

17. Roundabouts

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The '12 o'clock' guide is a simple way to remember the procedure at roundabouts. Look out for signs on the approach to the roundabout and imagine the layout as a clock face. Exits beyond 12 o'clock will usually require use of the right-hand lane and a right turn signal. However, you must be aware that there are local variations to this rule, multi lane roads may also vary - ask your instructor for details.

Slow down early on approach, looking for gaps. In busy traffic make an early decision about which of the cars (already on the roundabout) you intend to follow in order to join the roundabout; adjust your speed to merge into the gap behind that car.

Although roundabouts are 'one-way' systems you must always check that the road is clear to the left as well as to the right. Keep a lookout for pedestrians, cyclists, broken down vehicles, or even people coming the wrong way!

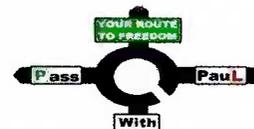
Mini-roundabouts follow the same rules as large roundabouts, however, there is less space so you need to do everything slower. Pay special attention to cars approaching from ahead before deciding to proceed. Whenever possible, avoid driving on the painted or raised area in the centre of the junction.

1 Turning left: Approach in the left-hand lane with a left-turn signal. Maintain your signal and position as you drive to your exit. Cancel your signal after you leave the roundabout.

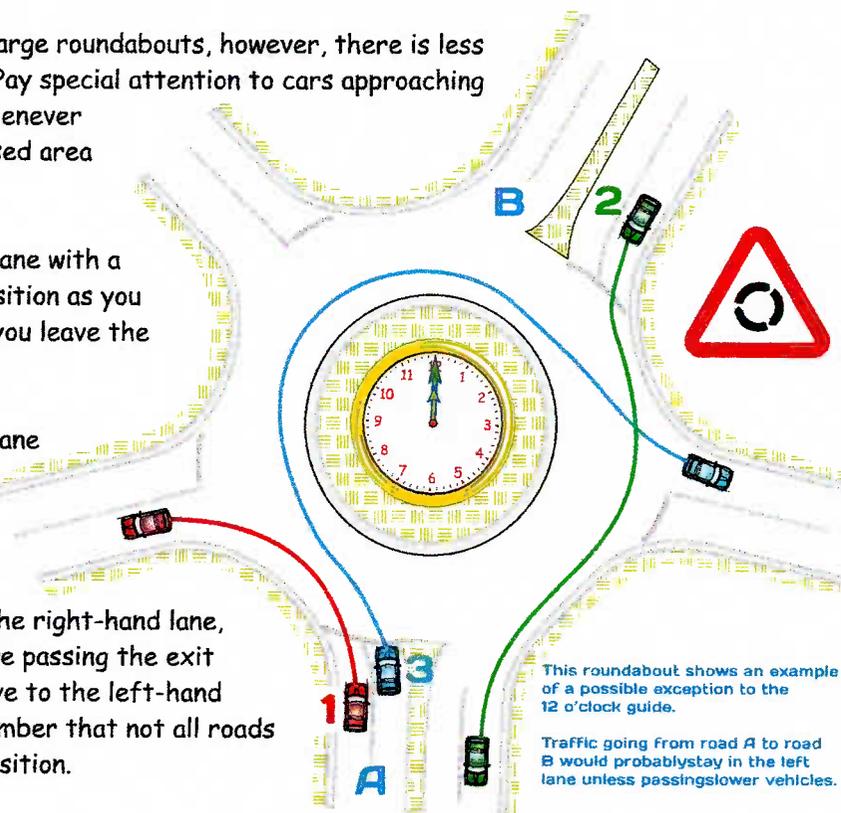
2 Going ahead: Approach in the left-hand lane without a signal. Keep left as you drive to your exit. Signal left as you pass the exit before the one that you intend to take.

3 Turning right: Signal right, approach in the right-hand lane, maintain your signal and position until you are passing the exit before the one you want, signal left and move to the left-hand lane in order to leave the roundabout. Remember that not all roads beyond 12 o'clock will require a right lane position.

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This roundabout shows an example of a possible exception to the 12 o'clock guide.

Traffic going from road A to road B would probably stay in the left lane unless passing slower vehicles.

Lesson Notes:

