

# 1 Giving way

There are many situations other than at GIVE WAY signs where you have to give way. These include:

- At STOP signs.
- Turning across the path of an oncoming vehicle at an intersection.
- Turning from a terminating road onto the continuing road at a T-intersection.

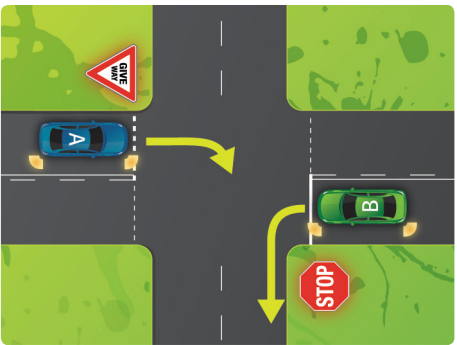
STOP lines and GIVE WAY lines on the road have the same meaning as STOP signs and GIVE WAY signs. This is in case a sign is missing, stolen or knocked down.

Remember, if you turn at an intersection, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

## Giving way at intersections with two STOP or GIVE WAY signs

A STOP sign is not 'more powerful' than a GIVE WAY sign.

Once the vehicles below have given way to all other vehicles, they must then apply the give way rules to each other. Vehicle A must give way to vehicle B because it is turning right across the path of vehicle B.

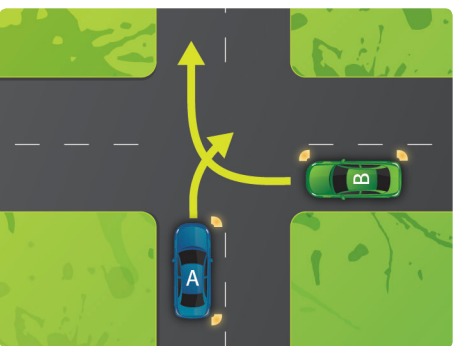
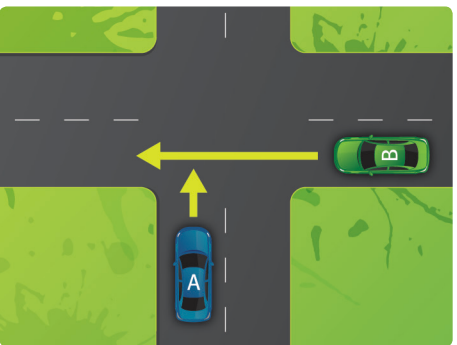
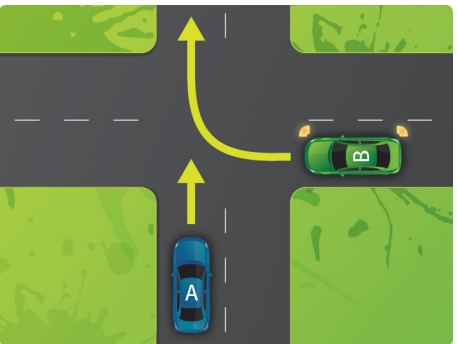


## Giving way at uncontrolled intersections

An uncontrolled intersection is an intersection with no traffic lights, STOP or GIVE WAY signs or lines. At an uncontrolled intersection you must give way to the right.

# Giving way continued

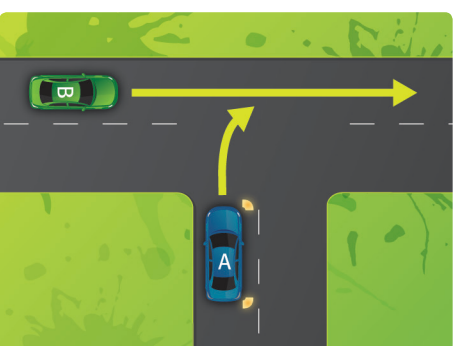
In all these situations, vehicle A must give way to vehicle B.



