

## Lesson 5: Crossroads

### Signs and Road Markings

On approach look for road signs and road markings to indicate a crossroads ahead.



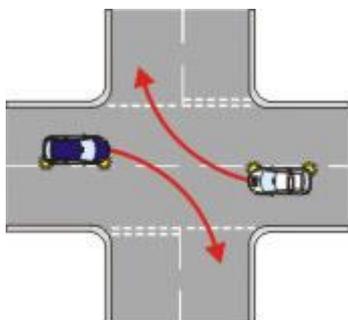
### Approaching crossroads to turn

Approaching to turn into a side road at a crossroads is slightly different from turning into a side road at a T or Y junction.

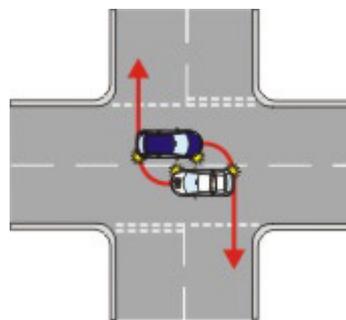
Firstly, traffic may emerge from either side road and cross your path. Although you have priority you must be prepared to stop if this happens. This may also occur when you intend to go ahead which is why you always take extra observations into the side roads of a crossroads before you pass.

Secondly, when turning right you may be faced with an oncoming vehicle also wanting to turn right. In this instance neither vehicle has priority. Usually vehicles turn nearside to nearside in this situation although offside to offside is safer, because you can see oncoming traffic before turning. Road markings may also dictate which method is used.

Nearside to nearside



Offside to offside

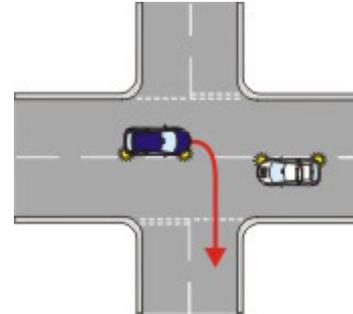


### Turning Minor to Major Roads (MSPSL)

Same as emerging at a junction  
Look will include the new road

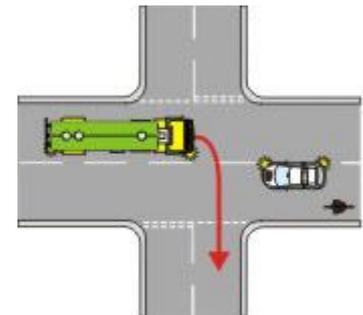
### Turning Major to Minor Roads (MSPSL)

Same as approaching  
Right turn:  
Look for approaching traffic turning  
Be aware of staggered junctions  
Observe road markings



If the side roads are too narrow for either nearside to nearside or offside to offside you might have to give way to the oncoming vehicle turning right, as shown in the following examples.

Similarly if a large vehicle was turning right you may need to give way if insufficient space is available. However, in such situations be careful not to beckon the oncoming driver to turn as you may be being overtaken on the nearside.

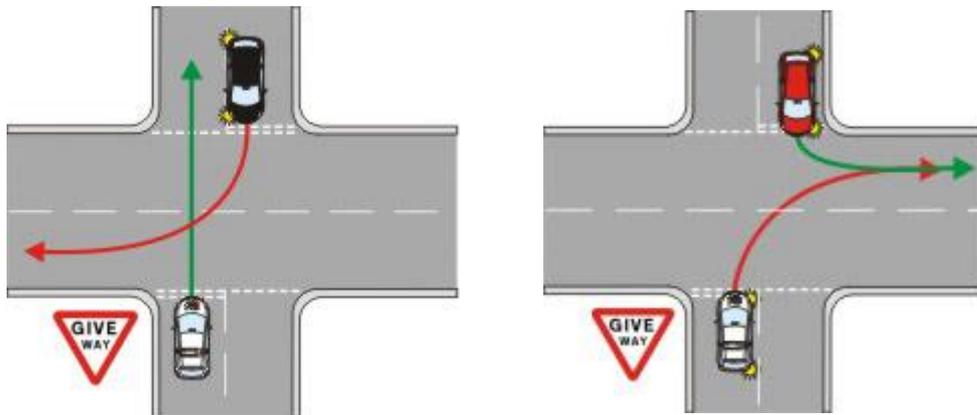


### Emerging at crossroads

If no vehicles are emerging from the road opposite, emerging to the left and the right is identical to T junctions. However, be prepared to take advantage of opportunities to proceed as a result of the vehicles on the major road slowing down to turn into the side road opposite.

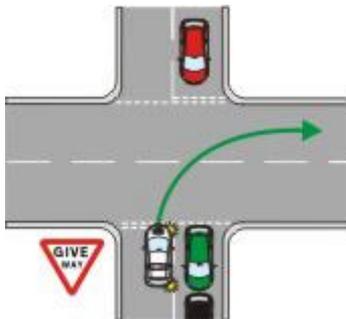
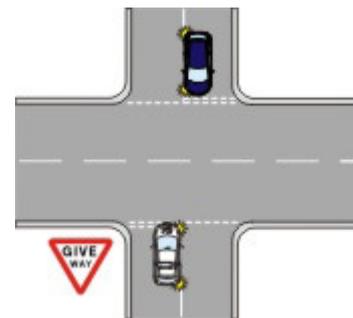
### Priorities

The general rule for priorities when emerging from crossroads is that right turning traffic should give way to oncoming traffic. The vehicle with the **priority** in the following examples is the same as if the two minor side roads were one major road, however do not assume that the other driver will comply.



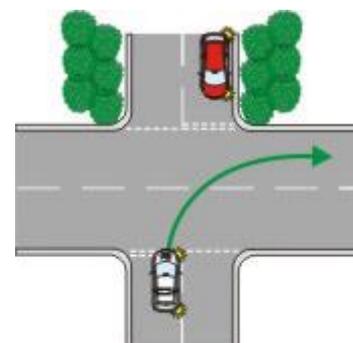
Despite not having priority the other driver may want you to proceed first and therefore you need to learn to watch and anticipate the other driver's actions.

The diagram to the right shows that no one has priority in this situation. The driver to arrive first would usually proceed first but you need to watch carefully to see what you think the other driver will do.



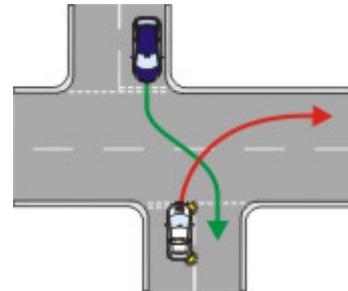
The situation in the diagram on the left shows the red car's progress is blocked by queuing traffic therefore you may proceed despite not having priority because the red car will probably give you priority. However, make sure this is the case.

As the driver of the red car will need to take extra observations due to the bushes around the mouth of the junction, you can turn without impeding the driver.



**Emerging at staggered crossroads**

Priorities between the traffic on the opposing side roads is not so clear at staggered crossroads therefore you have to be particularly careful.



**Emerging at unmarked crossroads**

Neither road is the major road therefore proceed with extreme caution and be prepared to stop. Anticipating the actions of other drivers and driving at a speed that enables you to stop is critical. Priority regarding oncoming vehicles is not changed.



**Recap Quiz (Read Highway Code Rules 170-183 and pages 212-216)**

1. What is the first thing you should do as you approach a crossroads even if you are continuing ahead?

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2. Where should you position the car if you're turning right?

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3. When can you enter a box junction?

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