

Waiting and parking (238 to 252)

Rules for waiting and parking, including rules on parking at night and decriminalised parking enforcement.

General (rule 238)

Rule 238

You **MUST NOT** wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates (or zone entry signs if in a Controlled Parking Zone) – see '[Traffic signs](#)' and '[Road markings](#)'. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs. You **MUST NOT** wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings (see '[Road markings](#)') when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping.

Law [RTRA sects 5 & 8](#)

Parking (rules 239 to 247)

Rule 239

Use off-street parking areas, or bays marked out with white lines on the road as parking places, wherever possible. If you have to stop on the roadside:

- do not park facing against the traffic flow
- stop as close as you can to the side
- do not stop too close to a vehicle displaying a Blue Badge: remember, the occupant may need more room to get in or out
- you **MUST** switch off the engine, headlights and fog lights
- you **MUST** apply the handbrake before leaving the vehicle

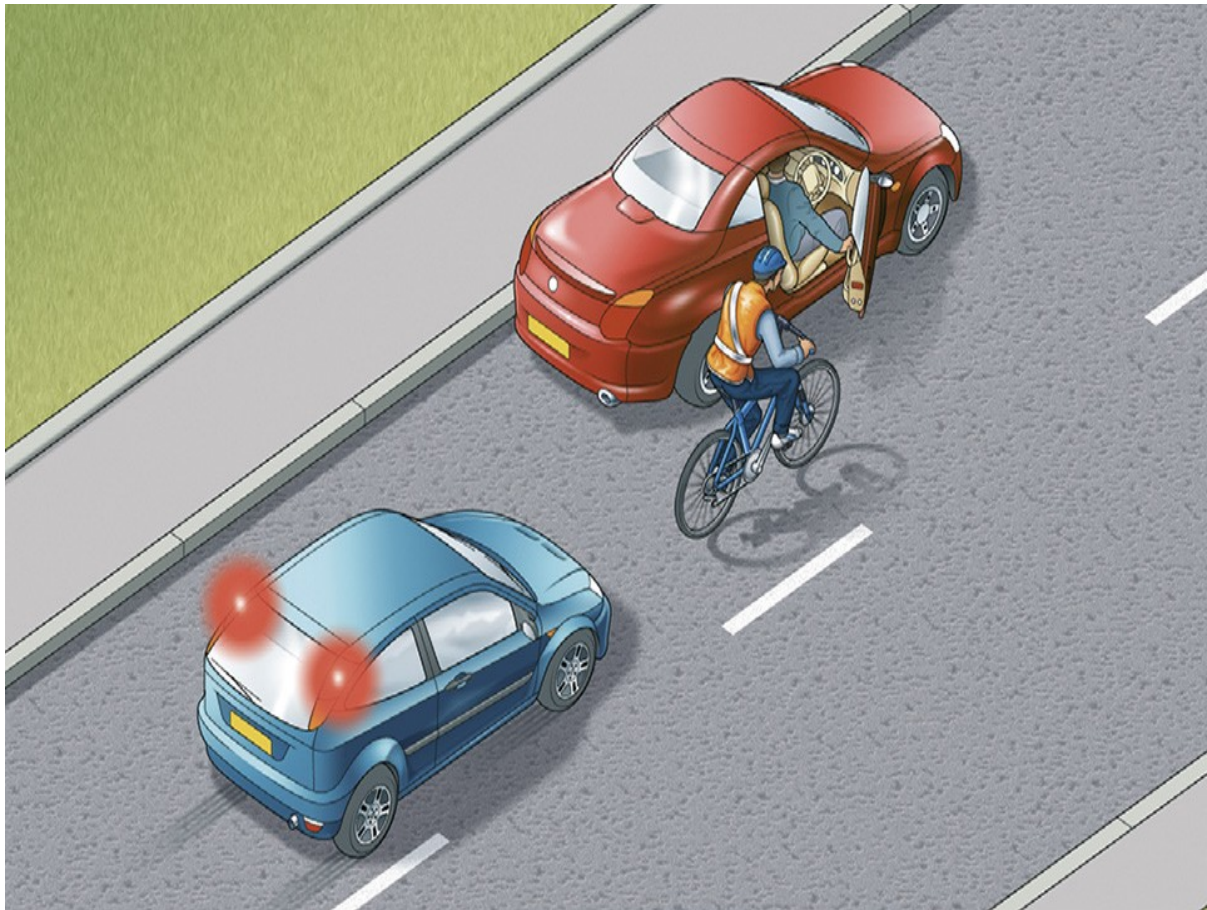
- you **MUST** ensure you do not hit anyone when you open your door. Check for cyclists or other traffic by looking all around and using your mirrors
- where you are able to do so, you should open the door using your hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening; for example, use your left hand to open a door on your right-hand side. This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder. You are then more likely to avoid causing injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing you on the road, or to people on the pavement
- it is safer for your passengers (especially children) to get out of the vehicle on the side next to the kerb
- put all valuables out of sight and make sure your vehicle is secure
- lock your vehicle.

Before using a hand-held device to help you to park, you **MUST** make sure it is safe to do so. Then, you should move the vehicle into the parking space in the safest way, and by the shortest route possible.

When you use a hand-held device to help you to park, you **MUST** remain in control of the vehicle at all times. Do not use the hand-held device for anything else while you are using it to help you park, and do not put anyone in danger. Use the hand-held device according to the manufacturer's instructions.

When using an electric vehicle charge point, you should park close to the charge point and avoid creating a trip hazard for pedestrians from trailing cables. Display a warning sign if you can. After using the charge point, you should return charging cables and connectors neatly to minimise the danger to pedestrians and avoid creating an obstacle for other road users.

Laws [CUR regs 98, 105, 107 & 110](#), [RVLR reg 27](#) & [RTA 1988 sect 42](#)



Rule 239: Check before opening your door
Rule 240

You **MUST NOT** stop or park on

- the carriageway, an emergency area or a hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency (see [Rules 270](#) and [271](#))
- a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zig-zag lines (see [Rule 191](#))
- a clearway (see [Traffic signs](#))
- taxi bays as indicated by upright signs and markings

- an urban clearway within its hours of operation, except to pick up or set down passengers (see [Traffic signs](#))
- a road marked with double white lines, even when a broken white line is on your side of the road, except to pick up or set down passengers, or to load or unload goods
- a tram or cycle lane during its period of operation
- a cycle track
- red lines, in the case of specially designated 'red routes', unless otherwise indicated by signs. Any vehicle may enter a bus lane to stop, load or unload where this is not prohibited (see [Rule 141](#)).

Laws [MT\(E&W\)R regs 7 & 9](#) as amended by [MT\(E&W\)\(A\)\(E\)R](#), [MT\(S\)R regs 6 & 8](#), [RTRA sects 5, 6 and 8](#), [TSRGD schedule 7 parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7](#), [schedule 9 part 6](#), [schedule 14 parts 1 and 5](#)

Rule 241

You **MUST NOT** park in parking spaces reserved for specific users, such as [Blue Badge holders](#), residents or motorcycles, unless entitled to do so.

Laws [CSDPA sect 21](#) & [RTRA sects 5 & 8](#)

Rule 242

You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

Laws [RTA 1988 sect 22](#) & [CUR reg 103](#)

Rule 243

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities

except when forced to do so by stationary traffic.

In Scotland you **MUST NOT** double park or park anywhere the kerb has been lowered to help pedestrians or cyclists.

Exceptions are allowed in limited circumstances.

Law [T\(Scot\)A part 6](#)

Rule 244

You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London or Scotland. Exceptions are allowed in limited circumstances. You should not park partially or wholly on the pavement elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Law [GL\(GP\)A sect 15](#) & [T\(Scot\)A part 6](#)

Rule 245

Controlled Parking Zones. The zone entry signs indicate the times when the waiting restrictions within the zone are in force. Parking may be allowed in some places at other times. Otherwise parking will be within separately signed and marked bays.

Rule 246

Goods vehicles. Vehicles with a maximum laden weight of over 7.5 tonnes (including any trailer) **MUST NOT** be parked on a verge, pavement or any land situated between carriageways, without police permission. The only exception is when parking is essential for loading and unloading, in which case the vehicle **MUST NOT** be left unattended.

Law [RTA 1988 sect 19](#)

Rule 247

Loading and unloading. Do not load or unload where there are yellow markings on the kerb and upright signs advise restrictions are in place (see '[Road markings](#)'). This may be permitted where parking is otherwise restricted. On red routes, specially marked and signed bays indicate where and when loading and unloading is permitted.

Law [RTRA sects 5](#) & [8](#)

Parking at night (rules 248 to 252)

Rule 248

You **MUST NOT** park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space.

Laws [CUR reg 101](#) & [RVLR reg 24](#)

Rule 249

All vehicles **MUST** display parking lights when parked on a road or a lay-by on a road with a speed limit greater than 30 mph (48 km/h).

