

*Austroads*

# Learning to Drive



*Austroads*

## Austroads

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Its purpose is to contribute to improved Australian and New Zealand transport options by:

- providing expert advice to the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) and the Australian Transport Council (ATC) on road and road transport issues
- facilitating collaboration between road agencies
- promoting harmonisation, consistency and uniformity in road and related operations
- undertaking strategic research on behalf of road agencies and communicating outcomes
- promoting improved and consistent practice by road agencies.

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## What the word means in plain English

Here are some learning to drive words used in this handbook. You need to know what they mean. Difficult words in the handbook are marked in **orange text**. You may need to check what those words mean.

<b>Ahead</b>	not far in front of you	<b>Direction and opposite direction</b>	where you are driving to is your direction. <b>vehicles</b> driving in the opposite direction are going the other way
<b>Approach, approaching</b>	get nearer to, getting nearer to	<b>Divided road</b>	road that has a painted strip or raised island down the middle
<b>Arrow</b>	an arrow points in the direction of driving 	<b>Driveway</b>	the entry or exit place near a gate or house where you can drive on to or off the property
<b>Blood alcohol concentration (BAC)</b>	how much alcohol is in your body	<b>Drugs</b>	medicine or illegal drugs, these can affect your driving
<b>Bridge</b>	a structure to carry a road over a railroad, river, another road or some other obstacle	<b>Elderly</b>	an old person
<b>Built-up area</b>	a road that has street lights and houses or buildings along a town or city	<b>Ending road</b>	the road that stops where it meets another road
<b>Caution</b>	be careful, there could be a problem <b>ahead</b> or close by	<b>Entry</b>	where you can drive in to a place
<b>Clearance</b>	how high a <b>bridge</b> is (some trucks may be too high to go under the bridge)	<b>Exit</b>	a place on a road where you can turn off or leave the road
<b>Clearways</b>	a clearway is a length of road where kerbside parking and stopping is <b>prohibited</b> (except for buses and taxis) during specified times in the city	<b>Fines</b>	the money you have to pay if you do something wrong
<b>Continuous white centre line</b>	white line in the middle of the road that is solid or not broken	<b>Freeway</b>	a high speed road that has a lot of lanes
<b>Controlled intersection</b>	an intersection that has stop <b>signs</b> , give way <b>signs</b> or <b>traffic lights</b>	<b>Give way</b>	let other <b>vehicles</b> or people go first
<b>Crest of a hill</b>	the top of the hill that you can't see over	<b>Hazard</b>	a dangerous situation
<b>Crossroads</b>	where two or more roads cross over each other	<b>Intersection</b>	this is where two or more roads meet or join up
<b>Demerit points</b>	the points you get when you do something wrong on the road. If you get 12 points you lose your licence	<b>Learner licence</b>	you need to get this before you can practise driving on the road
<b>Diamond shaped</b>		<b>Legal alcohol limit</b>	the biggest amount of alcohol you can have in your body before you break the law
		<b>Maximum speed</b>	this is the fastest speed you can go at before you are breaking the law
		<b>Median strip</b>	a road that has a painted strip or raised area down the middle
		<b>Medication</b>	drugs or medicine
		<b>Merging traffic</b>	where two lanes of traffic travelling in the same direction have to become one lane

<b>Minimum speed</b>	this is the slowest speed you can go at	<b>Services</b>	where you can get petrol or there are shops and toilets
<b>Narrows</b>	the road is not as wide as before	<b>Siren</b>	a thing that makes a loud noise on an ambulance, police car or fire engine
<b>Offence</b>	this is when you break the law	<b>Sign</b>	a picture or words on a pole that tell you something you need to know about (see page 4)
<b>On-coming traffic</b>	<b>vehicles ahead</b> of you that are coming towards you	<b>Slip lane</b>	a lane which allow cars to turn left at the intersection without going through the intersection
<b>Overtaking</b>	this is when you go pass another <b>vehicle</b> going slower in the same direction as you	<b>Slippery road</b>	where the road is wet, muddy, or has loose gravel
<b>Parked</b>	you stop your <b>vehicle</b> on the side of the road and want to stay there	<b>Supervising driver</b>	this is the driver you must have sitting next to you when you are driving on a learner licence
<b>Passenger</b>	someone in the <b>vehicle</b> who is not the driver	<b>Speed limit</b>	the fastest speed you can go up to before you are breaking the law
<b>Pedestrian crossing</b>	are safe places on the road marked for pedestrians to cross at, you must stop and give way to anyone on the crossing	<b>T-junction</b>	(or T-intersection) where roads meet like a letter T
<b>Pedestrian</b>	a person who is walking or in a wheelchair (can be motorised)	<b>Traffic infringement penalties</b>	finest and demerit points
<b>Penalties</b>	the punishments you get for doing something wrong	<b>Traffic lights</b>	the lights are red, yellow and green to tell you when to stop and go
<b>P licence</b>	this is the licence a provisional or probationary driver has	<b>U-turn</b>	when you turn around and go in the opposite direction
<b>Proceed</b>	move on	<b>Uncontrolled intersections</b>	an intersection where there are no <b>signs</b> , lines or <b>traffic lights</b>
<b>Prohibited</b>	not allowed	<b>Utility</b>	a <b>vehicle</b> that is like a small truck and has an open space in the back to carry large loads
<b>Railway crossing</b>	where the road crosses the train tracks	<b>Vehicle</b>	a car, bus, bicycle, motorcycle or truck
<b>Road Island</b>	a raised or painted area in the centre of the road which divides traffic is called an island	<b>Zigzag lines</b>	lines marked on the road before a school <b>pedestrian crossing</b>
<b>Random Breath Test (RBT)</b>	where the police can stop you and test how much alcohol you have drunk	<b>Zone</b>	an area or space on a road, marked to be used for a special purpose, such as a school zone or a shared zone
<b>Restraint or restraining device</b>	seat belt or child's special car seat		
<b>Reversing</b>	going backwards		
<b>Road markings</b>	lines painted on a road that tell drivers what to do		
<b>Road user</b>	anybody using the road, such as a driver, a pedestrian, a <b>passenger</b> , a cyclist		
<b>Roadwork</b>	the road is being dug up or mended		
<b>Roundabout</b>	an intersection where traffic goes round in a circle		



## Road signs

You need to know about road **signs**. They tell people using the road what they have to do, or they warn about something up **ahead**. Road **signs** come in different colours and shapes. It is important to understand them.

### There are different kinds of signs



**Road law signs** you must do what the **sign** tells you to do



**Warning signs** warn you what might be up **ahead**

### IMPORTANT

Road law and warning **signs** are the most important kinds of **signs**. They help everyone to use the road safely.

There are other kinds of **signs**, such as **roadwork** and information **signs**.

## Road law signs

Road law **signs** tell you what you must do to keep everyone safe on the roads and not break the law. This includes people in other cars and people walking on the road and people riding bicycles. If you don't do what road law **signs** tell you, you are breaking the law and you may end up losing your driver licence.

- Most road law **signs** are red, white or black.
- You must stop by the **sign** or behind the white line on the road.
- You must **give way** to other **road users**.



### Stop Sign

You must slow down when driving up to this **sign**, stop and **give way** according to the road rules.



### Give way sign

You must slow down when driving up to the **sign** and stop if you need to and **give way** according to the road rules.



### Roundabout sign

You must slow down when driving up to the **roundabout** and get ready to stop if there are cars coming and **give way** to **vehicles** on the **roundabout**.



### No U-turn sign

You must not make a **U-turn** here.



### No entry sign

Don't drive on to the road past this **sign**.



### One way sign

means you must only drive in the **direction** the **arrow** tells you.



### Traffic direction sign

You must only drive in the direction the **arrow** tells you.



### No left turn sign

You must not turn left here.



### No right turn sign

You must not turn right here.



### Keep left sign

You must drive only on the left side of this **sign**.



### Two way traffic sign

**Vehicles** travel in both directions on this road.



### Wrong way sign

If you see this **sign**, you are driving in the wrong **direction**.

Stop and turn around as soon as it is safe to do so.



### Keep left unless overtaking sign

You must keep the right lane free unless you are **overtaking**, turning right, or going around something on the road.



### Speed limit sign

You must not drive faster than the speed shown in the circle (60km/h).



### End speed limit sign

The speed limit shown in the circle has ended.



### No overtaking sign

This part of the road is only wide enough for one **vehicle** at a time. You may have to stop to let a **vehicle** already coming in the other direction go first.

## IMPORTANT

There are many other road law **signs** that have not been shown in this book. Some of the **signs** may look different in your state or territory. They may have different pictures, words or colours.

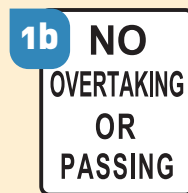
## Test yourself on these road law signs

Draw lines or arrows to match the road law **signs** with what they mean.

One **sign** is done for you.



The speed limit after this **sign** is 50km/h.



No buses may drive on the road past this **sign**.



You must not drive next to another **vehicle** going in the same direction as you. And you must not pass a **vehicle** going in the other direction as you.



You must not do a **U-turn** here.



Only drive in the direction of the **arrow**. You must not turn left or right or do a **U-turn**.

See page 47 for answers.



## Warning signs

Warning **signs** tell you there is something **ahead** you need to know about, such as a hazard. If the warning **sign** also shows a speed limit, this is the fastest speed for driving safely past the hazard. You will often need to go slower than that speed limit if you cannot see clearly **ahead**.

- Warning **signs** are always yellow and black and most are diamond shaped.



### Pedestrian crossing ahead sign

Prepare to **give way** to anyone using the crossing **ahead**.



### Pedestrian crossing sign

**Pedestrian crossings** are safe places on the road marked for people to cross. You must **give way** to anyone on the crossing.



### Children ahead sign

Children could be on the road.



### Pedestrians sign

Pedestrians (people walking) may be using the road.



### School ahead sign

Watch out for children.



### Bicycles ahead sign

People on bicycles may be using the road.



### Kangaroo sign

Watch out for kangaroos on the road.



### Truck crossing sign

Trucks may be crossing or entering the road.



### Give way sign ahead

Prepare to **give way**. There will be a **give way sign** at the intersection **ahead**.



### Stop sign ahead

Prepare to stop. There will be a stop **sign** at the intersection **ahead**.



**Roundabout ahead sign**  
Prepare to **give way** at the **roundabout ahead**.



**Traffic lights ahead sign**  
The intersection **ahead** is **controlled** by **traffic lights**. Prepare to stop.



**Railway level crossing ahead sign**  
The road **ahead** crosses over train tracks. Prepare to stop.



**Railway level crossing with flashing lights ahead sign**  
The road **ahead** crosses over train tracks. Flashing lights will come on if there is a train coming. Prepare to stop.



**One-lane bridge sign**  
The **bridge ahead** is narrow and only one car can be on it at a time. If you see **vehicles** coming towards you, wait until the narrow part of the bridge is clear.



**Crossroad sign**  
An **intersection** of 2 or more roads is up **ahead**.



**T-junction ahead sign**  
this road intersects with another road at a T-intersection or **T-junction**.



**Divided road sign**  
The road **ahead** will be divided by a **road island** instead of a centre line.



**End of divided road sign**  
The road **ahead** will be divided by a centre line instead of a **road island**.



**Narrow road sign**  
The road **ahead narrows**. The road is not as wide as before.



**Steep descent sign**  
The road **ahead** goes down a steep hill.



**Merging traffic sign**  
**Merging traffic** from the right. Two lanes of traffic travelling in the same direction have to become one lane.



**Merging traffic sign**  
**Merging traffic** from the left. Two lanes of traffic travelling in the same direction have to become one lane.

**Another lane sign**

Another lane is added from the right.

**Another lane sign**

Another lane is added from the left.

**Lane direction sign**

One lane of traffic in your direction and 2 lanes of traffic in the opposite direction.

**Lane direction sign**

One lane of traffic in each direction.

**Sharp turns ahead sign**

The road turns sharply to the left then back to the right.

**Road curve sign**

The road bends to the left.

**Road bends sign**

The road bends to the left then to the right.

**Side road sign**

Intersection with side road up **ahead**.

**Sharp bend sign****with speed limit warning**

The road turns sharply to the right. Top speed on the turn is 20km/h when road conditions are good. But if the road conditions are bad, you will need to go slower than this.

**Dip sign**

Slow down the road **ahead** goes down and then up again suddenly.

**Road island sign**

There is a raised or painted area in the centre of the road **ahead**.

**Winding road sign**

There are lots of bends on the road **ahead**.

**Road humps sign**

These are big bumps put on the road to make you drive slowly.


**Ford sign**

Water flows across road.


**Aircraft sign**

Low-flying aircraft **ahead**.


**Slippery road sign**

The road gets slippery. The road may be wet, muddy, or have loose gravel.


**Low clearance ahead sign**

The **bridge ahead** is low. If your **vehicle** is a tall truck it may not fit under the bridge.

### IMPORTANT

There are many other warning **signs** that are not shown here. They may have words or pictures.

## Test yourself on these warning signs

Draw lines or arrows to match the warning **signs** with what they mean.


**2a**

**Arrows** show the number of lanes and the direction traffic is travelling.


**2b**

Children could be on the road.


**2c**

**Pedestrian crossing ahead.**


**2d**

Trucks crossing or entering the road **ahead**.


**2e**

Cows or sheep may be on or near the road.

See page 47 for answers.

## Hazard markers

**Hazard** markers are warning **signs**. They help traffic to go around hazards.  
Hazard markers are normally black and white or black and yellow.



Drive to the **left** of the hazard.



Drive to the **right** of the hazard.



Drive to either the **left or right** of the hazard.



Drive to the **right** of this **sign**.



Drive to the **left** of this **sign**.

Width markers can be on each side of a **bridge**, cattle grid or other **hazard** to show you how wide the road is.



## Roadwork signs

Roadwork **signs** tell you what you must do near **roadworks**. They are coloured yellow, orange, black, red or white.



### Reduce speed sign

Workers may be on the road **ahead**. Slow down and do not drive more than the **speed limit** shown.



### Roadworks ahead sign

**Caution** there may be roadworkers or heavy **vehicles** on the road **ahead**.



### Detour sign

You must go a different way to avoid the roadwork **ahead**. This new way is usually shown by **arrows** on a **sign**.



### Road controller sign

A traffic controller may hold a **sign** up to tell you to stop or go slowly **ahead**.



### Stop/slow signs

These are **signs**, traffic controllers can use at roadwork areas.



## Information signs

Some **signs** give information to **road users**, such as:

- How to get to (directions) and how far (distances) to places
- **Services**
- Roadside rest areas
- Place of interest.

These **signs** can be in different colours and shapes.



### Direction sign

Directions on how to get to nearby towns.



### Places of interest sign

Distance to a place of interest or tourism area.



### Towns ahead sign

Distance to towns **ahead**.



### Roadside rest sign

Distance to a rest area **ahead**.



### Services sign

Distance and directions to **services** provided **ahead**.

## Test yourself on all kinds of signs

Draw lines or arrows to match the warning **signs** with what they mean.



Turn left to see a place of interest.



Be careful going past other **vehicles** as loose stones are on the road. It is not safe to brake hard on loose stones.



The roadwork has ended.  
The speed limit is now 100km/h.



Drive to the left of the hazard.



A hazard is ahead.



Turn off in 300 metres for petrol and food.

See page 47 for answers.

## Giving way

Suppose you are **parked** on the side of the road. Someone behind you is driving down the road when you start up your **vehicle**. You have to wait until they've passed before you move out. That's giving way. It means letting another **road user** go first.



## Left and right

Lots of **give way** rules are about knowing who is on your left or right. Sometimes it's difficult to remember which is which.

A good tip to help you remember left from right is to hold your hands out straight out in front of you with your nails towards you and your thumbs sticking out. The hand that forms the letter L is your left.



One of the most important rules to know when you're driving is which driver can go first and who has to wait. The driver that waits gives way.



## Intersections

**Intersections** are where roads meet or cross over. There are 2 main sorts of intersections: **crossroads** and T- intersections.



### Crossroads

**Crossroads** are where two or more roads cross over each other.



### T-intersections or T-junctions

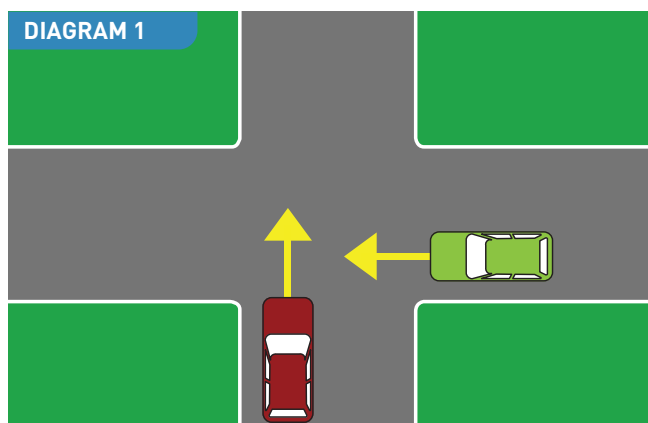
T-intersections (or **T-junctions**) are where one road stops where it meets another road, like a T.

The first **give way** rules to learn about are what to do at intersections that have no **signs** or **road markings**.

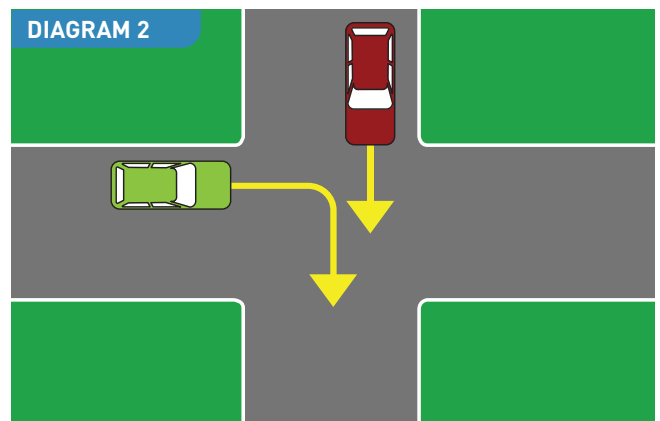


## Crossroads

When you drive up to a **crossroads**, you must **give way** to other **vehicles** on your right side. This is called giving way to the right. It means you must let the other **vehicles** on your right go through the cross roads before you do. Even if the other **vehicle** is a bicycle, truck, bus or motorcycle, you must still let them go first.



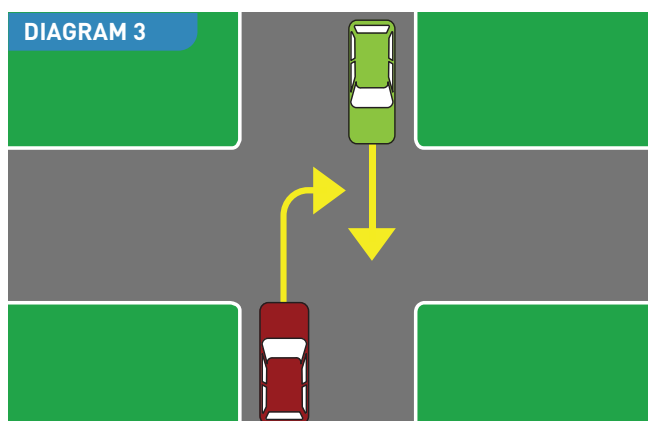
The red car has a green car on the road on its right side.  
The red car must **give way** to the green car, and any other **vehicles** on the road on the right. (*diagram 1*)



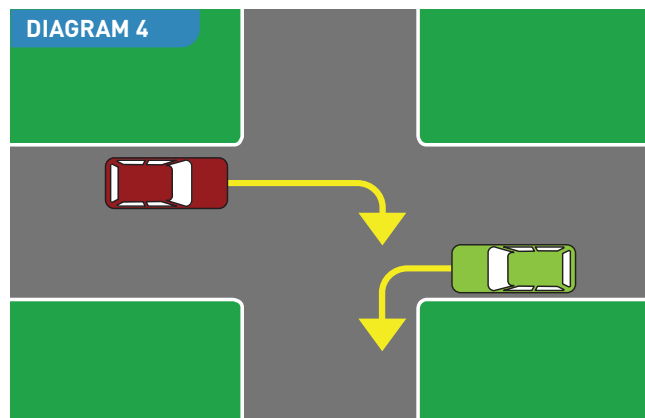
The red car has a green car on its right side. The green car wants to turn right.

