

Drive Safe Driving School



Gears & Signals

Introduction

Having been introduced on how to **move off and stop in a straight line** you now need to learn how to make progress with gear changes. **Smooth gear changing** is a skill that you definitely need to learn. You also need to look at the importance of mirrors and signals at the appropriate times.

Lesson Aim's and objective's

The aim of today lesson is to make upward and downward gear changes in sequence and also make upward and downward selective gear changes while maintaining a straight course (look well ahead whilst changing gear) including why to use your mirrors before signal.

Subject brief

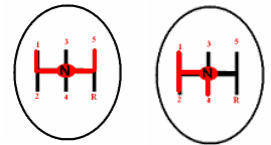
During this lesson you will learn how control your vehicle as it increase speed and making the appropriate gear changes up and down.

Correct gear changes up will save fuel and appropriate gears changes down will give you better control of your vehicle.

An example - You are climbing a hill in **5th** gear you would change down to gear **3rd / 4th** to prevent the vehicle from struggling and prevent damage to the engine and gear box.

This means that you may sometimes miss out gears. **This method is called selective or block gear changing.**

Gears	Power	Speed	MPH
1	High	Low	0 - 10
2	↑	↓	10 - 25
3			20 - 40
4	↓	↑	30 - 50
5			40 - 70
R	High	Low	0 - 5



There are also times when you might selectively change to a lower gear for better acceleration or for more pulling power followed by a change to **3rd / 4th** gear when you have reached your intended cruising speed. **I call this the get away driver mode.**

For example - Entering a slip road you may be in **2nd** gear then go straight into **4th** gear.

The basic gear changing rule is **gears to go - brakes to slow**. When you want to slow down use the foot brake and not your gears and clutch. **Remember it's cheaper to replace brake pads than clutches.**

Importance of Mirror use

When using the mirrors you have to be careful not to take your eyes off the road ahead for too long. Use quick glances and minimal head movement, **remember you will steer the way you are looking**. Identify all the information - **who's behind you, how close are they, how fast are they travelling, are they signalling to overtake you? If they have disappeared where have they gone?**

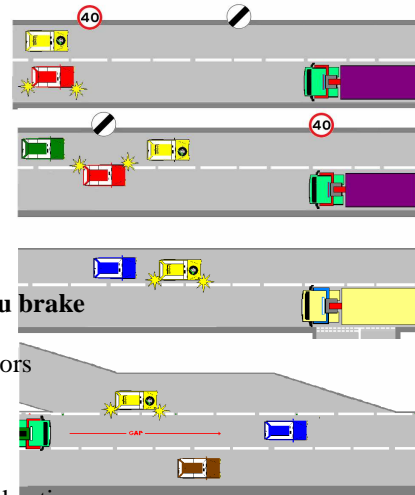
Look for shape and movement.

Once you have collected this information consider if it's safe for you to continue?

Also other road users may not see or hear you so be prepared to slow down or even stop for them.

Braking and turning signals can also be given by hand (shown below) These can be used if you brake down or are being towed, or even as a backup signal in bright sunlight.

If you are stationary you also need to check your exterior mirror to ensure you don't open the car doors on a cyclist.



Important use of Signal

Signals should only be used to help or warn other road users (including pedestrians) of your intended actions.

If other road users will not benefit from a signal then a signal may not be necessary.

Timing your signal is important. Too early and it may be misleading



I am slowing down
www.DrivesafeDriving.co.uk
I intend to turn Left
I intend to turn right

I intend reverse

I intend to turn left

I intend to turn right

I am slowing down

I want to go straight on
I want to turn left