

# PASSING PARKED VEHICLES

## 1. CHECK FOR ONCOMING TRAFFIC

Before you attempt to drive past the obstruction in front of you, you need to check for oncoming traffic and assess how far away they are.



- You need to assess how large the gap is between you and oncoming traffic before you make any kind of move.
- Figure out what the speed of oncoming traffic is. If they're slow enough, you might have enough time to proceed!
- If it isn't clear, slow down and stop. Don't stop too closely to the obstruction, otherwise you won't be able to see around it to check the road ahead.
- Stay back two car lengths behind the obstruction so that you make your observations and safely manoeuvre around the obstruction once you're good to go.

## 2. CHECK YOUR MIRRORS

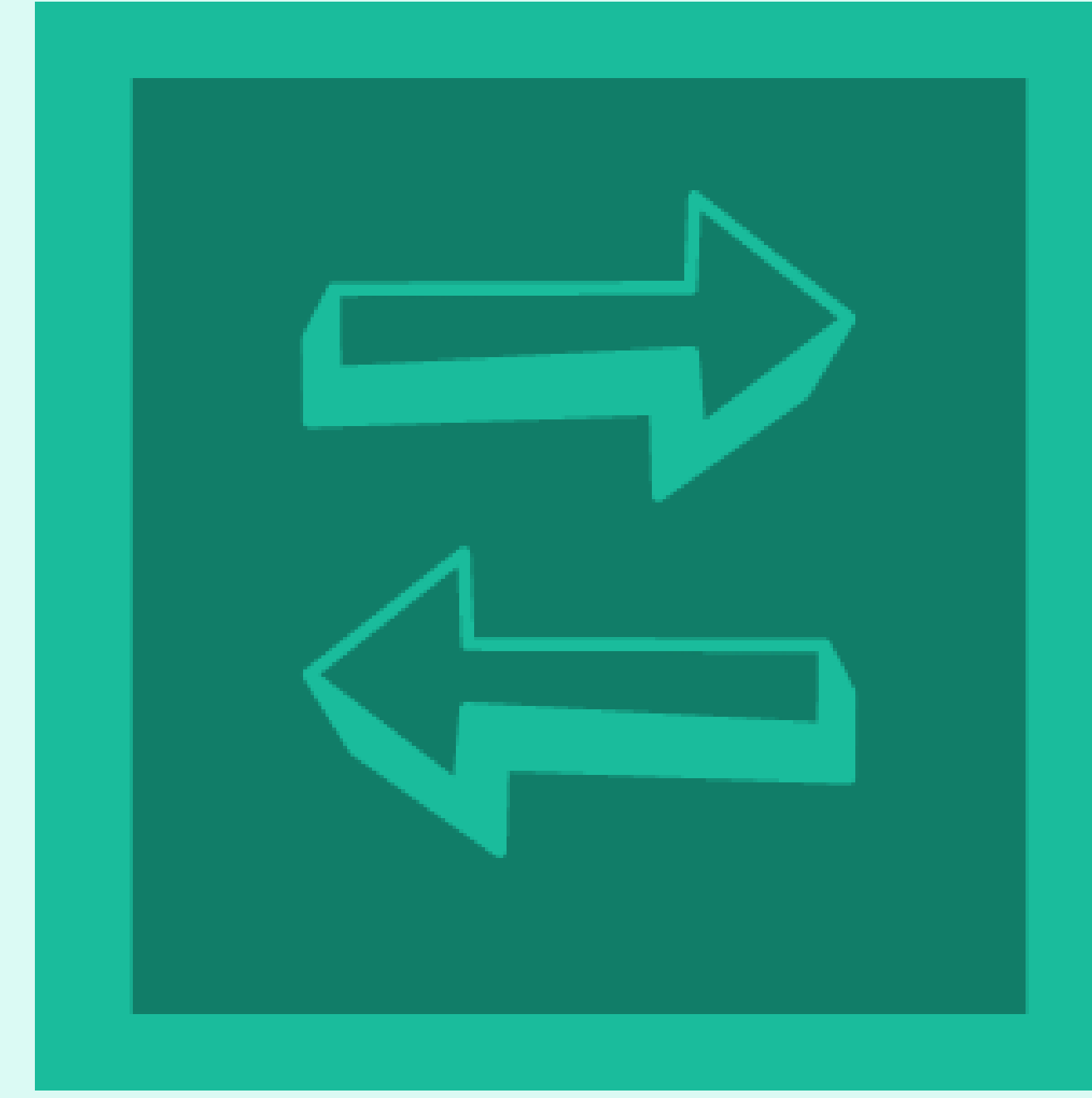
Next, you need to check your mirrors and blindspots to make sure that there aren't any hazards behind you before you attempt to move.



- Once you're sure the road ahead is clear, or that you'll be able to move before oncoming traffic arrives, it's time to look behind you,
- There might be a driver tailgating you, or a cyclist/motorcyclist attempting to overtake you. Either of these scenarios could be catastrophic.
- Check your mirrors and blindspots in a clockwise fashion. Start with your left blindspot, left mirror, interior mirror, right mirror and right blindspot.
- If it's not safe to proceed, you'll need to wait, allow oncoming traffic to pass by, and then start again. If it is safe, you'll want to check the road ahead of you again, just in case.

## 3. SIGNAL IF NECESSARY

Depending on the situation you're dealing with, you may or may not have to use your indicators to let other road users know what you're doing.



- Though in most cases you'll signal when taking action on the road, your indicators aren't always necessary.
- Oncoming traffic will see the parked vehicles ahead of you and figure out that you intend to steer into the gap on their side.
- If you do signal, you might confuse them into thinking you're turning into a side street or driveway. So, not signalling would be best.
- The only exception would be if you don't want the driver behind trying to overtake you because they think that you're stopping. So, in this case, you should signal.

## 4. MAKE YOUR MOVE

Once it's safe to proceed, it's time for you to move past the parked vehicle and safely meet oncoming traffic!



- If you've stopped, switch to first gear and slowly bring up the clutch as you add gas. If you've slowed down, make sure you're in a low gear.
- Pull the steering wheel right and keep a firm grip as you steer into the other lane. Keep your eyes peeled for any potential hazards as you do.
- The speed you drive at will vary depending on the situation. If you're only passing one parked vehicle, you can build up your speed quickly.
- If there's a line of parked vehicles, you might want to keep it at a low speed so that you have complete control over your vehicle. This will also ensure that oncoming traffic spots you.