

**Subject:** **Overtaking**

**Recap:** Keeping Space, Keeping Pace, Meeting Traffic, MSPSL

**Objective:**

- What* Look at overtaking moving vehicles safely.
- How* Discuss the main points, safety issues and the procedures involved in overtaking, followed by on road practice.
- By the end* Be able to overtake moving vehicles safely, with due regard for other road users and to the correct routine.

**Main Points:**

**When to do it?** Potential to be a dangerous manoeuvre - possibility of a head on collision.  
Before deciding to overtake - ask yourself 3 questions:

**Is it Necessary?** Other vehicle signalling to turn off the road? - Will you be turning off road soon?  
Sign for a dual carriageway ahead? - Is the other vehicle only travelling slightly slower than you? - Would you need to break the speed limit to overtake?

**Is it Legal?** No overtaking sign - Double/single continuous white lines in centre of road - On approach to pedestrian crossings.

**Is it Safe?** Poor visibility - bend in road or brow of hill. Approaching left or right junction.  
Oncoming traffic. If there is someone about to overtake you (check mirrors).

**If 'Yes' to all 3:** Start the routine for overtaking - PSLMSM (don't forget to check mirrors first).

- P** Far enough away to give clear view of the road ahead.  
Near enough to have sufficient power and time to overtake.
- S** Match speed - may need to change down gear for extra acceleration.
- L** Ahead - Look for a safe gap (is it still necessary, safe & legal?)
- M** Check mirrors and blind spot to reassess the situation behind.
- S** Always necessary - if only to inform driver in front of your intentions.
- M** Move out smoothly & swiftly - Leave plenty of room - Still safe? (if not, pull in)  
Accelerate past vehicle swiftly (lower gear) - Check M/L mirrors to judge when clear of vehicle (ideally visible in main) - Move back to left smoothly & avoid cutting in (not usually necessary to signal - it is what you are expected to do).

**Important** If in any doubt at all about safety - DON'T OVERTAKE

**References:** Driving the Essential Skills P. 119-126 Official Driving Test P. 41  
BSM Pass Your Driving Test P. 80-83

**Any Questions?**