



Lesson 13: Reverse Corner

Reversing into a road on the left

Why would you need to?

You may have travelled in the wrong direction and there may not be enough space to turn your vehicle around in the road. You may need to reverse into a side road to turn around and be able to continue your journey.

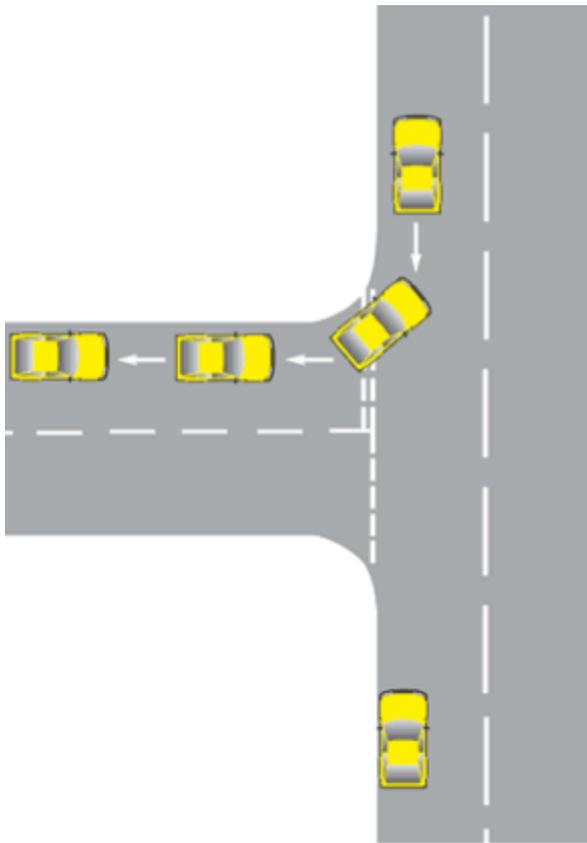
Where?

You must ensure it is a safe, convenient and legal place (SCALP). This will include checking up the side road that it is safe to reverse into - check it is clear of parked cars, pedestrians etc. Do not reverse onto a main road or where there is a no entry sign. Choose somewhere quiet for practicing and avoid continuous attempts at the same location.

On the driving test

The examiner will ask you to stop before a side road on the left. You will be required to reverse into the road on your left doing so safely and under control, keeping reasonably close to the kerb. Carrying out the manoeuvre safely will include constant observation at each stage, particularly for oncoming traffic and pedestrians who will have priority over you.

Under full control will mainly be ensuring the speed is kept low and the steering is correct throughout. To keep the speed low try reversing with the clutch pedal just at or near the biting point. Take into account any slopes including the camber of the road so that the car does not run away from you. Avoid hitting the kerb.



Getting ready

Stop your vehicle reasonably close to the kerb, a little wider than the parked position, and 2 car lengths past the junction. You may find it easier to turn slightly in your seat to make observations out of the rear window easier.

Carrying out the manoeuvre POM Routine.

Prepare - Select reverse gear, set the gas and bring clutch pedal to biting point.

Observations - Check all round for pedestrians and approaching traffic - including checking people's driveways.

Move - Reverse slowly facing over your left shoulder out of the rear window. Use clutch control to keep at a slow walking pace. When the rear of the car reaches the bend in the kerb turn the steering half a turn for a shallow curve and a full turn for a sharp turn. Use glances to the appropriate door mirror for reference. To maintain the distance between the car and kerb adjust the steering wheel $\frac{1}{4}$ turns at a time. As the car starts to move into a straight position take off the steering. Continue to reverse straight back for approximately 2 car lengths.



Observations

At the point you start turning into the side road you create the greatest hazard as the nose of the car will swing out - make sure you check over your right shoulder for anything approaching (if necessary stop your car and continue when safe).

As you continue reversing by checking over your left shoulder out of the rear window, you can have the occasional glance in your nearside (left) mirror to assess how close and parallel to the kerb you are, but try to maintain good observations all round out of the windows.

Recap Quiz (Read rules 200-203 of The Highway Code and pages 228-235 of Driving Essential Skills)

1. When do you cause the biggest hazard whilst reversing around the corner?

2. Why should you check the road you plan to reverse into before starting the manoeuvre?

3. What should you do i