

38. Leaving the motorway

You will normally leave the motorway via a deceleration-lane and slip-road although sometimes you may encounter the end of a motorway - this can be at a roundabout or simply a place where the motorway narrows and becomes a dual-carriageway or even a single-carriageway (two-way traffic) road.

Using the deceleration lane and slip road you effectively do the opposite of what you do when joining the motorway. This time, instead of speeding up, you'll be slowing down.

When leaving the motorway, it is important to pay special attention to your speed and to make good use of your mirrors. Remember that the traffic behind you may not be leaving and will catch up rapidly if you start to slow down too soon.

Look out for motorway exit signs, the first one will be one mile from your exit and clearly marked with the road and junction number. Next, you will see the half-mile exit sign, this has destination information (town/city names) and repeats the junction number. At the half mile sign you should be moving into lane-one (if you are not already there). Match your speed to fit in with the lane-one traffic flow; apart from this, it is not necessary to slow down yet.

Watch for the exit marker boards; check your mirrors before the first board and signal left as you are passing it - maintain your speed to avoid holding up traffic behind.

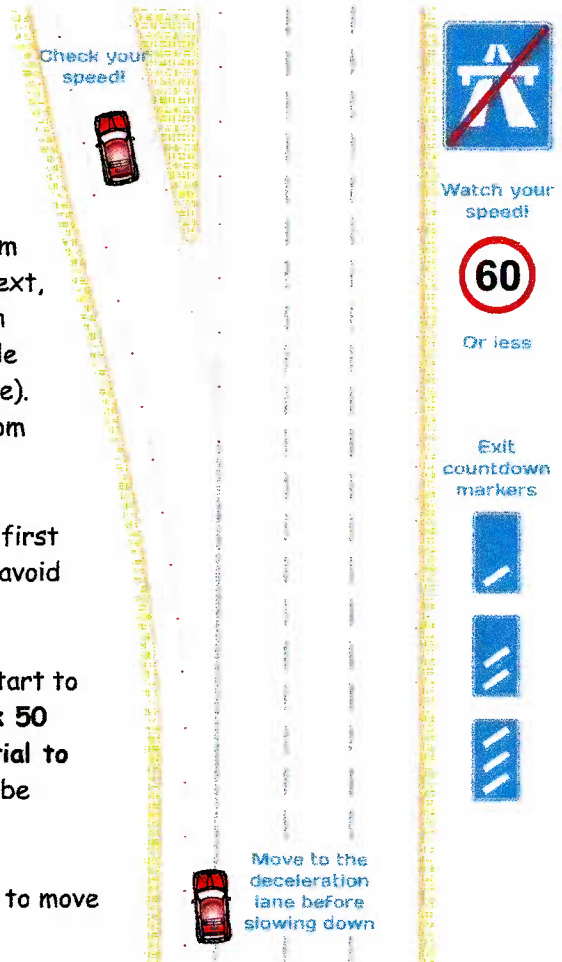
As you enter the deceleration-lane, check your mirrors again and start to slow down. At this point **your speed may be higher than you think** 50 mph can feel like 30 mph after cruising at speed so it is **essential to glance at your speedometer**. Some slip roads have bends that can be dangerous if your speed is too high.

Finally, continue to make good use of your mirrors and be prepared to move out of the way if the driver behind has not been as careful as you!

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Lesson Notes: