

12. Crossing traffic

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As you gain more driving experience, you will come into contact with more traffic.

There will be lots of places where you will have to 'cross the path' of other vehicles, in other words, drive in front of them. Turning right from a main road to a side road is a common example of 'crossing' (as shown in the diagram) but it is not the only one, you will 'cross' when turning in or out of driveways or other openings on the right, going ahead at crossroads, etc.

When turning right from a main road to a side road you must not get in the way of the cars coming towards you.

Ideally, in many situations you will be able to slow down to time your approach so that you arrive when the road is clear, do this by reading the road well ahead. But a word of warning - never speed up to 'make the gap'; the driver coming the other way could also speed up!

The vehicles that you are turning in front of have priority and shouldn't need to change their speed or direction because of your actions. A useful guide for judging the gap when getting used to crossing the path of traffic is the 'walk across' rule...

If you think that you could safely walk across the whole width of the road in front of an approaching vehicle, then it is probably safe to drive across (assuming that the 'side' road is clear!).

Crossing traffic requires extra care on fast roads, for example, when crossing dual-carriageways.

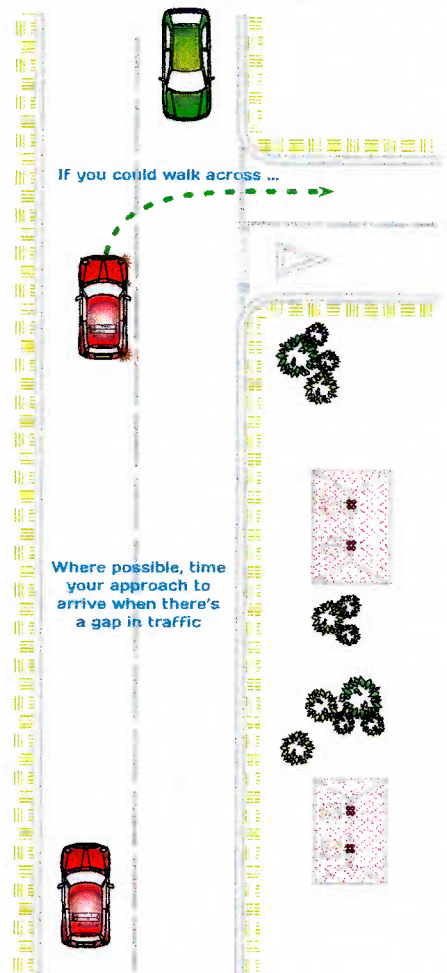
Always wait until you are 100% sure it is safe before making your decision to proceed. Better to be held up for a few minutes than to find yourself waking up in the local hospital!

If you don't know... Don't go!

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Lesson Notes:

