

37. Joining the motorway

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Before you start: It is important to have a well maintained vehicle in order to drive safely. This becomes especially important before setting out on a motorway journey.

High speeds for prolonged periods can test a car, and its driver, to their limits. Before starting out on a long motorway journey make sure that both you and your car are up to the task by carrying out your weekly car checks.

Joining: You will sometimes join a motorway at its start, this will usually be a roundabout, however, more often than not you will be joining via a slip-road and acceleration-lane.

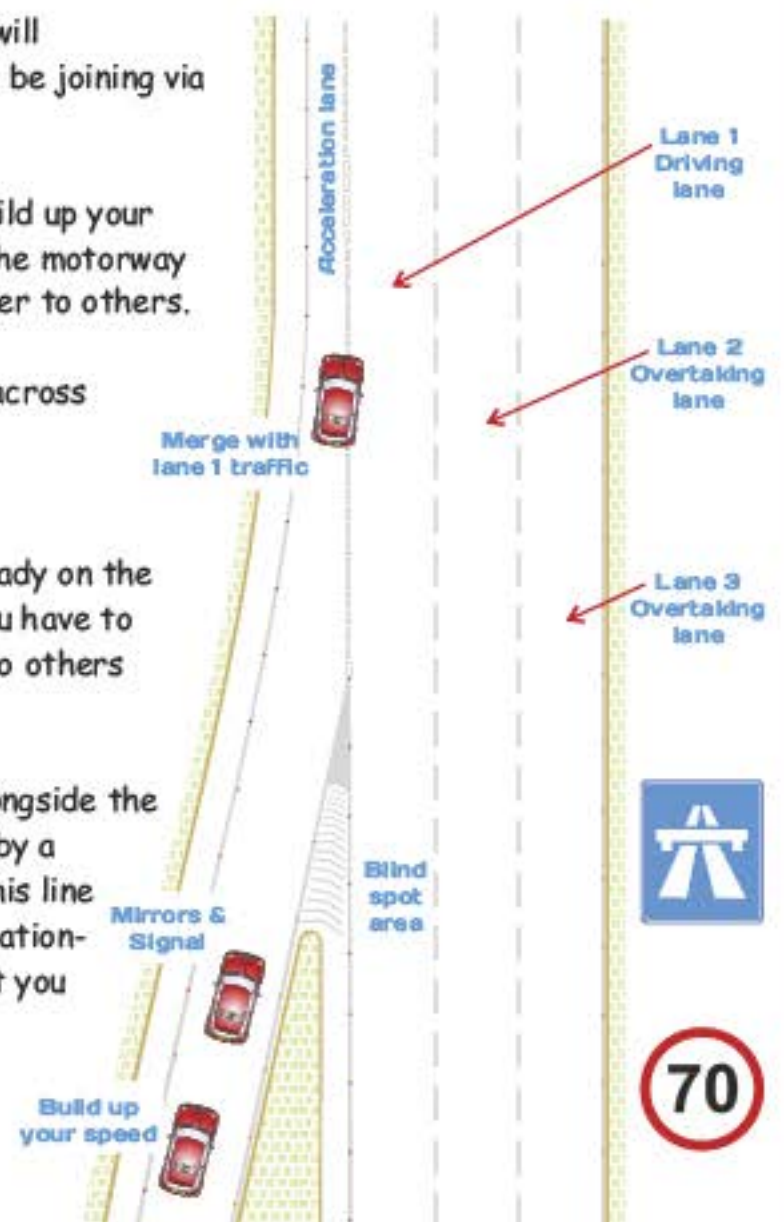
The slip-road and acceleration-lane are provided for you to build up your speed so that you can match the speed of traffic already on the motorway and merge into lane-one without causing inconvenience or danger to others.

As you are driving along the slip-road, make frequent glances across to the motorway to gauge the speed and position of traffic in lane-one (the lane that you will be joining).

Give an early signal to alert the drivers behind, and those already on the motorway, of your intentions. Once you are on the slip road you have to enter the motorway and so your intentions should be obvious to others at this point, however, some drivers need a wake-up call!

The acceleration lane is the part of the slip-road that runs alongside the main carriageway - it is separated from the main carriageway by a single white 'give-way' line - you should never need to stop at this line (except when there is a traffic jam). As you enter the acceleration-lane, adjust your speed to match the speed of the traffic that you are joining in lane one.

Be particularly careful if there are large vehicles that block your view of traffic in lanes two and three.



Lesson Notes:

