

TONY BARDEN SCHOOL OF MOTORING

GEAR CHANGING

OBJECTIVES:

1. To be able to identify the need for gears on a car.
2. To be able to recognise when a gear change is required.
3. To be able to change gears through all the various combinations.

Position of your hand:

1st and 2nd - Palm facing away from you.
3rd and 4th - Palm facing towards you.(5th and reverse also).

Changing up through the gears:

As a general rule, you need to change up (i.e. from 1st to 2nd, 2nd to 3rd, 3rd to 4th etc.) as your speed increases. You will know when to change up, because the sound of the engine gets louder.

To change up we use the "GET READY - CHANGE" routine.

Get ready:

1. Check your mirror.
2. Cover the clutch pedal with your left foot, and at the same time place your left hand on the gear lever (palm facing the correct way).

Change:

1. Press the clutch down and at the same time ease off the gas pedal.(Don't remove your foot from the gas pedal).
2. Move the gear lever to the next highest position.
3. Let the clutch up smoothly and at the same time ***gradually*** press the gas.

CHANGING DOWN

Before changing down to a lower gear, you must make sure that the speed of the car is o.k. for that gear. You can reduce speed by using the footbrake or by deceleration. (*Brakes to slow-gears to go*)

Instead of looking at the speedometer to see if your speed is o.k., you can judge it yourself. As a general rule, change down to 2nd gear if your speed is low enough to be able to turn a corner. Change down to 1st gear if your speed is about walking pace. If the engine begins to labour (becomes sluggish or shudders and vibrates), you need to change down to a lower gear.

The routine to change down is the same - GET READY - CHANGE.

Get ready:

1. Check your mirror.
2. Cover the clutch pedal with your left foot, and at the same time place your left hand on the gear lever (palm facing the correct way).

Change;

1. Press the clutch pedal down and at the same time, keep a slight pressure on the gas pedal.
2. Move the gear lever to the most suitable gear.
3. **Let the clutch pedal up smoothly.!**
4. Return your left hand to the steering wheel.

BLOCK GEAR CHANGING

Block gear changing is where you skip gears when changing up *or* down. For normal driving, it is not usually necessary to skip gears when changing up.

However, it is useful to skip gears when changing down. **Providing your speed is correct,** you can change down from any gear to a lower gear.

EXAMPLES: 5th-3rd, 5th-2nd, 5th-1st / 4th-2nd, 4th-1st / 3rd-1st.

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