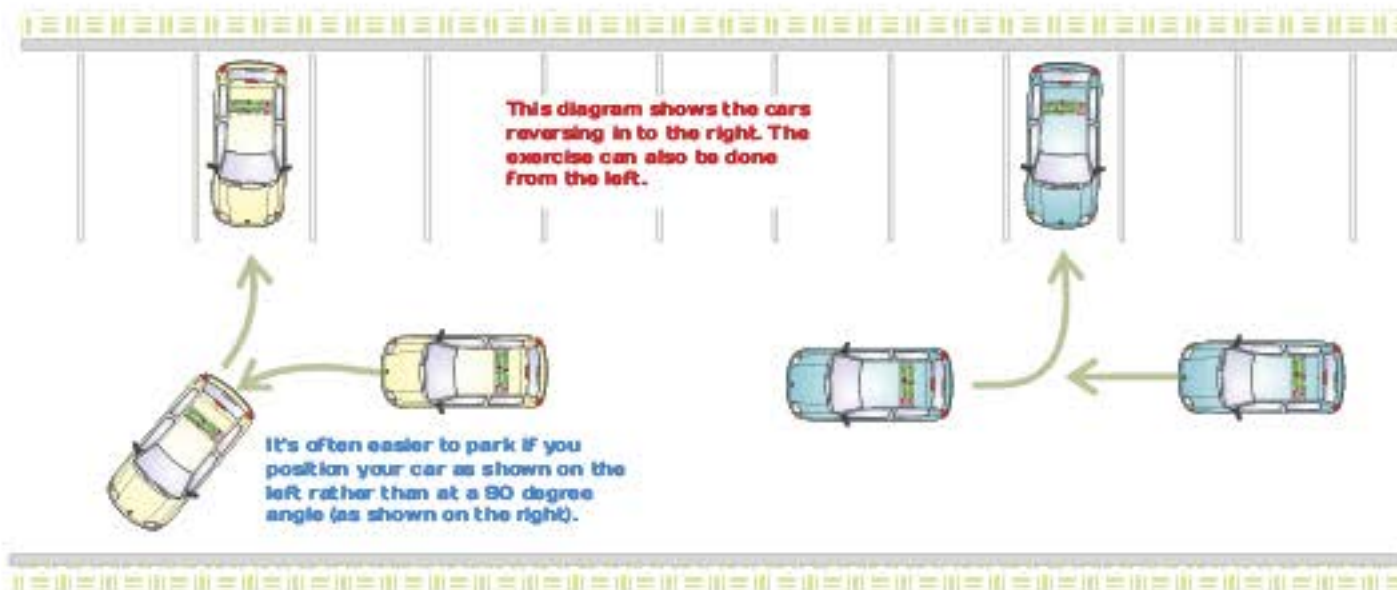
www.driveractive.com

If you were to check insurance company statistics you would find that many claims are made after accidents in car parks. Drivers are often thinking about other things, apart from driving, for example, shopping or collecting the kids; this can be a real problem with other vehicles and pedestrians in close proximity and it's one of the reasons why the ability to reverse safely into a parking bay is checked during the driving test.

With a little practice you will soon become competent and confident at reversing into bays. The benefits of reversing in, as opposed to driving in, include the fact that it's usually easier, and it's much safer to drive out forwards rather than reverse out. There is also the added security benefit that in the unlikely event of being threatened by someone with malicious intent in a car park, driving out forwards will offer a quicker and safer exit. However, there may be some situations where driving in is the best option.

You can choose to reverse from a 90 degree angle into the parking space or alternatively drive into a position where you can reverse into the bay from an 'almost straight line' (see the diagram). Use clutch control to maintain a very slow speed and aim at the back of the space. If, at any time, you are unsure about your position, simply drive forward (straightening the car as you do so) - doing this will give you a better view of the space.

Finally, make sure that you park in the centre of the available space to leave yourself, and the drivers and passengers of the cars on either side, sufficient room to open the doors and get in and out easily; doing this will also help to protect your paintwork if other drivers open their doors carelessly.



Lesson Notes:

