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Junctions, Roundabouts and Right of Way

Many accidents happen at junctions, so the FTT and BTT test them closely. At a junction with no lights or signs, **traffic going straight has priority over turning traffic**, and you give way to traffic from your right; at a roundabout, **give way to traffic on your right**. Driving Through Junctions is one of the largest FTT topics.

No lights or signs: who gives way

Going straight	give way to traffic going straight from your **right**
Turning left	give way to traffic going straight from your **right**
Turning right	give way to traffic going straight from **all** directions, traffic turning right from your right, and traffic turning left from the opposite side
T-junction	give way to traffic on the major road

Look right, left, then right again; do not go on signals from unauthorised people. BTT p.52-53; p.50

Turning right

- Check front and rear, **signal early**, check your right blind spot, then take the lane the road markings show. p.43
- Slow down. If the light allows, move slowly towards the centre of the junction and **give way to oncoming traffic**; wait for a safe gap or the green arrow. p.43
- Turn swiftly into the correct lane, watching for people crossing. Into a **two-way** road: the lane just left of the centre line. Into a **one-way** road: the extreme right lane. p.43; BTT p.53
- Using a shared right-turn and straight lane: signal early so traffic behind can pass. p.44

Turning left

- Signal early, check your left blind spot and keep left; do not swing out to the right before or after the turn. p.41; BTT p.53
- Look right and ahead, watch for motorcycles and bicycles, and **give way to people crossing**. Turn into the nearest lane. p.41
- The rear wheel on the inside cuts closer to the kerb than the front: take care not to brush cyclists or pedestrians. BTT p.53

Traffic lights

- **Amber** and room to stop: stop at the stop line. Too close to stop safely: go on. p.45
- Road ahead jammed: **do not go, even on green**, yellow box or not. p.45
- Stop before the stop line, and put the handbrake on while you wait at red. p.46-47
- Turning on green: people may be crossing on their Green Man. Stop and let them clear your path. p.47
- **Flashing amber**: the lights are out of order. Slow down and obey any police officer directing traffic. p.48

Roundabouts

- Slow down, decide your exit early and get into the right lane. **Give way to traffic on your right**. Do not enter if your exit is blocked. p.52
- Three lanes: left lane for the first exit (left), middle lane straight on, right lane to turn right. Two lanes: left lane for left or straight, right lane for straight or right. BTT p.53
- Inside: give way to vehicles crossing in front, signal early to change lanes, and **signal left** before you leave. p.52

Stop, give way and yellow boxes

- **STOP** sign: stop behind the line and give way to traffic on the main road. **GIVE WAY** sign: slow down, stop if necessary. p.48
- **Yellow box**: do not enter unless your exit is clear, even on green. You may wait in it to turn right against oncoming traffic, or when crossing pedestrians hold up your turn. BTT p.54-55
- In a hold-up, it is courteous to let traffic from a minor road go. p.45

Test traps

- **Amber** means stop if you can do so safely, not speed up. p.45
- **Green but the road ahead is jammed**: wait behind the line. p.45
- **Turning right into a one-way road**: the extreme right lane; into a two-way road: just left of the centre line. BTT p.53
- **Roundabout**: give way to traffic on your **right**. p.52
- **Flashing amber**: the lights are out of order, not a signal to go. p.48

Penalties (car)

Stopping in a yellow box	$100, no points
Not giving way, no lights or at a roundabout	4 points, $150
Not giving way to oncoming traffic at lights	4 points, $150
Wrong lane to turn left or right	4 points, $150
Not obeying traffic light signals	12 points, $400

In school and silver zones and Friendly Streets, some offences add 2 points and $100. BTT p.6-7

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Based on the official *Final Theory of Driving* handbook, pages 40-52 (and Basic Theory of Driving pages 6-7 and 52-55); page numbers are the handbook's. The drawings are our own simple versions. An unofficial study aid by sgdriving.net, not a Traffic Police publication: where anything differs, the official handbook prevails. The handbooks are free from the Traffic Police Online Learning Portal.