

Reversing to the left Worksheet

Spend between 20 and 40 minutes practising this manoeuvre on two separate occasions*.

Quiet suburban roads, or off road areas, are ideal for reversing manoeuvres. It is probably better to start with 'round' corners; however, you need to gain experience of both square and round corners.

When choosing a location it is generally best to avoid crossroads. Crossroads present an unnecessarily high risk level and the consequent high task demand with regard to observation. It's worth noting, however, that although it should never be necessary for drivers to reverse at crossroads, the DVSA in their wisdom (!) occasionally use crossroads for this manoeuvre during tests.

When you are easily able to meet the accuracy targets move on to a slightly busier location so that you are 'forced' to keep a good look out for other road users. Start your sessions by using the 'scaling' method to identify personal targets and focus your drive.

Read the achievement targets, plus any of your own, before you start reversing. And again after a couple of reverses; provisionally tick off those targets that you are happy with. It may take quite a few attempts, or sessions with your trainer, before you can consider ticking off all the targets.

To further assist your preparation for Part-Three, take along your copy of the DVSA Driving Manual. After 15 minutes, take a break and read about reversing to the left – are you following DVSA advice and practice?

Self-Assessment

Score yourself using the 1 – 10 scale. If you have an opportunity to practice with other students or friends from an advanced driving club, ask them to assess your performance. If you don't agree with your passenger's assessment that's OK; but remember it's usually easier to be objective from the passenger seat.

Note any actions for improvement by either self-development or based on the advice of a trainer during an assessment or optional training session.

**We suggest a minimum of two practise sessions completed on separate days. Therefore you will need to print out at least 2x Achievement Target sheets.*

Left Reverse - Achievement Targets

Name: Date

<i>Before reversing into a side road on the left I always:</i>	
	Score
Consider the safety and convenience of the location	
Take effective observation before moving off from the start position before the side road. <i>Take the same precautions as you would when moving off normally but allow for the fact that you will stopping very soon – this might mean that you need a larger gap in traffic.</i>	
Check that the road into which I intend to reverse is clear of obstructions for at least four or five car lengths from the junction. <i>Look for anything that might prevent you from completing the reverse manoeuvre safely.</i>	
Pull up two to three car lengths beyond the corner, well within 70 centimetres (2 feet) of the kerb.	
<i>When competing left reverse, I always:</i>	
	Score
Look all around <i>before</i> starting to reverse. <i>This means checking the road and footpaths by looking ahead, using mirrors and looking back over both shoulders. Do not proceed until it is absolutely safe to do so.</i>	
Reverse slowly, keeping full control of the car. <i>The speed at which you reverse will depend upon your skill, the corner, the road conditions and the vehicle. With this, and all other set manoeuvres, you must drive slowly enough to maintain proper observation all around.</i>	
Glance around frequently to check other road users. <i>Make frequent checks to the front and sides while reversing. This is especially important before starting to turn the steering wheel.</i>	
Keep within 70 centimetres (2 feet) of the kerb. <i>This is your maximum reasonable distance from the kerb. As an expert driver, you should be aiming to keep well within this distance.</i>	
Reverse until I am a minimum of four car lengths from the junction. <i>You must go back far enough to clear the junction so that you do not cause inconvenience to other traffic.</i>	
Look behind <i>while</i> stopping. <i>Many experienced drivers turn around and look to the front before stopping and travel up to one car length or more without looking where they are going.</i>	
Move off safely after the exercise. <i>This may seem obvious, however, after concentrating on the reverse (especially during your exam) you may neglect the correct safety checks if they are not 'second nature'.</i>	
Total score	
Average score (total score divided by 11)	

Left reverse - Improvement Targets