## Giving way at a T-intersection

If you are driving on a road that ends at a T-intersection, you must give way to all vehicles travelling on the road continuing through the intersection.

In the below situation, vehicle A must give way to vehicle B.



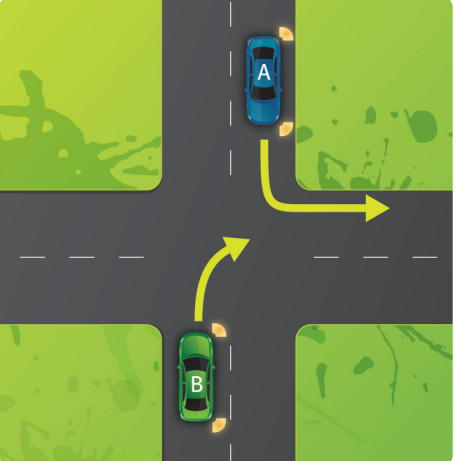
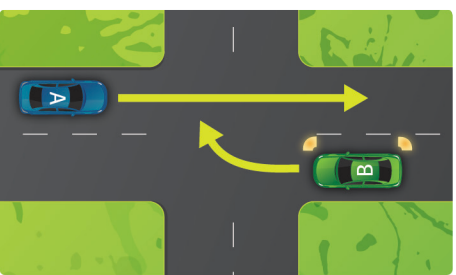
# Giving way continued

## Giving way when turning right

If you are turning right at an intersection, you must give way to vehicles coming from the opposite direction that are:

- driving straight ahead through the intersection
- turning left at the intersection.

In both cases, vehicle B must give way to vehicle A.



## Turning off a slip lane

However, you do not have to give way to a vehicle if it is driving onto the road from a slip lane.

A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning left that is separated from other parts of the road by a painted island or traffic island.

In the below situation, vehicle B must give way to vehicle A.



# 2 Roundabouts

It is important to be in the correct lane at multi-lane roundabouts. Signs, lane markings and arrows help position your vehicle correctly and guide you in the direction you want to go.

Unless arrows on the road indicate otherwise, remember these rules:

- To turn left, use the left lane.
- To turn right, use the right lane.
- To go straight ahead, use either lane.

## Left turn

- Position your vehicle in the left lane well in advance, unless arrows on the road or signs indicate otherwise.
- Signal using your left indicator.
- Give way to all vehicles already on the roundabout.
- Remain in the left lane as you complete your turn.
- Continue to use your left indicator as you exit the roundabout. Stop indicating once you have exited the roundabout.



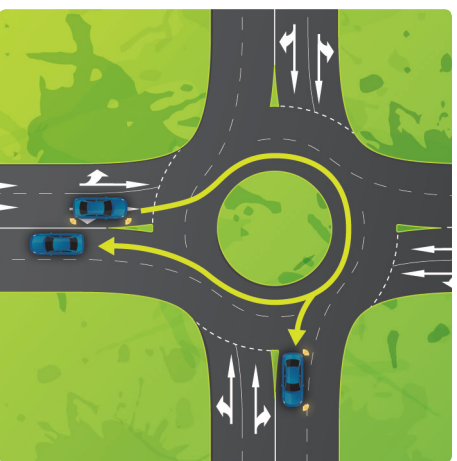
## Right turn or U-turns

- Position your vehicle in the right lane well in advance unless arrows on the road or signs indicate otherwise.
- Signal using your right indicator.

# Roundabouts continued

- Give way to all vehicles already on the roundabout.
- Before exiting you should use your left indicator (if practical) and follow the exit lane marking. Stop indicating as soon as you have exited the roundabout.

Note: Do not turn right from the left lane unless arrows on the road indicate that you can.



## Straight ahead

- Position your vehicle in either lane well in advance unless arrows on the road or signs indicate otherwise.
- Do not use your indicator until you are ready to exit.
- Give way to all vehicles already on the roundabout.
- Before exiting you should use your left indicator (if practical) and follow the exit lane marking. Stop indicating as soon as you have exited the roundabout.



