

## ***MOVING OFF (VARIATIONS)***

### **Do I need the handbrake?**

Some drivers use the handbrake *every* time they stop while others *never* seem to use it at all. Both of these extremes are **wrong**. The handbrake **should** be used when;

You have stopped on an uphill gradient.

You are delayed at a junction and it will be several seconds before you can move away.

You have stopped at traffic lights or in the course of traffic and you have time to say "Should I apply the handbrake?".

When you pull up at the kerb.

When the car is parked.

### **There are a number of advantages to using the handbrake.**

It prevents the car from rolling back on a hill.

It may prevent the car from moving forward if you are hit from behind.

It may prevent the car from jumping forward if you were in gear and your foot slipped off the clutch.

### **Moving off an uphill gradient. ( Hillstart )**

One of the problems with moving off uphill is that of the car rolling backwards. This problem can be overcome by using the following procedure;

1. Select 1st gear.
2. Set the gas ( slightly more than normal ).
3. Let the clutch up to the holding point.
4. Carry out normal observations to the front, in the mirrors, and over the shoulder.
5. Give an indicator signal.( If required )
6. Release the handbrake and let the clutch up slightly (return hand to the steering wheel).
7. Increase the gas as the clutch comes up the rest of the way.( remember for a steep hill, more acceleration will be needed ).
8. Remove your foot from the clutch and follow your safety line.

### **Moving off a downhill gradient.**

Moving off downhill is different in that it is often easier to use the footbrake. Using the footbrake will hold the car better when facing downhill because it works on all four wheels, while the handbrake only works on the rear wheels. On steep hills you can often move off in 2nd gear, provided the car is rolling quickly enough to engage the gear smoothly. You would follow the same order as you would for level ground , except you would pause as you pass through the holding point when the car is rolling forwards.

### ***MOVING OFF UNDER CLUTCH CONTROL.***

#### **Main points;**

Hold the clutch at the holding point and carry out the necessary safety checks. Release the handbrake and only let the clutch up a **fraction**. ***The more you let the clutch up, the faster the car will move.***

The key to this exercise is to only go a **fraction** past the holding point. If you are going too fast , just push the clutch down slightly again.

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