Law [RVLR reg 24](#)

Rule 250

Cars, goods vehicles not exceeding 2500 kg laden weight, invalid carriages, motorcycles and pedal cycles may be parked without lights on a road (or lay-by) with a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) or less if they are:

- at least 10 metres (32 feet) away from any junction, close to the kerb and facing in the direction of the traffic flow
- in a recognised parking place or lay-by.

Other vehicles and trailers, and all vehicles with projecting loads, **MUST NOT** be left on a road at night without lights.

Laws [RVLR reg 24](#) & [CUR reg 82\(7\)](#)

Rule 251

Parking in fog. It is especially dangerous to park on the road in fog. If it is unavoidable, leave your parking lights or sidelights on.

Rule 252

Parking on hills. If you park on a hill you should:

- park close to the kerb and apply the handbrake firmly

- select a forward gear and turn your steering wheel away from the kerb when facing uphill
- select reverse gear and turn your steering wheel towards the kerb when facing downhill
- use 'park' if your car has an automatic gearbox.



Facing uphill



Facing downhill

Rule 252: Turn your wheels away from the kerb when parking facing uphill. Turn them towards the kerb when parking facing downhill

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)

DPE is becoming increasingly common as more authorities take on this role. The local traffic authority assumes responsibility for enforcing many parking contraventions in place of the police. Further details on DPE may be found at the following websites:

[Traffic Penalty Tribunal](#) (outside London)

[London Tribunals](#) (inside London)

Waiting and Stopping Restrictions

Along the edge of the carriageway

Yellow lines apply to the carriageway, the pavement, and the verge. You may **stop to load or unload**, unless loading restrictions apply, and you may stop to allow **passengers to board or alight**.

Double yellow lines mean no waiting at any time unless signs show seasonal exceptions.

For other yellow line markings, the times are shown on nearby plates or on **Controlled Parking Zone** entry signs.

If no days are shown, the restriction applies every day, including Sundays and Bank Holidays.

White bay markings with upright signs show where parking is allowed and for how long.

Red Route stopping controls

Some roads, especially in London, use **red lines** instead of yellow lines. Red lines apply to the carriageway, pavement and verge.

Double red lines mean no stopping at any time.

Single red lines mean no stopping during the times shown on nearby signs.

On Red Routes you may **stop only in specially marked boxes or bays** when the adjacent sign permits and **only for the stated purpose and duration**. A box marked in red may be available **only at certain times**. A box marked in white may be available **throughout the day** subject to the sign.

Kerb markings and loading restrictions

Yellow marks on the kerb or at the carriageway edge mean loading and unloading are prohibited during the times shown on the black and white plates. You may still **stop for passengers to board or alight**. If no days are shown, the restriction applies every day, including Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Loading bays are shown by **white bay markings with Loading Only** and a **blue trolley symbol** on the sign. The sign states **who may use the bay** for example **goods vehicles only** and **the times of use**. If no times or days are shown, the bay may be used at any time. You must be actively loading or unloading to use a loading bay.

Exam smart: line by line

□ Single Yellow Line

Meaning You cannot wait or park **during signed times**.

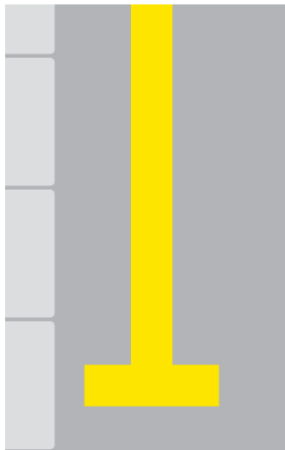
When Check the nearby plate for example **No waiting Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm**.

You can **Stop briefly to drop off or pick up passengers** and load or unload unless kerb marks or plates prohibit loading.

Blue Badge Up to 3 hours with clock set **unless signs or kerb marks say otherwise**.

Common spots Side roads and residential streets.

Memory trick □ **One yellow means one rule to check** look for the sign.



