

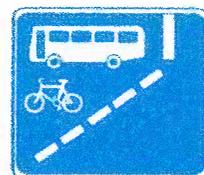
21. Road markings

Road markings are mostly painted white or yellow. White lines separate streams of traffic; yellow lines and markings prohibit waiting and parking.

A notable exception to the white and yellow norm are red lines painted in the place of double yellow lines - these 'red-route' lines mean absolutely no waiting or parking because the route must be kept clear at all times. You can expect to be towed away very quickly if you try to wait on a red-route!

Roads in towns and city centres use the same system of white lines that is found elsewhere: lane lines, hazard lines, stop and give way lines, etcetera. However, in addition to these you will find bus and cycle lanes, and more hatched markings. Whatever markings you encounter there is a general rule to apply: simply, the more paint you see, the more careful you must be.

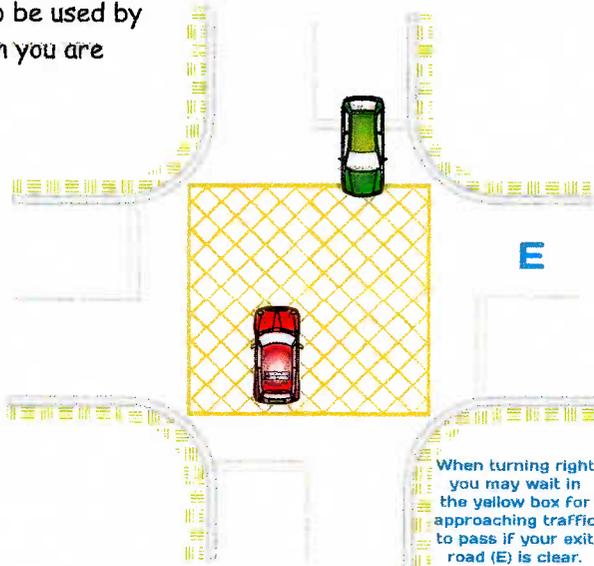
Bus lanes are provided to allow the free passage of public transport during peak traffic periods. They are marked by a broad solid white line and the words 'Bus Lane' painted on the road surface.



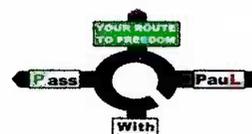
You must not drive in a bus lane during its period of operation (indicated on the signs). You must also take special care when turning left across a bus lane. Some bus lanes can also be used by taxis and pedal cyclists who may try to pass you on the left when you are turning.

White 'hatched markings' are used to separate traffic streams and increase safety margins. As a general rule, you should avoid driving on the hatched areas edged with broken white lines. You must never cross a solid white line on to a hatched area except in an emergency.

Yellow box junctions (see diagram) are used to help prevent traffic snarl-ups at junctions. The general rule is: do not enter the box unless your exit is clear. If your exit is clear, you may wait in the box when turning right until the road is clear of approaching traffic.



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