The red car must **give way** to the green car, and any other **vehicles** on the road on the right. (*diagram 2*)

Suppose you are at a **crossroads** and want to turn right but there is a **vehicle** coming towards you on the same road. When this happens the **vehicle** wanting to turn must **give way** to the other **vehicle**. This is often called giving way to **on-coming traffic**.

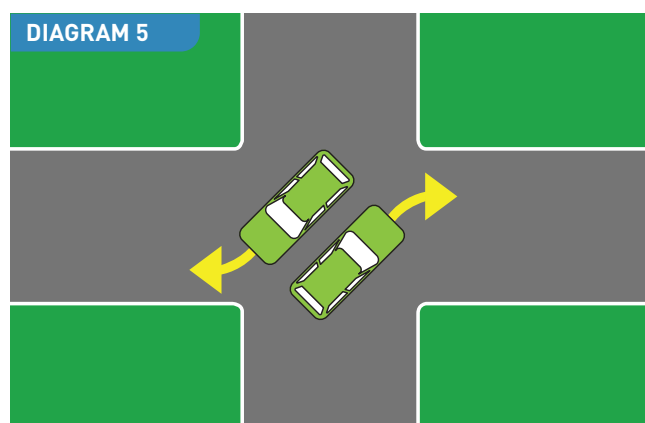


The red car wants to turn right but the green car is on the same road coming towards it. The red car must **give way** to the green car. (diagram 3)



The red car wants to turn right. The green car is on the same road and wants to turn left. The red car must **give way** to the green car turning left. (diagram 4)

When 2 **vehicles** are on the same road and are turning right, they can both go at the same time. No driver here has to **give way**.



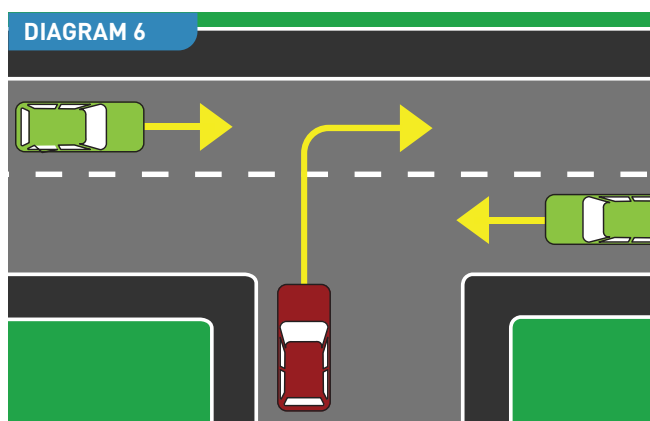
Both cars are turning right, so no driver has to **give way**. (diagram 5)

## T-Intersections or T-Junctions

Intersections where one road ends and meets another road are called T-intersections or **T-junctions**. They have their own **give way** rules.

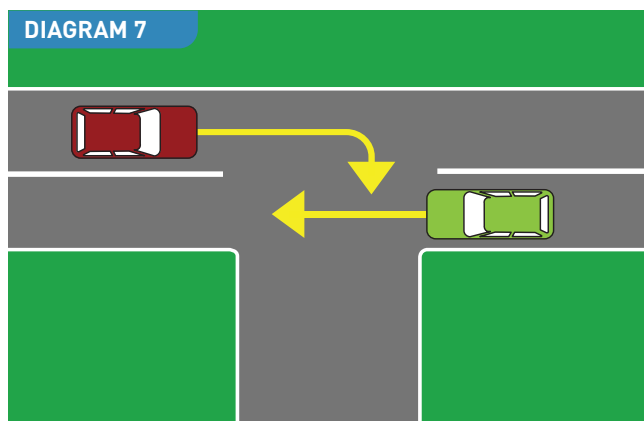


At a T-intersection **vehicles** on the **ending road** must **give way** to all **vehicles** on the other road except **U-turning vehicles**.



The red car is on the road that ends, so it must **give way** to both green cars. (diagram 6)

At a T-intersection **vehicles** turning right from a road that does not end must **give way** to oncoming **vehicles** going straight ahead or turning left.



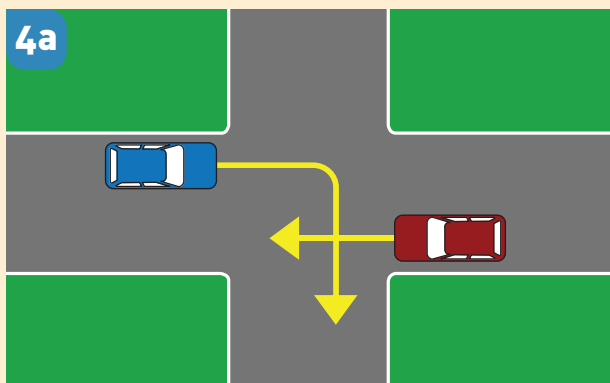
The red car is turning right. It must **give way** to the green car as the green car is on the same road and going straight **ahead**. (diagram 7)

## Test yourself on these road rules

Which car gives way at these intersections?

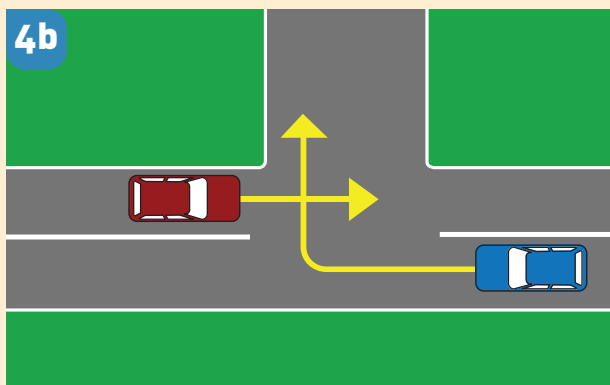
To help find out ask yourself, is it a T-intersection or a **crossroads**?

Is the car on the same road or on another road?



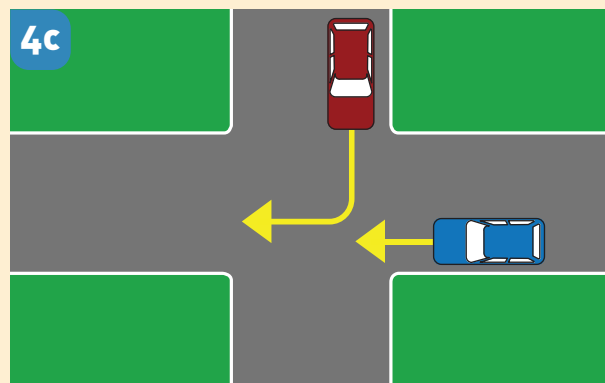
Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



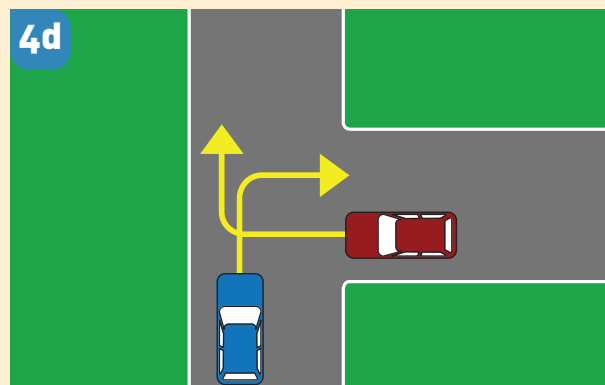
Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?

See page 47 for answers.

## Intersections with signs

The next **give way** rules to learn are what to do at intersections that have **signs**, **traffic lights**, **road markings** or **roundabouts** telling drivers what to do. Most intersections on main roads will have these things.

There are 2 important **signs** you might see at an intersection.



**Give way signs** mean you have to slow down when coming up to the intersection and stop if you need to see better. You must **give way** to other **road users** according to the rules.



**Stop signs** mean you must stop when you get to the intersection and **give way** to other **road users** according to the rules.



**Give way signs** are often where you can see if any **vehicle** is driving on the other road, before you get to the intersection. You still need to slow down.



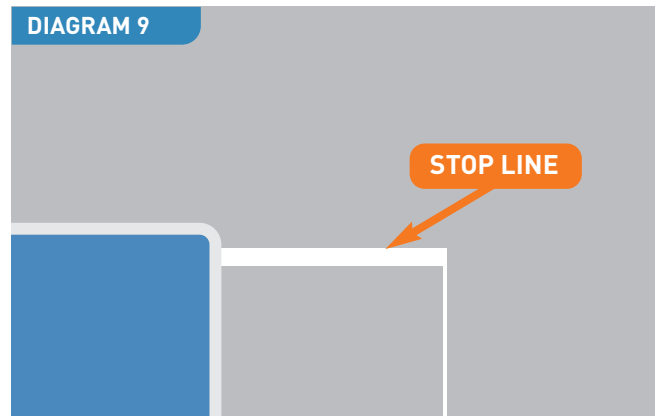
You mostly find stop **signs** where you can't see what's on the other road until you get to the intersection, because buildings or trees are blocking the view.

DIAGRAM 8



At an intersection, a broken line painted on the road shows where you have to **give way**. (diagram 8)

DIAGRAM 9



At an intersection, a continuous or solid line shows where you have to stop. You must stop behind this line. (diagram 9)

If you see a **give way** or stop line painted on the road without a **sign** you still have to **give way** or stop.

If you see a **give way** or stop **sign** without a line on the road, you still have to **give way** or stop. This should be as close to the intersection as you can be without being on it.

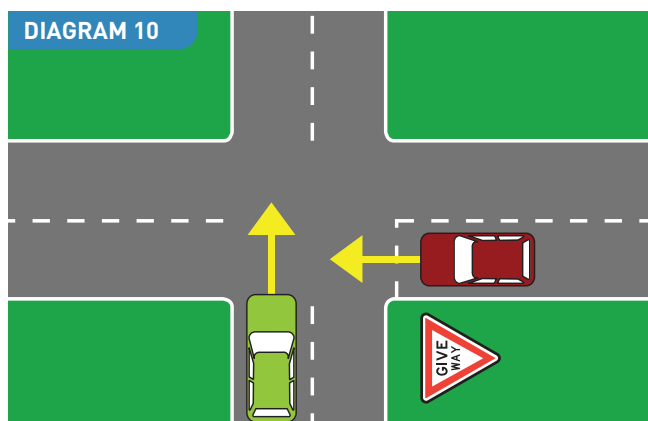


## Intersections with one sign

Lots of intersections have only one sign. This is often where a smaller road meets a main or larger road.



At an intersection if you are facing a **give way** or stop sign, or line, and there is no sign for the other driver, you still must **give way**.



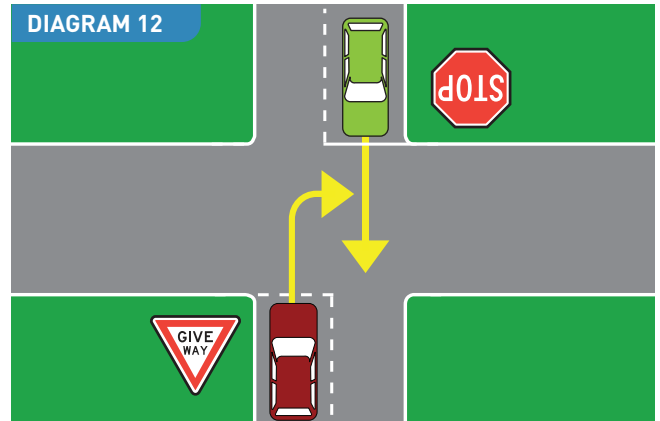
The red car has a **give way sign**, the green car doesn't, so the red car has to **give way**. (diagram 10)

## Intersections with two or more signs

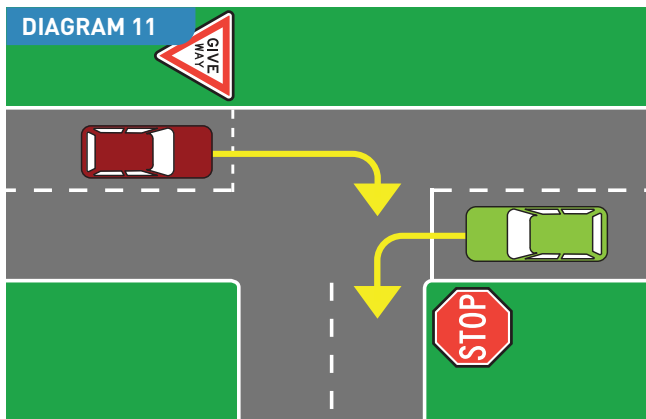
Many intersections on main roads have 2 or more **signs**. These can be stop as well as **give way signs**.



There may be 2 or more **give way** or stop **signs** (or road markings) on different roads at an intersection. The drivers on each road can all have **signs** telling them to **give way** to other **vehicles**. When this happens, the rules or laws are the same as if there are no **give way** or stop **signs** at the intersection.



The cars are on the same road. The red car turning right gives way to the green car going straight **ahead**. (diagram 12)

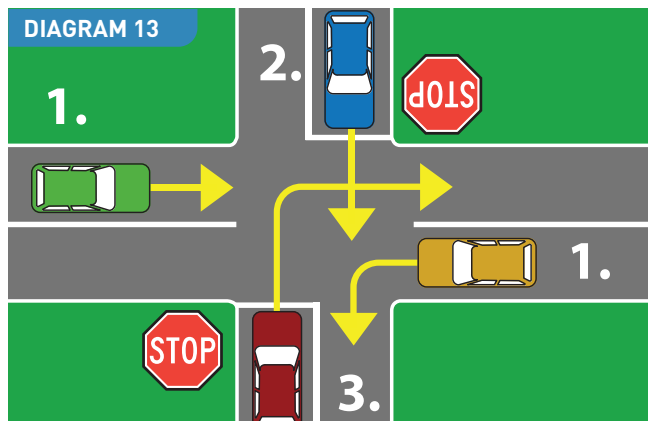


The cars are on the same road. The red car turning right gives way to the green car. (diagram 11)

## More than 2 vehicles at an intersection

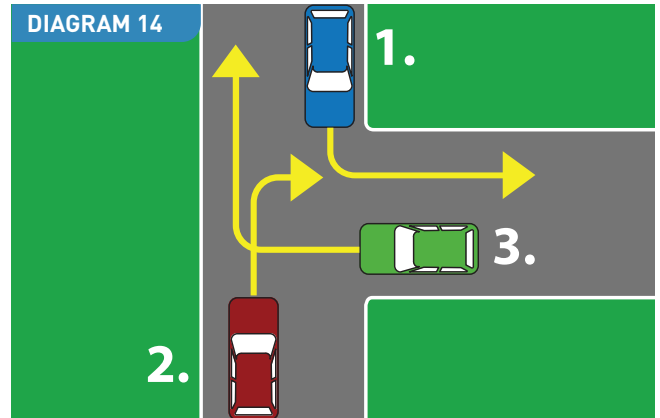
When there are more than 2 **vehicles** at an intersection, you must **give way** if:

- You're at a **crossroads** and any **vehicles** are on another road on your right side.
- You're at a T-intersection on the road that ends and you're turning right.



### Which vehicle goes first?

1. The green and yellow cars go 1st because they don't have to **give way** to the other cars.
2. The blue car goes 2nd because the red car is turning right and must **give way** to it.
3. The red car goes 3rd because it must **give way** to the blue car on the same road coming towards it. (diagram 13)



### Which vehicle goes first?

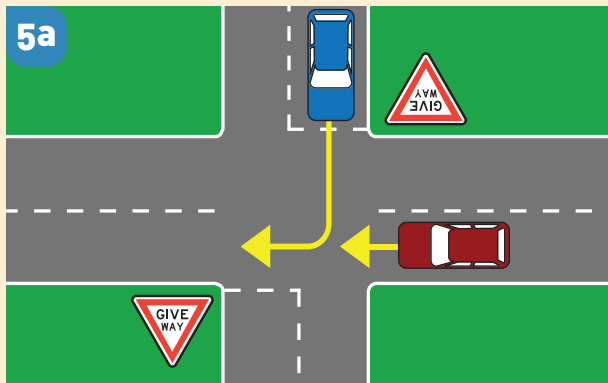
1. The blue car goes 1st because the red car must **give way** to it. No **give way** situation arises between the green and blue cars.
2. The red car goes 2nd because it has to **give way** to the blue car on the same road coming towards it.  
The red car does not have to **give way** to the green car.
3. The green car goes 3rd because it is at the end of a road at a T-intersection and must **give way** to all **vehicles** on the continuing road. (diagram 14)

## Test yourself on these road rules

Which car gives way at these intersections?

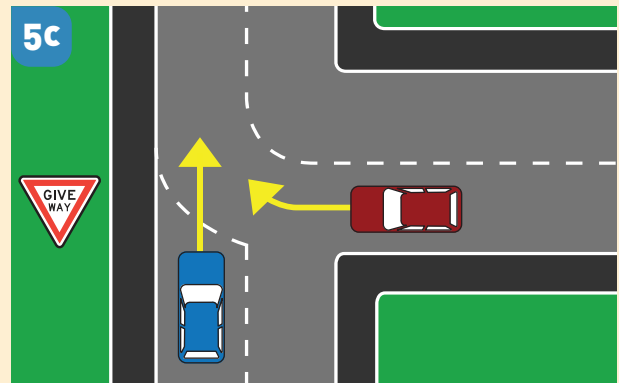
To help find out ask yourself, is it a T-intersection or a **crossroads**?

Is the car on the same road or on another road?



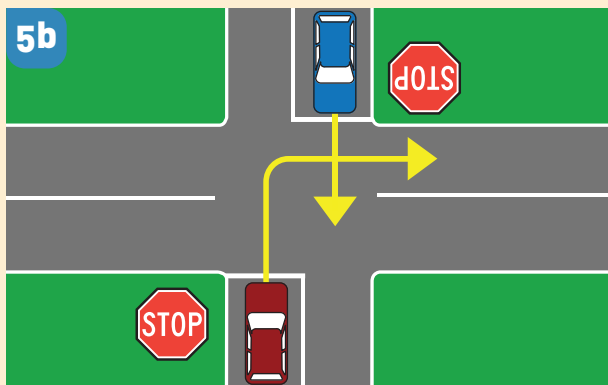
Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



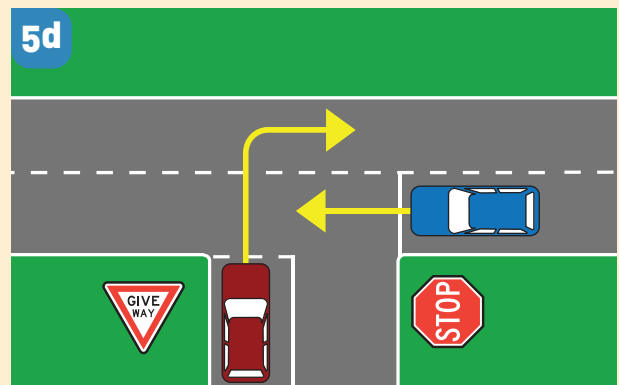
Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?

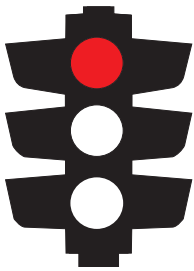
See page 47 for answers.

## Traffic lights

You mostly find **traffic lights** in towns and cities, but sometimes at **roadworks**. They tell drivers when to stop or go.

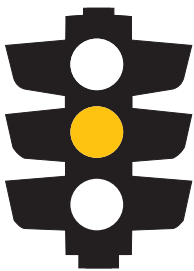


**Traffic lights** have **red**, **yellow** and **green** lights that tell drivers what to do.



### ● Red

You must stop behind the stop line and wait until the lights turn **green** for you to go.



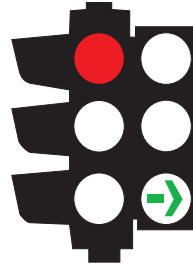
### ● Yellow

Stop behind the stop line if you can do so safely, but:  
Don't slam the brakes on and  
Don't speed up to beat the **red** stop light.



### ● Green

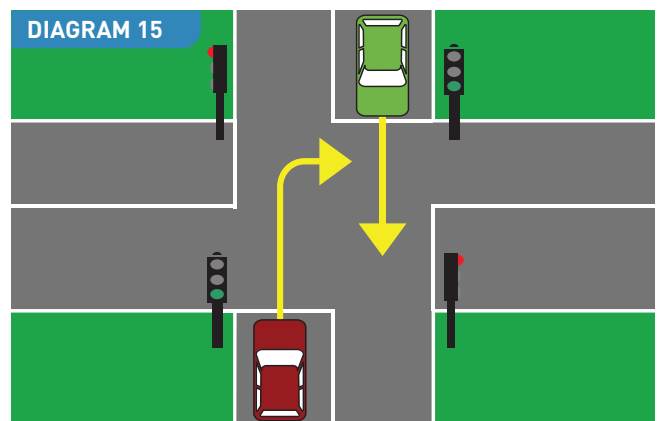
Go, but only if the intersection is clear of **vehicles**. If **vehicles** are blocking it, wait until it's clear before you go. If you're turning right, you can enter the intersection to wait but **give way** to any **vehicles** on the same road coming towards you.



Sometimes you get an arrow light as well as the three normal lights. If the arrow is **green**, you can go in the direction it points. If the arrow is **red** for where you want to go, you must stop and wait for a **green** arrow.



A **yellow** flashing traffic light at an intersection means the lights are broken. Slow down, go **ahead** carefully and be ready to **give way**.



Both cars have a **green** light. Both cars are on the same road. The red car is turning right, so it has to **give way** to the green car coming towards it. (diagram 15)

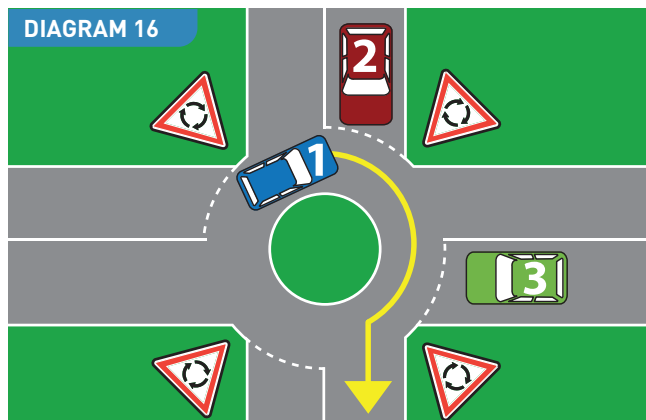


## Roundabouts

You mostly find **roundabouts** in towns and cities. They also help traffic move safely.



The main rule on **roundabouts** is to **give way to vehicles** already on the **roundabout**.



**Which vehicle goes first?**

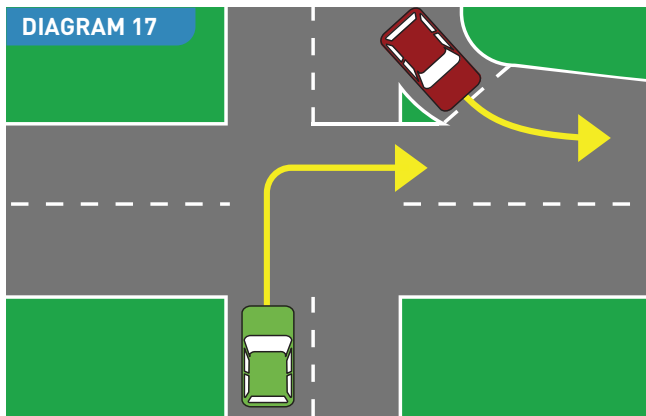
1. The blue car goes first because it is already on the **roundabout**.
2. The red car goes next, after the blue car passes it
3. The green car only goes after the blue car, then the red car passes it. *(diagram 16)*

## Slip lanes

Slip lanes help **vehicles** on to another road at an intersection.



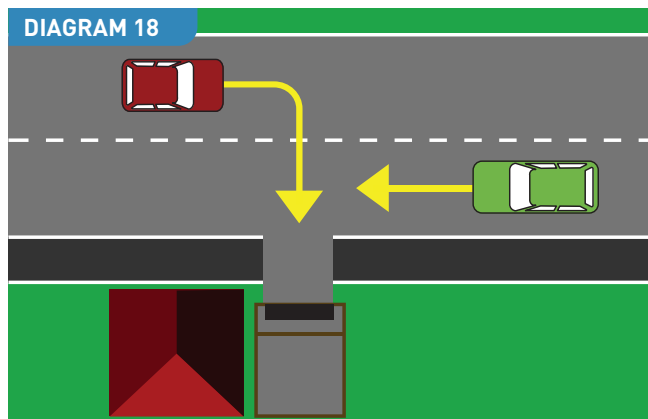
When entering another road from a slip lane you must **give way** to all other traffic, unless there are **vehicles** doing a **U-turn** at the intersection.



The red car gives way to the green car because the red car is on a slip lane. (diagram 17)

## Entering or leaving a road

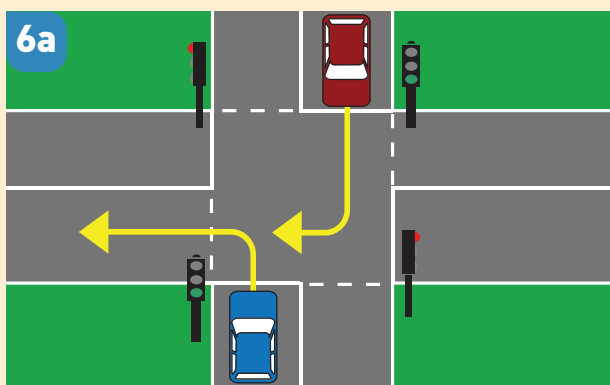
If you're driving on to or turning off a road, like when you turn in or out of a **driveway**, you must **give way** to all other **road users**. This includes people walking or riding a bicycle on the footpath.



The red car is leaving the road to turn into a driveway. It must **give way** to the green car coming towards it. (diagram 18)

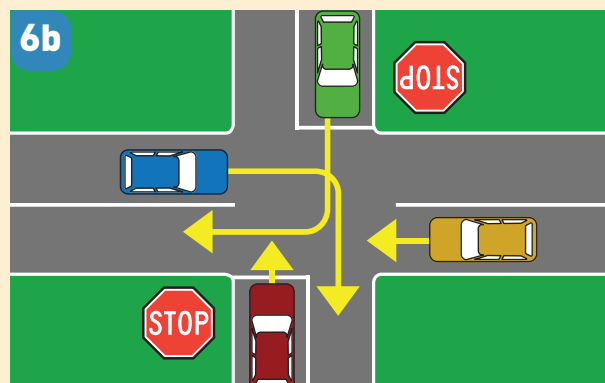
## Test yourself on these road rules

It may help to first pick one **vehicle** and work out who it has to **give way** to. Then do the same for each other **vehicle**.



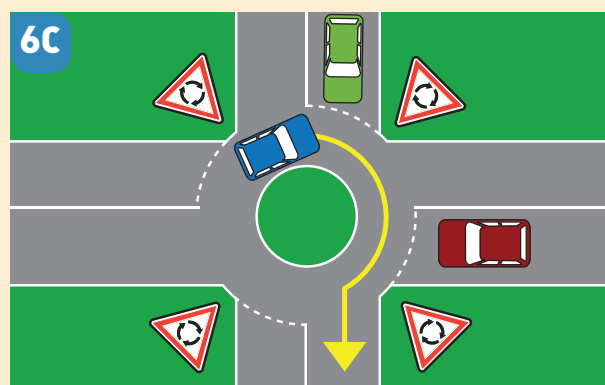
Which car gives way?

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



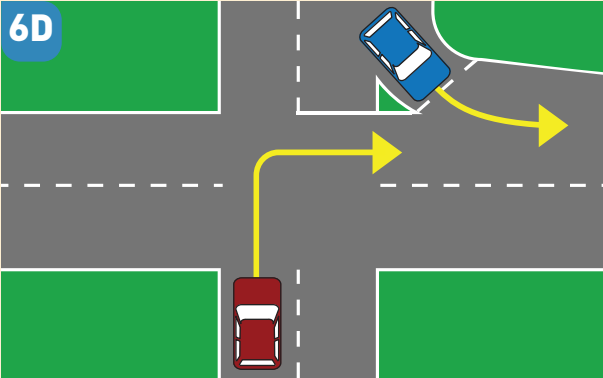
You are driving the blue car. Who must you give way to?

- ☐ The red and green cars?
- ☐ The yellow car?
- ☐ No car?
- ☐ All the other cars?



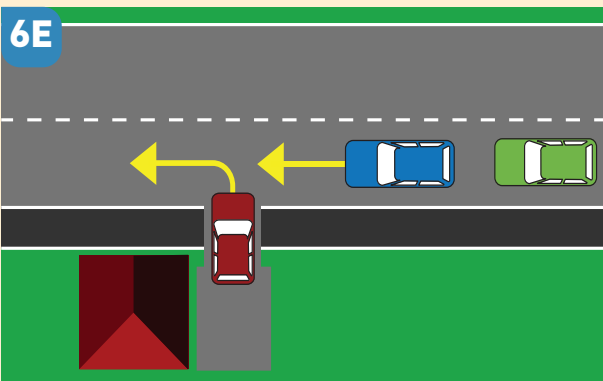
In what order do the cars go round the roundabout?

- ☐ The blue car, green car, then the red car?
- ☐ The green car, red car, then the blue car?
- ☐ The red car, the blue car then the green car?
- ☐ The green car, blue car, then the red car?



**Which car gives way?**

- ☐ The red car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ No car?



**You are driving the red car. Who do you give way to?**

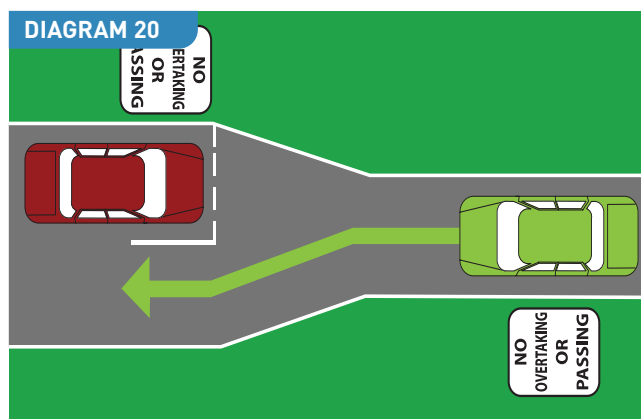
- ☐ No car?
- ☐ The blue car?
- ☐ The blue and green cars?

*See page 47-48 for answers.*



## Narrow roads and bridges

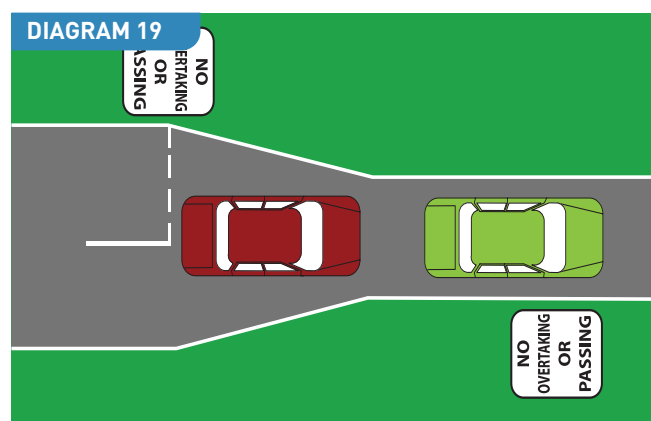
Some bits of roads and some **bridges** can only let one **vehicle** at a time use it. These are often marked with a 'No **overtaking** or passing' sign, or a **give way** sign. Can you also see the **hazard** markers on each side of the **bridge**?



Coming up to narrow bits of roads or **bridges**:

- If you see **vehicles** coming towards you, **give way** until the narrow part is clear.
- If someone is going slowly in front of you, wait until you've passed the narrow part before **overtaking** them.

The red car must **give way** to the green car coming towards it, until it's clear of the narrow part. (diagram 20)



The red car must wait until both cars have passed the narrow part before the red car can overtake the green car. (diagram 19)

## Other road users

Cars share the road with lots of other **road users**.

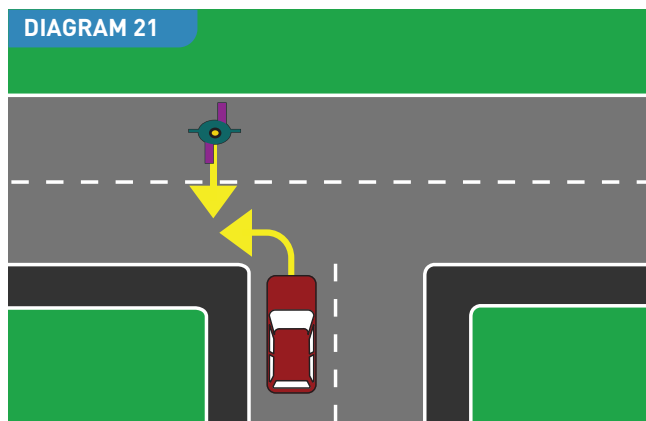
These include:

- Other **vehicles** (motor bikes, buses, trucks, emergency **vehicles**, tractors)
- Pedestrians (these could be people walking, using wheelchairs, scooters, skateboards or skates)
- Bicycles
- Horses and riders.



### Pedestrians

When you turn at an intersection, you must **give way** to pedestrians walking on the road you're turning into. You should keep a lookout for pedestrians when you turn at an intersection.



The car must **give way** to the pedestrian crossing the road the car is turning into. (diagram 21)

### Pedestrian crossings

**Pedestrian crossings** are safe places on the road marked for pedestrians to cross at. Drivers must **give way** to pedestrians that are on the crossing.



### Children's crossings

Children's crossings work when kids are going to school or back home. They're marked by **orange flags**.

If there is no supervisor at the crossing, you must **give way** to pedestrians walking on the crossing, or stepping on to it, until they're safely back on the footpath.

If the crossing has a supervisor, you must wait until the pedestrians have crossed the road and the supervisor has returned to the footpath.

You must not overtake a **vehicle** in front that has stopped at a children's crossing. This is because a car in front of you makes it difficult for you to see children who may be using the crossing.

## Zebra crossing (pedestrian crossing)

You must **give way** to people walking on the crossing.

You must not overtake a **vehicle** in front that has stopped.



## Traffic Lights at pedestrian crossings

Some **pedestrian crossings** have **traffic lights**. Pedestrians can press a button to make the **red** stop light show to drivers. You must come to a stop if the **red** light shows. You must wait for the **green** light, even if no one is on the crossing.



## Shared zones

On some bits of roads where there are lots of pedestrians and **vehicles** at the same time, there may be shared **zones**. Shared **zones** make it easy for people to walk on the road as shared **zone signs** tell drivers to go only at very slow speeds.



- Vehicles** must **give way** to all people walking in the shared zone.
- Vehicles** must stick to the shared **zone** speed limit.



### Shared zone sign

This sign shows the start of a shared **zone** with a speed limit of 10km/h.



### End shared zone sign

You may now drive at the normal speed limit on this road.



## Horse and bicycle riders

Horse riders and bicycle riders using the road are also **road users**. They must follow the **give way** rules just like **vehicle** drivers do.



If a horse rider is riding a horse that is difficult to control, they may let you know by raising a hand or pointing to the horse. If this happens:

- Stop your **vehicle** safely at the side of the road.
- Turn off your **vehicle**.
- Wait until the horse is off the road or the rider lets you know they are OK before starting your **vehicle** and driving off.



When you have to **give way** to other **road users**, this includes bicycle riders.

If you overtake a rider, give them plenty of room. Try to be at least 1 metre from them.

Before opening a car door, check your right hand mirror and over your shoulder for other **vehicles** including riders.

On some roads, bicycle riders have their own lane to ride in. You must not drive or cross into this lane, unless you are turning or stopping.

# Test yourself on these road rules

Which car gives way at these intersections?

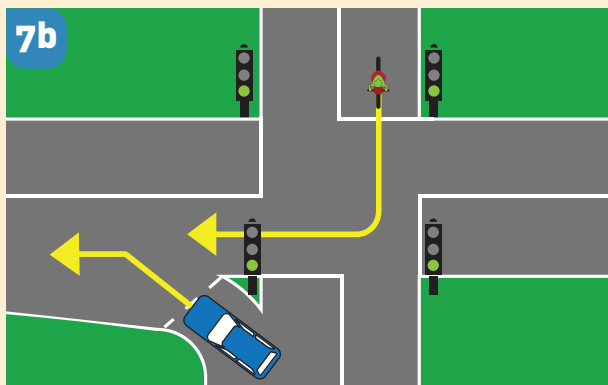
To help find out ask yourself, is it a T-intersection or a **crossroads**?

Is the car on the same road or on another road?



**In a shared zone, when must vehicles give way to pedestrians?**

- ☐ All the time.
- ☐ Only when the **vehicle** is travelling at less than 20km/h
- ☐ All the time, except when driving a **utility vehicle**.



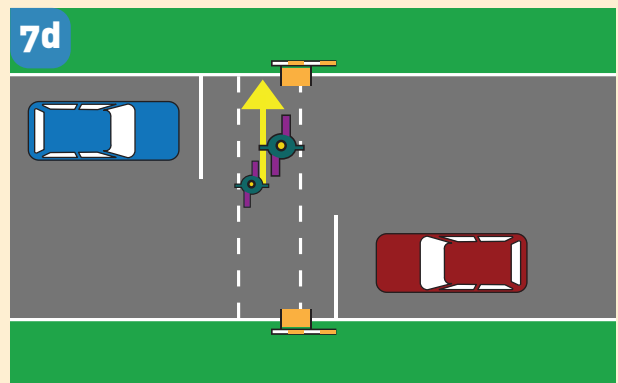
**Who gives way?**

- ☐ Bicycle.
- ☐ Car.
- ☐ Not the bicycle or the car.



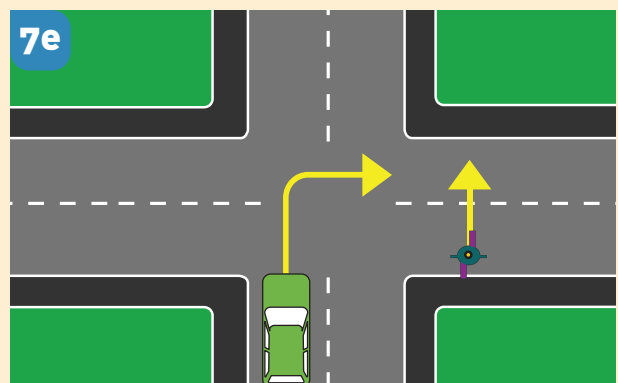
**What does this sign mean?**

- ☐ You must not drive next to another **vehicle** going in the same direction as you.
- ☐ You must not drive next to another **vehicle** going in the same direction as you. And you must not pass a **vehicle** going in the other direction as you.
- ☐ Do not drive past this sign.



**You are driving the red car and you have stopped at a children's crossing with orange flags. Do you:**

- ☐ Drive on when the pedestrians have passed your vehicle?
- ☐ Stay stopped until all the pedestrians are off the road?



**Who must give way?**

- ☐ The **vehicle**?
- ☐ The pedestrian?

See page 48 for answers.



## Buses

Buses and school buses have to stop and go in traffic lots of times, to let people get on and off.



### School buses

School buses have ■ **yellow** flashing lights when they're letting kids get on or off. If you see a school bus with its yellow lights flashing, slow down and look out for kids crossing the road. You must **give way** to a school bus when it is about to go again.



Many buses have a **give way** sign on the back. When a bus with this sign has stopped and is showing it is about to go again, you must **give way** to the bus by letting it go first. This can mean you have to slow down and stop so the bus has room to go first.

## Emergency vehicles

Emergency **vehicles** include ambulances, fire trucks and police cars.

They can go fast because they have to get to a hospital, road crash, fire or other emergency quickly. It is important you give them room on the road.



Emergency **vehicles** have flashing **red** and **blue** lights, and a loud **siren** or bell to warn other **road users** that they need to get somewhere quickly.

You may see in front of you, or in your mirror, an emergency **vehicle** flashing its lights. You should also hear its **siren** or bell.

You must move out of the way of the emergency **vehicle** as soon as you can safely. This usually means moving to the left of the road or even stopping to let it go past.



## Level crossings

Level crossings are where the road crosses over train tracks. Some bad crashes happen when drivers don't **give way** to trains at a level crossing.



Level crossings have stop or **give way** signs, or road markings.

They can also have lights and bells to warn drivers when a train is coming. They may also have automatic gates that close the road until the train has past.

- If a train is coming to a level crossing, you must **give way** to it.
- Don't drive through a level crossing until the lights have stopped flashing and the bell has stopped ringing. There may be more than one train coming.
- Don't stop on a level crossing.

If a level crossing just has stop signs, you must stop at the stop line or stop sign even if you can't see a train coming. Look right and left for any trains coming. If there is no train, you can then drive on.



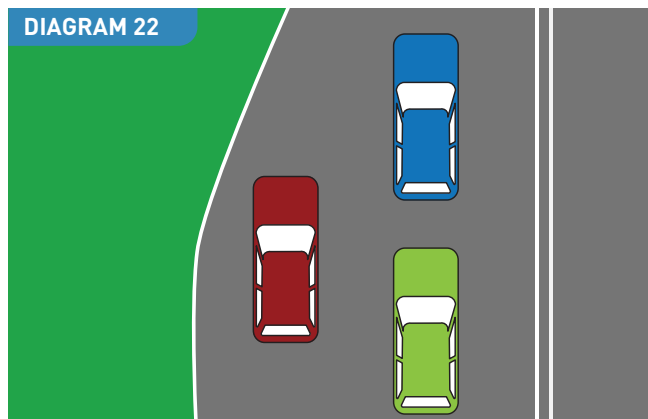
## Merging

**Merging** is where two lanes of traffic join to make just one lane. This is often where an **overtaking** lane ends.



If there is no lane line where **vehicles** are **merging**, the **vehicle** in front goes first and the **vehicle** behind gives way to the **vehicle** in front.

If there is a line between the **merging vehicles**, the **vehicle** in the lane that ends has to **give way** to **vehicles** in the lane that continues.

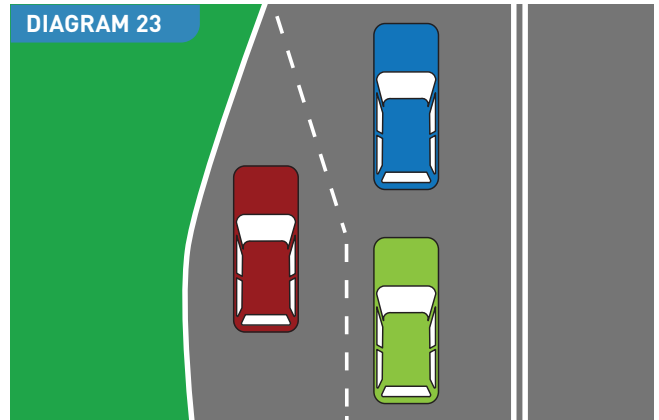


### Which vehicle goes first?

1. The blue car goes first.
2. The red car goes next.
3. The green car goes last.

There is no line where the **vehicles** are **merging**, so the red car gives way to the blue car in front.

The green car gives way to the red car.  
(*diagram 22*)



### Which vehicle goes first?

1. The blue and green cars go first.
2. The red car goes last.

There is a dotted line where the **vehicles** are **merging**, so the red car in the lane that ends **gives way** to the blue and green cars. (*diagram 23*)

## U-turns

**U-turns** are where you turn your car around to drive back the way you came from.



There are some places where you must not do **U-turns**.

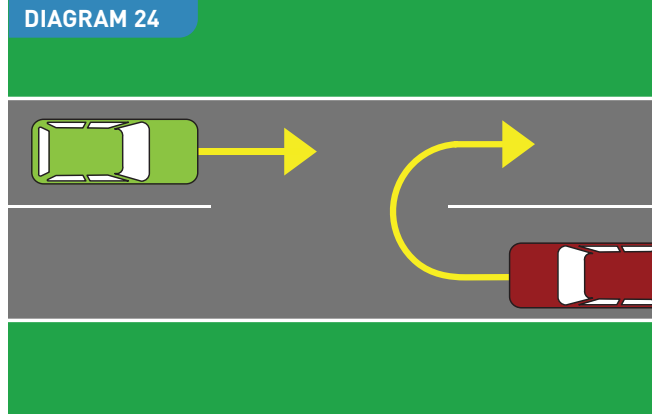
You must not do a **U-turn** at **traffic lights** unless there is a **U-turn** permitted sign to say a **U-turn** is OK.



You must not do a **U-turn** where a sign tells you **U-turns** are not permitted.

When doing a **U-turn**, you must **give way** to all other **road users** even if they are at a stop or **give way** sign.

DIAGRAM 24



The red car is doing a **U-turn** and must **give way** to other **road users**. (diagram 24)

You must not do a **U-turn** if you have to cross a single or double continuous line marking in the middle of the road.

You must also not do a **U-turn** if you have to cross a continuous line marking on the left side of a dotted dividing line.

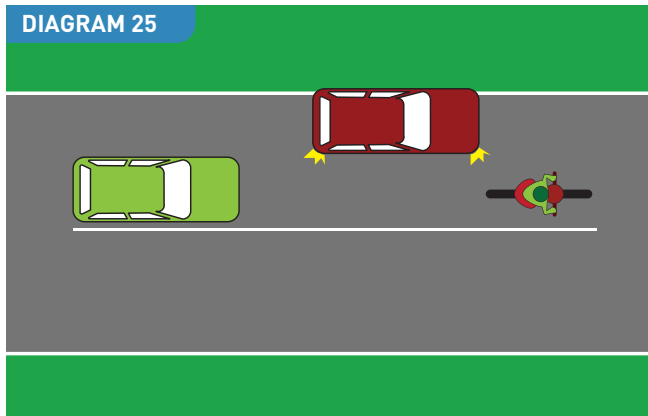
## Parked vehicles

When your **vehicle** is **parked** you have to **give way** before you can drive off.



You must signal with your **vehicle's** flashing turning lights for at least 5 seconds. You must also **give way** to all other road users before driving off.

DIAGRAM 25



The red car is **parked** and wants to drive off so it must flash its turning lights for at least 5 seconds and **give way** to all other road users. *(diagram 25)*



## Test yourself on these road rules

8a

You must give way to an emergency vehicle that is sounding a siren or bell. What else must you do?

- ☐ Go faster and make room for the emergency vehicle.
- ☐ Continue driving the same way.
- ☐ move out of the way of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can safely.

8b

When doing a U-turn you must give way to?

- ☐ All other road users, including vehicles and people walking or riding bicycles.
- ☐ Only people walking or riding bicycles.
- ☐ Only vehicles coming towards you.

8c



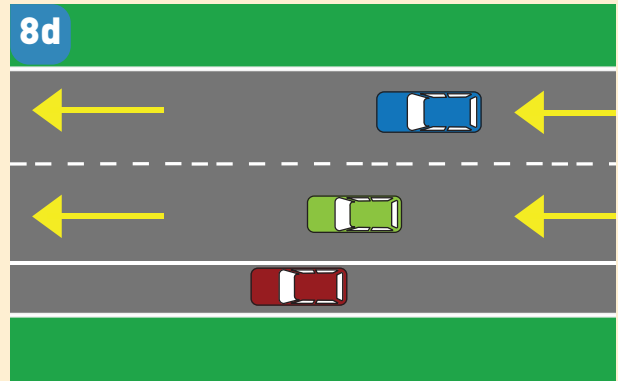
You are driving on a 50km/h road.

A bus is stopped ahead of you. The back of the bus has this sign. The bus has its right turn lights flashing.

What must you do?

- ☐ Give way to the bus, letting it drive off in front of you
- ☐ Slow down to 40km/h and give way to pedestrians only
- ☐ Continue ahead at the speed limit, if it is safe
- ☐ Flash your headlights to warn the bus driver you are overtaking.

8d



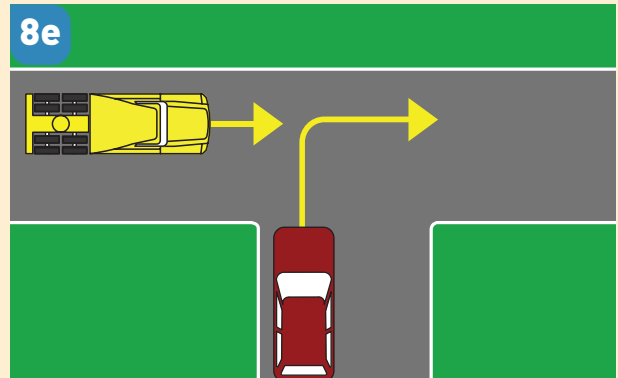
You are the driver of the red car. It is parked.

You want to go from the side of the road into a traffic lane.

You must indicate:

- ☐ For 5 seconds and give way to all traffic.
- ☐ For 3 seconds and give way to all traffic.
- ☐ For 1 second and give way to all traffic.

8e



Which vehicle goes first?

- ☐ The red car.
- ☐ The yellow truck.

See page 48 for answers.

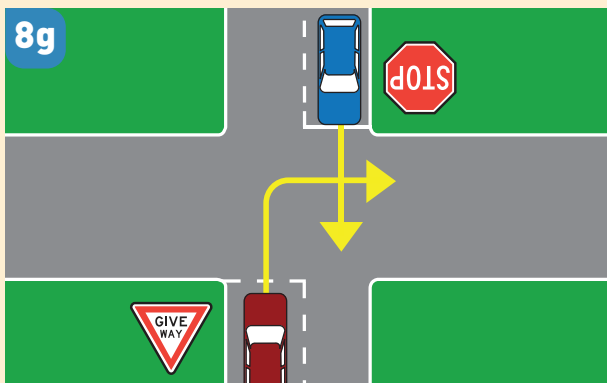
## Test yourself on these road rules



**You are at a level crossing with flashing lights.**

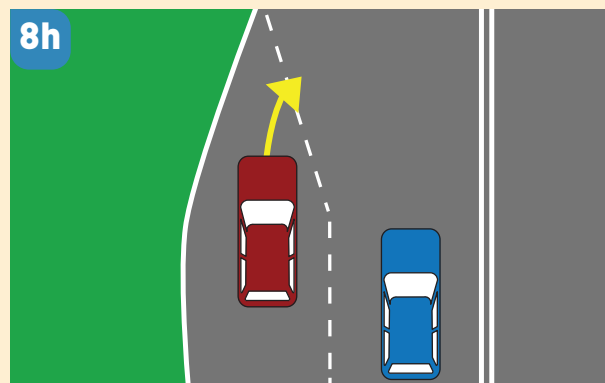
**Do you:**

- ☐ Drive on, as soon as the train has passed.
- ☐ Wait for the lights to stop flashing and then drive on.
- ☐ Drive on to the crossing, stop and look left and right to see if a train is coming.