No waiting
during times
shown on sign

□ Double Yellow Line

Meaning **no waiting at any time.**

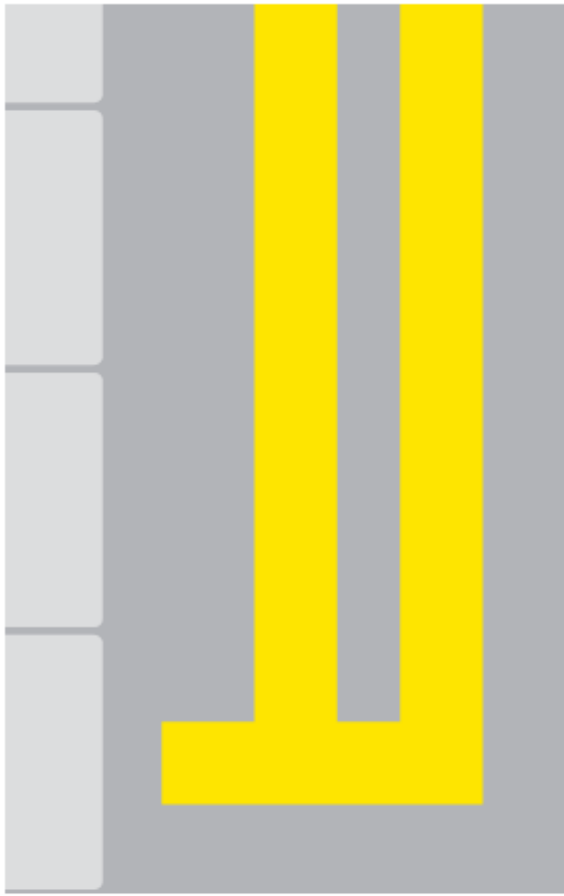
When 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can stop for passengers to board or alight and load or unload, unless kerb marks or plates prohibit loading.

Blue Badge Up to 3 hours with clock set if it is safe and not causing an obstruction, and **no loading ban is in force.**

Common spots: Busy roads, corners and junctions.

Memory trick □ **Two yellows mean too strict, never wait.**



No waiting
at any time

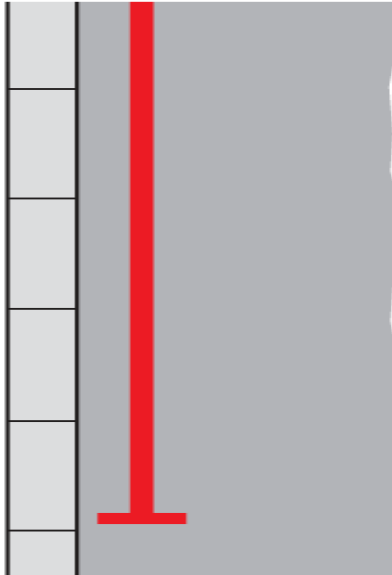
● Single Red Line

Meaning no stopping or parking during signed times.
When checking the nearby plate, for example: "No stop-
ping Monday to Friday 7 am to 7 pm."

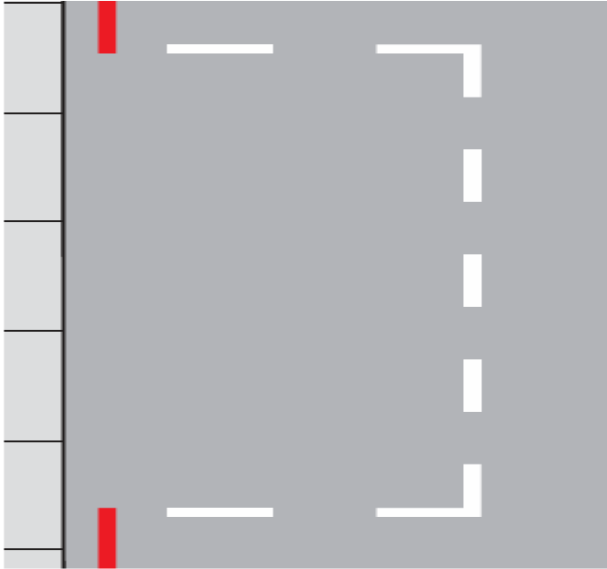
You can stop only in a signed Red Route bay or box when
the sign permits.

Blue Badge Only in signed Red Route bays where the sign
allows it.

Common spots Main routes used to keep traffic flowing.
Memory trick  **One red means read the sign.**



No stopping
during times
shown on sign



Parking is limited to the duration specified during the days and times shown

●● Double Red Line

Meaning **No stopping at any time** not even to set down passengers.

When 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Blue Badge Only in clearly signed Red Route bays where permitted.

Common spots London Red Routes and other major city roads.

Memory trick ●● Two reds means dead stop never.

