

Lesson 4: Emerging at Junctions

This will mainly be when you are leaving a minor road to join a major road to turn left, right or possibly needing to cross a main road ahead (at crossroads). Where the junction is not light controlled you will have either 'Give Way' markings or a 'Stop' sign.

Warning Signs

Look out for advance warning signs.

Where there is a Give Way sign you must give way to traffic on the main road. If on approach you can clearly see it is safe to emerge then you can do so without stopping. (If in doubt, don't pull out!)

Where there is a Stop sign, you must stop at the line.

Emerging at T-Junctions

Mirrors

Interior and left if turning left.
Interior and right if turning right.

Signal

Left or right.

Position

For a standard left hand drive to the normal driving position (Steer at the point of turn keep kerb in left corner of windscreen straighten wheels as kerb comes back to normal driving reference point.

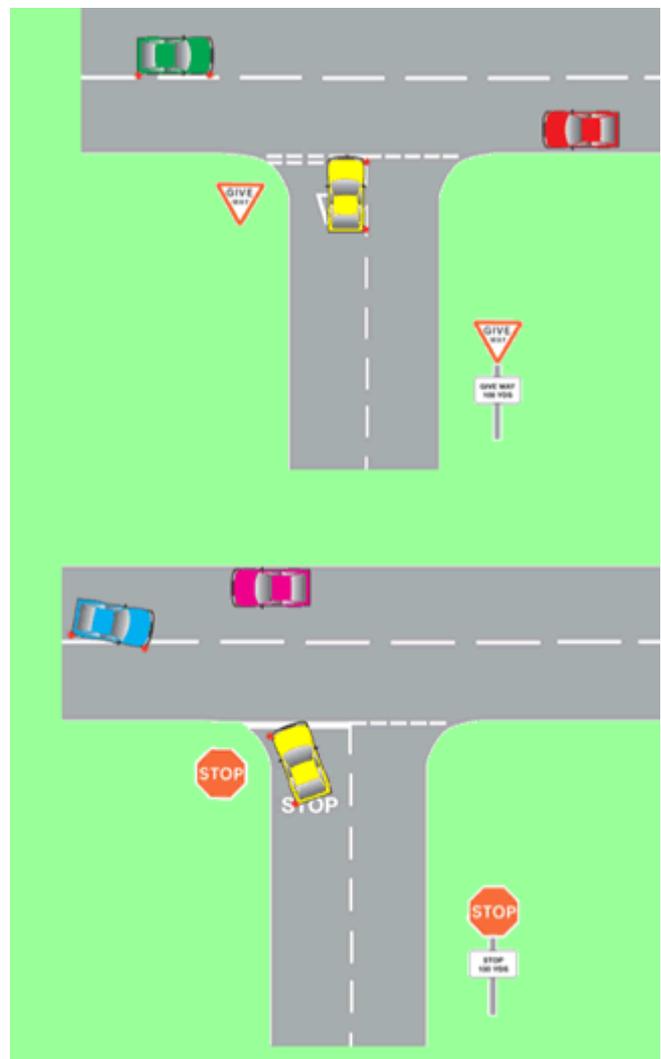
If turning right, position to the left of the centre line.

Speed

Approach slowly enough to allow you to stop smoothly if it's not clear to go. If the junction is clear enough for you to see on the approach that it is safe to emerge, generally approach in 2nd gear. You will find that most T-junctions need to be approached very slowly to allow you enough time to check properly when clear to emerge, therefore you should select 1st gear. **You must stop completely where a junction has a stop sign.**

Look

Look out for pedestrians who may be wanting to cross, check on the main road to your right - to your left and back again to your right to double check it's clear (look out for parked cars which may move off as you emerge. Cyclists and motorcyclists can be hard to spot. Keep re-assessing both ways if busy. (Broken down further to **Look Assess Decide and Act - LADA**).

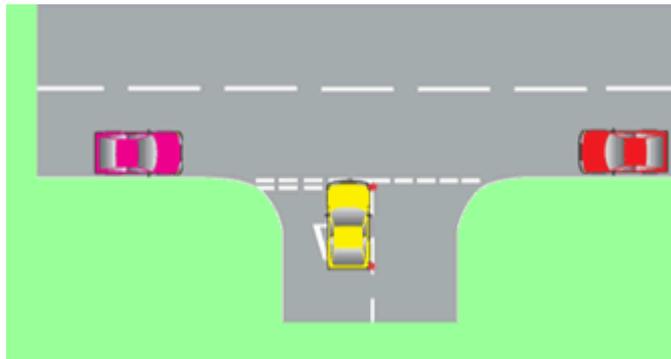


Joining the new road safely

To emerge safely you must do so where any traffic, including cyclists, are not forced to change speed or direction by your actions. Be aware of pedestrians crossing the new road. Once in the new road check your mirrors and make progress by building up speed suitable for the road and conditions. As a rule imagine you are a pedestrian and when entering with the flow of traffic judge the gap to be safe if you could walk across the road and back again before the traffic reaches you.

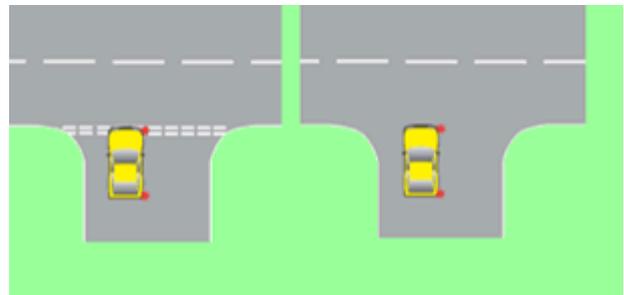
Open/Closed Junctions

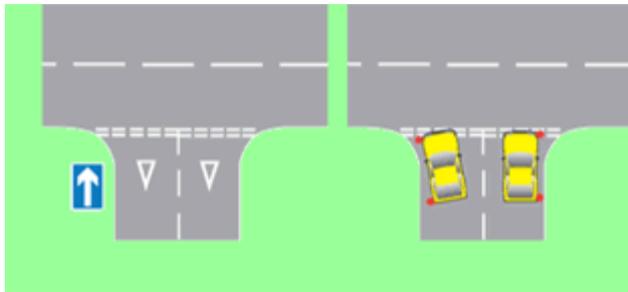
An open junction is where the view of the road is good and there are no obstructions blocking your way. A closed junction is one without a clear view, obstructions may be parked cars, hedges, walls. If you emerge onto a road at a closed junction with obstructions then you may need to creep forward to improve your view. (Creep and peep) Lean forward in your seat and have your clutch just at or close to the biting point to control your speed. Be extra mindful of pedestrians crossing the road from behind the obstructions. Be aware that you can look over, under or through cars for movement or use reflections in windows.



Unmarked Junctions

If you emerge onto a road that has no Give Way markings or you have double broken lines all the way across the road you are leaving do not assume you are exiting a one-way and position yourself for a two-way road as on diagram



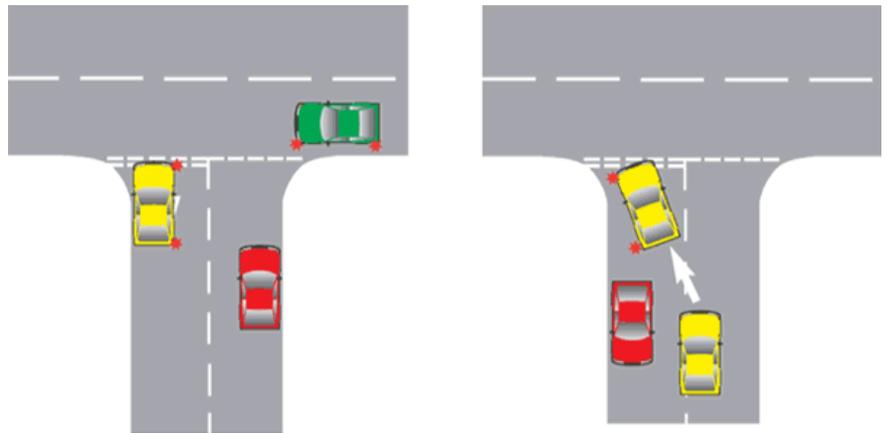


Emerging Out of a One-Way Street

Try to get in the correct lane early for the exit you wish to take. Keep to the left for turning left and move over to the right for turning right as on diagram.

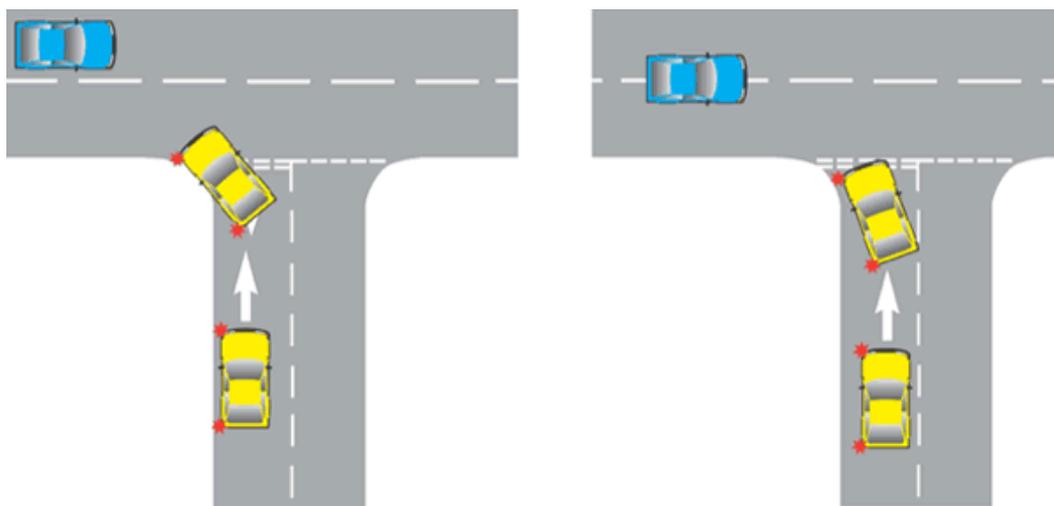
Position when emerging where there are parked cars

Position where there will be enough room for traffic turning into the road you are leaving. Try not to get unnecessarily close to parked cars (obstructions). You may need to approach more slowly.



Position when emerging out of narrow entrances

Keeping to the left may lead to the back wheels running over the kerb. It is also possible you may swing out too much in the new road. Move further to the centre of the road you are leaving. Steer left just before the Give Way / Stop lines to help avoid swinging too wide.





Recap Quiz (Highway Code Rules 170 and 211 and pages 202-212 of Driving Essential Skills)

1. How do you know if you're on a minor or major road?

2. What does LADA stand for?

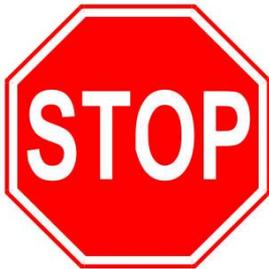
L _____

A _____

D _____

A _____

3. What does this sign mean and what actions should you take?



4. What is the difference between a closed and open junction?