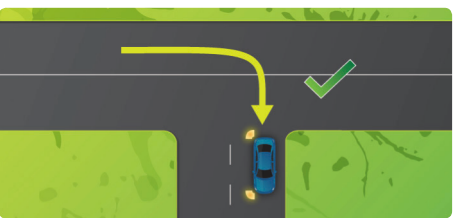
# 3 Crossing continuous centre lines and islands

There are different rules for crossing continuous centre lines, depending on what type of centre line it is and what manoeuvre you are performing.

You must not cross a single continuous centre line to:

- overtake
- do a U-turn.

But you can cross a single continuous centre line (including if there's a broken line on the other side) to enter or leave the road, to avoid an obstruction, park in angle parking on the opposite side of the road, or to allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist. But only if you have a clear view of approaching traffic and can do so safely.



But remember, if there's a double continuous centre line, you are not permitted to cross it at all unless you have to avoid an obstruction or allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist.

Similar rules apply to painted islands. If the island is surrounded by one continuous line, you can drive on or over it for up to 50 metres in order to:

- enter or leave the road
- enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the island
- park in angle parking on the opposite side of the road
- allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist.

But if the island is surrounded by double continuous lines or if it separates traffic flowing in the same direction – such as where an on ramp merges on to a roadway – you must stay off it, unless you need to avoid an obstruction or allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist.



## Breakdown safety tips

In the event of breaking down when travelling on a highway, expressway or freeway:

- Find a safe spot to pull over.
- If you have to stay in your vehicle, keep your seatbelt on.
- Park the vehicle as far left as possible.
- Use hazard lights.
- If possible, exit the vehicle from the left (passenger) side.
- Be cautious when passing an incident or breakdown.



## More information

[mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules)  
(road rules quiz and online videos)

Scan the QR code to visit the website. Please note you'll need a QR scanner app on your smart phone.



ph: 13 10 84



[mylicence.sa.gov.au](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department of Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure

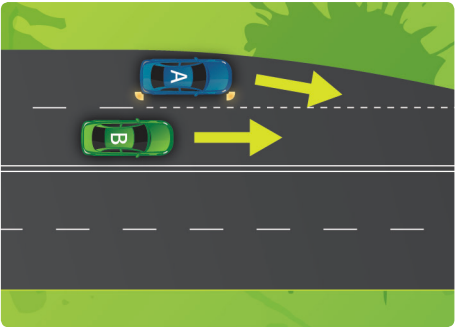


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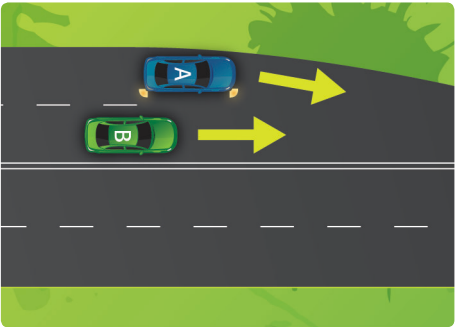
Merging

There are two different give way rules for merging.

- i) On roads where there are lanes marked on the road, if your lane comes to an end, you must give way to traffic already in the lane you are moving into.
- Vehicle A gives way to vehicle B.



- ii) On roads where there are no lanes marked on the road, when lines of traffic merge, you must give way to any vehicle that is ahead of you.
- Vehicle B gives way to vehicle A.



5

Keeping left

When the speed limit is above 80km/h on multi-lane roads you must not drive in the right hand lane unless you are:

- overtaking
- turning right or making a U-turn
- avoiding an obstacle
- driving in congested traffic
- driving in a special purpose lane.

This same rule applies to a road with a speed limit of 80km/h or less if there is a KEEP LEFT UNLESS OVERTAKING sign.

