

# TONY BARDEN SCHOOL OF MOTORING

## REVERSING

### *objectives*

1. To be able to reverse safely, making effective observations and identifying any dangers.
2. To be able to reverse in a straight line under full control.
3. To be able to reverse to the left under control.
4. To be able to reverse to the right under control.

### *Where should you not reverse?*

**You must not** reverse from a minor to a major road.

**You must not** reverse up a one-way street.

**You must not** reverse on a dual carriageway.

**You must not** reverse on a motorway.

**You must not** reverse for longer than necessary.

### *Where should you check before reversing?*

You must check completely around the car (looking through all the windows). As you reverse, you will be mainly looking out the back window over your **left** shoulder. However, you need to be constantly aware of conditions **all around the car** during the reverse. Remember the pillars on the body of the car will also restrict your view.

### *What dangers should you look out for?*

You should keep a special look out for small children. They may be below the level of the windscreen. It is often a good idea to walk the long way around your car before getting into it. This way you will be able to see any obstructions or children playing behind. Although reverse lights show when reversing, you should still expect pedestrians to walk out behind you. You also need to give way to all other traffic including cyclists.

### *How do you control the car?*

You should sit slightly sideways in the seat with your back facing the drivers (offside) door. This will make reversing more comfortable. The seatbelt may be removed if necessary, but don't forget to put it back on! If you want to reverse to the left, then turn the steering wheel to the left. The back of the car will begin to go to the left, but the front of the car will swing out to the **right**. If you want to reverse to the right, then turn the steering wheel to the right. The back of the car will then go to the right, while the front will swing out **left**. **Look mainly over your left shoulder out the back window**, but keep a constant look all around and in the mirrors. Some cars have a high back window, making it difficult to see very much through them. In this case you will have to rely on your mirrors a bit more, but do check out the back window aswell. You may still spot an obstruction, or a pedestrian, or approaching vehicle.

### *Try this exercise to help you reverse.*

Pull up at a long straight kerb.

Sit correctly and look out of the back window.

Try to keep your head in the position that it will remain throughout the reverse.

Look where the kerb is in your back window, usually if you are parked correctly and parallel, it is around halfway across the window. Make a mental note of where it appears, and driving slowly back, try to keep the kerb in this position all the time. If the kerb starts to disappear towards the right of your window, you are drifting **away** from the kerb. If it starts to drift over to the left of your window, you are getting **too close** to the kerb. Adjust your steering wheel as needed. If the kerb appears to be staying in the same position, leave the steering wheel alone. Practice this until you understand the way the car behaves as you reverse.

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