



## Lesson 15: Reverse Parking

### Why and Where?

It is easier to manoeuvre your vehicle when reversing because the front wheels steer the car. When reversing into a parking space and you will need much less space than if driving forward. You should choose somewhere **safe, convenient and legal (SCALP)**. Do not park where your vehicle will make it awkward for other road users to pass. Do not park where it would be illegal i.e. on yellow lines or zig zag markings.

### Pedestrians

Be aware of and be prepared to stop when pedestrians are around. Only continue when it is safe.

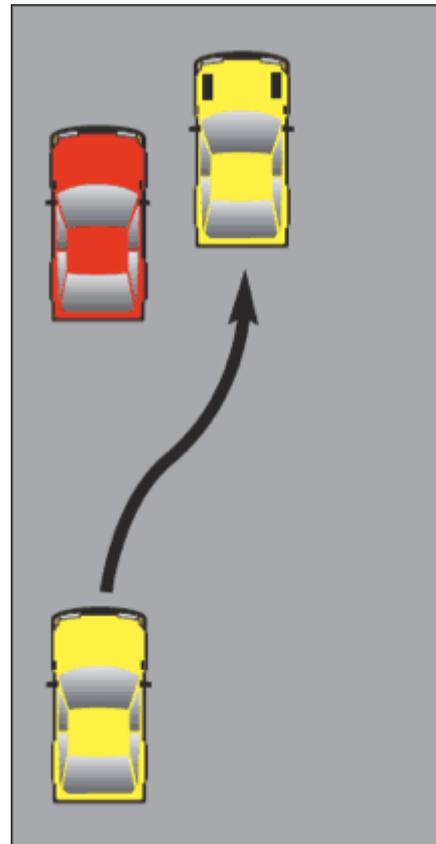
### The Starting position

Move off from behind target vehicle and stop parallel to the parked car at a distance 1 metre and with the front of the parked car lined up with your door mirror. When stopping follow the MSM routine and apply the left signal if you think anyone will benefit. When you stop, apply your handbrake and keep your brake lights showing until selecting reverse gear to confirm your intentions.

### Observations

Use the POM routine and if it is safe use clutch control to reverse straight back. Be aware of cambers and slopes and adjust your use of the pedals accordingly.

Oncoming traffic - cyclists and pedestrians would have priority, check driveways and other parked cars to see if anyone is about to pull out. Look over your left shoulder as you reverse.



**Steering**

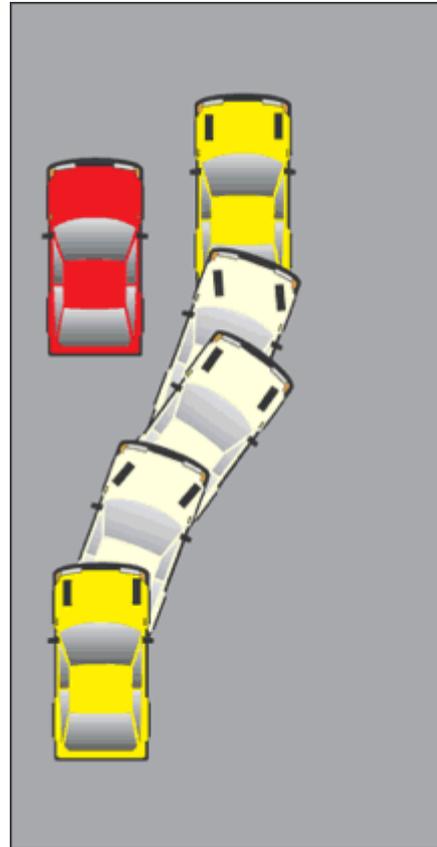
Steer in a straight line until the rear of the parked car is halfway across the rear door panel then turn full lock to the left.

**Observations**

Before turning the steering wheel check ahead for oncoming traffic. As the front swings out check over your right shoulder for oncoming vehicles/pedestrians etc. (stop if necessary). This is the point where you create the greatest hazard to other road users.

**Steering**

At the point where the nose of the car is at approximately 2 o'clock steer back to the right to straighten the wheels. Continue to reverse straight back until the passenger door handle appears to sit on the kerb. At this point steer full lock to the right. The front of the car will start to move back in behind the parked car. As the car starts to become parallel with the kerb straighten the wheels, stop and make the car safe.



**Recap Quiz** (Read Highway Code rules 238- 252 and pages 239-243 of Driving Essential Skills)

1. Why is it easier to reverse into a parking space?

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2. If a car comes up behind you before you start the manoeuvre and seems determined to get past you what should you do?

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3. List some places it wouldn't be safe to park in a space on the road.

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