6

Changing lanes

When you change lanes you must give way to any vehicle in the lane you are moving into. This also applies when your lane is ending and you have to cross a lane line, such as entering a freeway.

When driving, before you change direction you must indicate for long enough to give sufficient warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

Choose safe gaps before you move – do not take risks. Leave enough space for the vehicles behind you as well as in front of you.

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Yellow traffic lights

You must stop at a yellow traffic light unless it is unsafe to do so.

A yellow traffic light is not an extension of the green light. It is the beginning of the red light.

When approaching traffic lights showing a green light you should be ready to stop if the lights change to yellow and you can stop safely before reaching the stop line.

As you approach the lights you should also check your mirror to see if there is a vehicle close behind, so that you know if it will be safe to stop suddenly.

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Safe following distances

You must drive a sufficient distance behind a vehicle travelling in front of you so you can stop safely to avoid a crash.

Safe following distances vary depending on what speed you are travelling, what conditions you are driving in and what type of vehicle you are driving. Suggested safe distances:

- A driver in a car should drive at least three seconds behind the vehicle in front in ideal conditions.
- If towing a trailer or caravan, driving a heavy vehicle or if the road is unsealed you should allow a longer distance between you and the car in front. Always drive to the conditions.

9

U-turns

There are different rules for U-turns.

- i) At traffic lights
- You must not make a U-turn at traffic lights unless there is a sign stating U-TURN PERMITTED.
- ii) Not at traffic lights
- For example, at a break in the centre island or at an intersection with no traffic lights.
- You must not do a U-turn:
- If there is a sign stating NO U-TURN.
  - Across a single or double continuous centre line or a continuous centre line to the left of a broken line.

When you are doing a U-turn, you must give way to all other vehicles and pedestrians even if other vehicles are facing a GIVE WAY or STOP sign.

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Overtaking

There are three situations where a driver may overtake to the left of another driver:

- i) On a multi-lane road.
- ii) If the vehicle in front signals to make a right turn or a U-turn.
- iii) If the traffic on your right is stationary.

Overtaking on the left is not allowed in any other situation apart from the three listed above.

Remember, whether you're overtaking on the right or left:

- It's never legal to exceed the speed limit.
- You can only pass another vehicle if you have a clear view of the road ahead.
- You must keep your vehicle wholly within a lane.
- You cannot straddle centre or lane lines, unless to allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist.
- You cannot drive a motor vehicle in a bicycle lane or bus lane unless you are entering or leaving the road (always look out for cyclists).

Road safety

Speed

The speed limit that applies to a road or road related area is the maximum speed you are allowed to drive a vehicle. You should only drive to the speed limit if it is safe to do so. Consider the conditions, for example, poor weather or heavy traffic.

The default speed limit on suburban roads is 50km/h and on rural roads 100km/h. Learner drivers and provisional licence holders must not exceed the 100km/h speed limit at any time.

The speed limit on a section of road may be varied from the default speed limits, which will be indicated by speed limit signs.

- A 25km/h speed limit applies:
- when passing a school bus that has stopped to pick up or set down children
  - when passing a stationary emergency services vehicle with flashing red or blue lights.

Reduced speed limits are also commonly signed:

- at a Children's crossing when the lights are flashing as indicated by a Children's crossing sign
- when a child is within school zone signs - on the road, footpath, median strip, or on a bicycle including outside of school hours.

In a 110km/h speed zone it will take approximately **1km** to safely overtake a B-double truck travelling at 100km/h.

Seatbelts and restraints

Wearing seatbelts is compulsory.

You must wear a seatbelt where one is available whenever the vehicle is moving or stationary, but not parked.

Children under the age of 16 years must be appropriately restrained according to their age and size.

Always use child restraints that are Australian standards approved, correctly installed and properly adjusted and fastened to fit the child's body.

Children are safest when travelling in the back seat.

Children should remain in a booster seat until they can wear a seatbelt safely.