Quick summary for revision

□ Single Yellow

When it applies Certain times check the sign

Can you stop Yes briefly for passengers and for loading unless kerb marks ban it

Can you park No during restricted times

Blue Badge Yes up to 3 hours unless signs or kerb marks say otherwise

Common area Local roads

□ Double Yellow

When it applies Anytime

Can you stop Yes briefly for passengers and for loading unless kerb marks ban it

Can you park No

Blue Badge Yes up to 3 hours where safe and no loading ban

Common area Busy roads

● Single Red

When it applies Certain times check the sign

Can you stop Only in a signed bay or box

Can you park No on the line

Blue Badge Only in signed Red Route bays
Common area Main routes

 **Double Red**

When it applies Anytime

Can you stop No

Can you park No

Blue Badge Only in signed Red Route bays

Common area Red Routes including London

Exam checkpoints

1. **Lines guide you but signs control you** always read plates and any zone entry signs.
2. **Kerb marks override loading** any yellow kerb marks with a plate mean **no loading during the stated times**.
3. **Blue Badge is not a free pass** it never overrides a **no loading** restriction and the **clock must be set**.
4. **Red means stricter than yellow** on Red Routes **only signed bays and boxes** permit stopping.
5. **White bays are conditional** park only **as the upright sign allows** for the **stated class of user and time**.
6. **If no days are shown the rule applies every day** including **Sundays and Bank Holidays**

Waiting and Parking (Rules 238–252)

General Rules (Rule 238)

- You **MUST NOT** wait or park on **yellow lines** during restricted times shown on nearby plates or zone signs.
- **Double yellow lines** mean no waiting at any time, even without signs.
- You **MUST NOT** stop, wait, or pick up passengers on **school entrance markings** when signs show restrictions.

Parking Safely (Rules 239–247)

- Use car parks or marked bays whenever possible. If stopping on the roadside:
 - Do not park against traffic flow.
 - Stop close to the kerb, not too close to vehicles with Blue Badges.
 - Switch off engine, headlights, and fog lights.
 - Apply the handbrake and lock your car.
 - Check for cyclists/motorcyclists before opening doors. The “Dutch Reach” (using the opposite hand to open the door) makes you look over your shoulder, reducing risk.
 - Passengers should exit on the kerb side when possible.
 - Hide valuables and secure the vehicle.
- When using parking assist technology, you **MUST** remain in full control and only use the device for parking.
- At electric charging points: park close, avoid trailing cables, and tidy them after use.

Where You **MUST NOT Stop or Park (Rule 240–244)**

- On motorways/hard shoulders (except emergencies).
- At pedestrian crossings or zig-zag lines.
- In clearways or urban clearways (except to pick up/set down during allowed times).
- On double white lines (except to stop briefly for passengers or loading).
- In tram/cycle lanes during operating times, or on cycle tracks.
- In taxi bays, bus lanes (unless signs permit), or red routes outside designated bays.

- In spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders, residents, or motorcycles unless entitled (Rule 241).
- In dangerous or obstructive positions (Rule 242).
- Avoid stopping near school entrances, junctions (within **10 metres / 32 ft**), level crossings, hill brows, bends, traffic islands, lowered kerbs, property entrances, or where it blocks cyclists (Rule 243).
- In **Scotland**, double parking or blocking dropped kerbs is banned (Rule 243).
- Parking on pavements is illegal in **London and Scotland**, and elsewhere unless signs allow (Rule 244).

Special Cases

- **Controlled Parking Zones (Rule 245):** restrictions apply across the zone unless bays/signs say otherwise.
- **Goods vehicles >7.5 tonnes (Rule 246):** MUST NOT park on verges, pavements, or land between carriageways, unless loading/unloading and attended.
- **Loading/unloading (Rule 247):** Not allowed where yellow kerb markings and signs restrict it. On red routes, only permitted in signed bays at specified times.

Parking at Night (Rules 248–252)

- You MUST NOT park facing against the traffic flow at night unless in a marked bay (Rule 248).
- Vehicles MUST show parking lights if parked on roads over **30 mph (48 km/h)** (Rule 249).
- Cars, motorcycles, and small vehicles may park without lights on 30 mph or lower roads if:
 - At least **10 m (32 ft)** from a junction.

- Facing the correct traffic direction and close to the kerb.
- Larger vehicles, trailers, or those with projecting loads **MUST** always display lights (Rule 250).
- Avoid parking on the road in fog; if unavoidable, leave parking lights on (Rule 251).
- On hills (Rule 252):
 - Park close to the kerb, apply the handbrake.
 - **Facing uphill:** select forward gear, wheels turned **away from the kerb.**
 - **Facing downhill:** select reverse gear, wheels turned **towards the kerb.**
 - Automatics: use 'Park'.

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)

Parking enforcement is increasingly handled by local authorities, not police. Appeals go through the **Traffic Penalty Tribunal** (outside London) or **London Tribunals**.