**Which vehicle must give way?**

- ☐ The red car.
- ☐ The blue car.



**You are driving the blue car.**

**Do you:**

- ☐ Go first.
- ☐ Have to **give way**.

In your learner licence test the first 10 questions are all about the **give way** rules.

The questions in that test are very like the ones you have done here.

So if you get them right you are doing really well.

*See page 48 for answers.*

## Learner driver rules

Now you know some important road rules for all drivers. But you also need to know the rules just for L drivers before you take the learner licence test. Here they are:



- Any car you drive must have L plates on the front and back.
- You must have your learner licence with you at all times when driving. You must show it to a police officer if you are asked to.
- You must not drive on your own. You can only drive when a **supervising driver** is sitting next to you. A **supervising driver** is a driver who has a full (open) driver licence. It cannot be a driver who has a **P licence** (provisional or probationary licence). You and your supervisor need to check the rules for **supervising drivers** in your state or territory.
- While on your learner licence you have to get many hours of driving practice with your supervisor. This will be about 100 or 120 hours, but you need to check the rule in your state or territory. You may need to write your hours down in a logbook. You also need to have your learner licence for 1 year before you can do the test for a P licence to drive on your own.
- Using a mobile phone when you are driving increases the risk of a crash. You must not drive and use a mobile phone at the same time. This includes speaking, listening, texting, or dialling numbers.
- Drinking alcohol changes how you drive and increases the risk of a crash. Drivers who have drunk alcohol make more mistakes in their driving and are slower to act when they see road hazards. You must not have any alcohol or illegal drugs in your body. This means your **legal alcohol limit** must be nothing (zero - 0).

- Speeding is a big cause of crashes. Going faster means you will take longer to stop your **vehicle**. Never drive faster than the **speed limit**, even if **overtaking**. You can get fines or **demerit points** if you go faster than the **speed limit**. It is not safe to drive at the **speed limit** if there is a road hazard **ahead**, even if there are no other cars around.
- In some states or territories learners are restricted to a maximum **speed limit**. Please check the rules that apply for learners in your state/territory.

### Other Safety Rules You Need to Know

- Keep a good distance behind the **vehicle** in front so you can stop safely. If you get too close to the **vehicle** in front you may not be able to stop in time. If the road is wet from rain, your **vehicle** takes longer to stop.
- Always wear a seatbelt. You must not drive if any **passenger** has not done up their seatbelt.
- Young children must use a **restraint** that's right for their age and how big they are. Even elderly **passengers** must wear a seatbelt. If your **vehicle** is a **utility**, you must not carry **passengers** in the back.
- You need to be sure your **vehicle** is safe to drive. All the lights must be working. Your tyres should be pumped up to the right pressure and should have tread on them. Bald tyres or tyres without tread are very dangerous as they cannot grip the road when you drive.

### IMPORTANT

Most of these rules help keep you safe while you are a learner driver as well as other people on the road. Your community wants all its drivers to stay safe by following the rules.

Police regularly test drivers with **Random Breath Testing**, this measures the concentration of alcohol in your blood, also known as a **Blood Alcohol Concentration** (BAC) test.

## Test yourself on learner driver rules

Fill in the gaps about learner driver rules.

Use the words below to complete the statement.

- passengers
- all
- limit
- next
- speak
- nothing
- you
- speed

**9a** While you are driving you must not \_\_\_\_\_, listen, text, or dial numbers on a mobile phone.

**9b** You must have your learner licence with you at \_\_\_\_\_ times when driving.

**9c** Your alcohol level when driving must always be \_\_\_\_\_.

**9d** Your supervisor must sit \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

**9e** \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ must do up seatbelts.

**9f** You must not drive faster than the \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_.

*See page 48 for answers.*

## Test yourself: Answers

### Page 6

- 1a** You must not do a **U-turn** here.
- 1b** You must not drive next to another **vehicle** travelling in the same direction as you.
- 1c** The **speed limit** after this sign is 50km/h.
- 1d** Only drive in the direction of the arrow. You must not turn left or right or do a **U-turn**.
- 1e** No buses may drive on the road past this sign.

### Page 10

- 2a** Cows or sheep may be on or near the road.
- 2b** Children could be on the road.
- 2c** Trucks crossing or entering the road.
- 2d** **Pedestrian crossing** ahead.
- 2e** Arrows show the number of lanes and the direction the traffic is travelling.

### Page 14

- 3a** Drive to the left of the hazard.
- 3b** The road work has ended. The **speed limit** is 100km/h.
- 3c** Turn off in 300 metres for petrol and food.
- 3d** Turn left to see a place of interest.
- 3e** Be careful going past other **vehicles** as loose stones are on the road. It is not safe to brake hard on loose stones.
- 3f** A hazard is ahead.

### Page 20

- 4a Which car gives way?**  
The blue car gives way.  
Both cars are on the same road in a cross roads. The blue car is turning right, so it has to **give way** to the **on-coming** red car.
- 4b Which car gives way?**  
The blue car gives way.  
Both cars are on the same road in a T-intersection. The blue car is turning right, so it has to **give way** to the **on-coming** red car.
- 4c Which car gives way?**  
The blue car gives way.  
The cars are on different roads in a crossroads. The blue car has the red car on its right side, so the blue car has to **give way** to the red car.

#### 4d Which car gives way?

The red car gives way.  
The red car is on a road that ends so it has to **give way** to all **vehicles** on the other road.

### Page 25

#### 5a Who gives way?

The blue car gives way.  
The blue car is at a **give way** sign, the red car isn't, so the blue car must **give way** to the red car.

#### 5b Who gives way?

The red car gives way.  
Both cars are on the same road and both are at stop signs. The red car is turning right, so it has to **give way** to the blue car.

#### 5c Who gives way?

The blue car gives way.  
The blue car is at a **give way** sign, the red car isn't, so the blue car has to **give way** to the red car.

#### 5d Who gives way?

The red car gives way.  
The red car is at a **give way** sign and the blue car is at a stop sign. The red car is on a road that ends, so it has to **give way** to the blue car.

### Page 30-31

#### 6a Who gives way?

The red car gives way.  
Both cars are at green **traffic lights**. Both cars are on the same road. The red car is turning right, so it has to **give way** to the blue car.

#### 6b You are driving the blue car. Who must you give way to?

You must **give way** to the yellow car.  
The red and green cars are both at stop signs and you are not, so they have to **give way** to you.  
You are on the same road as the yellow car and you are turning right, so you have to **give way** to the yellow car.

#### 6c In what order do the cars on the roundabout go?

The blue car goes first and the green car goes next.  
The red car goes last.  
The blue car is already on the **roundabout** so it goes first.  
The green car goes next. The red car goes last after the blue and green cars have passed.

#### 6d Which car gives way?

The blue car gives way

The blue car is on a slip lane, so it must **give way** to the red car.

#### 6e You are driving the red car. Who must you give way to: ?

You must **give way** to the blue and green cars

The red car is entering the road from a driveway, so it has to **give way** to all other road users.

### Page 36

#### 7a In a shared zone, when must vehicles give way to pedestrians?

They must **give way** all the time

In a shared **zone**, **vehicles** must **give way** to **pedestrians** and go no faster than the **speed limit** on the sign.

#### 7b Who gives way?

The car gives way to the bicycle

The bicycle is another **vehicle** and is at a green traffic light. The car is on a slip lane, and must **give way** to **on-coming vehicles** that are turning right.

#### 7c What does this sign mean? It means

You must not drive next to another **vehicle** going in the same direction as you.

And you must not pass a **vehicle** going in the other direction as you.

You must not drive beside (overtake or pass) **vehicles** on the narrow bit of road where the sign tells you not to.

#### 7d You are driving the red car and you have stopped at a children's crossing with orange flags. You must

Stay stopped until the **pedestrians** are off the road

At a children's crossing with orange flags, if there are any **pedestrians** on the crossing you must stop and stay stopped until there are no **pedestrians** on or stepping on to the crossing.

#### 7e Does the vehicle or the pedestrian have to give way?

The **vehicle** has to **give way**

**Vehicles** turning at an intersection must **give way** to **pedestrians** crossing the road they are turning into.

### Page 43-44

#### 8a You must give way to an emergency vehicle that is sounding a siren or bell. What else must you do?

You must move out of the way of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can safely.

#### 8b When doing a U-turn you must give way to:

All other road users, including **vehicles** and people walking or riding bicycles.

#### 8c You are driving on a 50km/h road. A bus is stopped ahead of you. The back of the bus has this sign. The bus has its right turn lights flashing. What must you do?

**Give way** to the bus, letting it drive off in front of you.

#### 8d You are driving the red car. It is parked. You want to go from the side of the road into a line of traffic.

**You must indicate:**

For 5 seconds and give way to all traffic.

#### 8e Which vehicle goes first?

The yellow truck goes first

The red car is on a road that ends so it must **give way** to **vehicles** on the road that continues.

#### 8f You are at a level crossing with flashing lights. Do you:

You must wait for the lights to stop flashing and then drive on. Only drive over a level crossing once the lights have stopped flashing.

#### 8g Which vehicle must give way?

The red car gives way

The cars are on the same road with one car at a stop sign and the other at a **give way** sign. The red car is turning right but the blue car isn't, so the red car must **give way** to the blue car.

#### 8h You are driving the blue car. You can:

Go first

The lane that's ending is marked with a dotted line, so the red car must **give way** to the blue car.

### Page 46

#### 9a While you are driving you must not **speak**, listen, text, or dial numbers on a mobile phone.

#### 9b You must have your learner licence with you at **all** times when driving.

#### 9c Your alcohol level when driving must always be **nothing**.

#### 9d Your supervisor must sit **next** to you.

#### 9e You and your **passengers** must do up seatbelts.

#### 9f You must not drive faster than the **speed limit**.







*Austroads*