A child who is properly secured in an **approved** child restraint is less likely to be injured or killed in a crash than one who is not.



Mobile phones

You cannot use a mobile phone in a vehicle while driving, even when the vehicle is at traffic lights or in a traffic jam. You can only use a mobile phone if it is secured in a commercially made cradle affixed to the vehicle and is only used to make or receive calls. It is an offence to create, send or look at a text, video message or email on a mobile phone. You cannot touch the body or screen of the phone, if the phone is not secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle.

If you are a learner or hold a P1 licence, you must NOT use a mobile phone in a car at any time while driving, including hands-free technologies.

At 60km/h your vehicle is travelling at over 16 metres per second. Taking your eyes off the road for just three seconds to read a text means that you will travel **50 metres** without looking at the road.

Alcohol and drugs

It is illegal to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including some over the counter and prescription medicines if they impair your driving ability.

Learner, provisional and probationalary licence holders must stick to a zero Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) – this means no alcohol at all.

Full licence holders must not drive with a BAC of 0.05 or more.

Driving under the influence of drugs including cannabis, speed or ecstasy is an offence. Random roadside drug tests are conducted to detect the presence of these drugs. The presence of any amount of the drugs tested is an offence.

The safest BAC for driving is **zero** no matter what licence class you hold.

The likelihood of a crash doubles for every increase of 0.05 above Zero BAC. For inexperienced drivers, the risk at any BAC level will be even higher.



Road rule amendments

The Australian Road Rules are continually monitored, with amendments taking into account changes in road safety policy, driver behaviour and technology. Recent amendments include:

All vehicles must give way to pedestrians and cyclists when they are ENTERING crossings and slip lanes. That is, when they are ABOUT to cross.

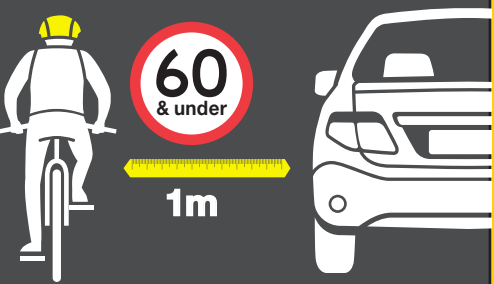
Private buses can use bus lanes, but not 'bus only' lanes painted in red.

Motor bike lane filtering is ONLY permitted at speeds of 30km/h or slower, when safe to do so, by R and R-date licensed motor bike riders. Persons with a P1 provisional licence or Learner's permit and moped riders with a car licence only must not lane filter. Lane filtering is NOT permitted in a school zone or through pedestrian and children's crossings, next to parked cars or between vehicles and the kerb, or on roundabouts, in bicycle, bus or tram lanes.

Cycling road rules

Cyclists can ride safely across a marked foot crossing, a pedestrian crossing or a children's crossing. You must keep to the left, give way to any pedestrian, and cross without delay. You must obey the pedestrian or bicycle crossing lights and not enter the crossing once the symbol turns red. You should slow down on the approach to the crossing and keep a sharp lookout for pedestrians and vehicles.

Cyclists of all ages are allowed to ride on footpaths.



Drivers must give a minimum of 1 metre when passing a cyclist where the speed limit is 60km/h or less, or 1.5 metres over 60km/h.

Further information about amendments to our road rules can be found at [mylicence.sa.gov.au/road-rules/road-rules-amendments](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/road-rules/road-rules-amendments).



Road rules refresher

[mylicence.sa.gov.au](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au)

10 road rules clarified

Simple misunderstandings about road rules can cause a lot of grief – from near misses and minor crashes to serious injuries and fatalities.

This guide clarifies 10 common road rules.

If you want to test your knowledge after reading this guide, or would like to encourage friends and family to test their knowledge, try the road rules quiz at [mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules)

You can also view online videos which demonstrate most of these rules in action.

Keep an eye on road rule changes and safe driving tips at [mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/roadrules)