

4. Mirrors

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Sit in your normal driving position when you adjust your mirrors to ensure that they are set up for the best possible view behind and to the sides. Avoid getting finger marks on the glass; they can reduce your view and cause dazzle at night.

It's important to use your mirrors **well before** any action. This is necessary to ensure that it is safe to proceed with your manoeuvre and that your driving will fit safely with other road users.

Getting into the habit of using the **Mirror-Signal-Manoeuvre (MSM)** routine will help speed your progress towards an early test pass and more importantly to becoming a safe driver. Although mirrors are only mentioned once in the MSM routine, you might need to check your mirrors several times. Use the mirrors at least once and then as often as necessary for each manoeuvre.

Avoid staring at the mirrors; several quick glances will allow you to build a picture of the traffic situation all around without distracting you from the road ahead. If your mirrors are correctly adjusted, you will be able to check them with minimal head movement.

Convex mirrors make things appear further away than they are.



Flat mirrors give a true image of distance.



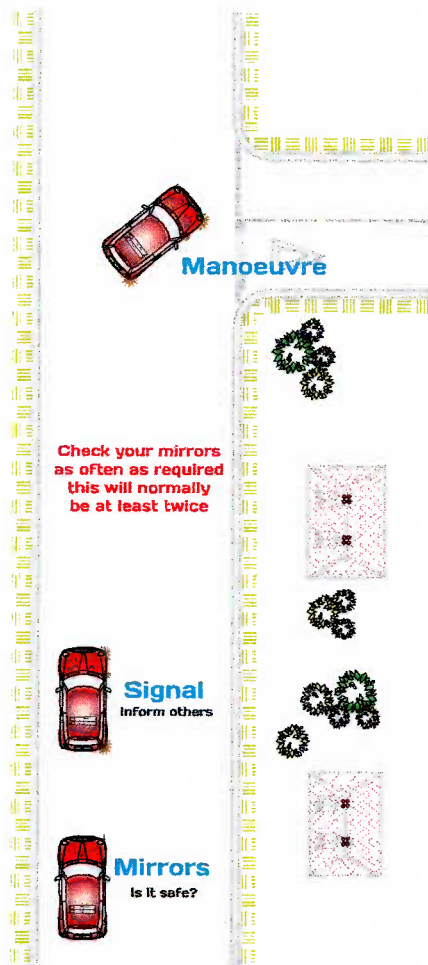
Another useful tip is to use at least two mirrors before changing speed position or direction, the centre mirror first and then the appropriate door mirrors; doing this will give you a wider field of view.

Even with correctly adjusted mirrors, you cannot see everything to the sides. The hidden areas are called '**blind-spots**'. In some situations, you will need to check your blind-spots by turning your head to the left or right in addition to using your mirrors; this is especially important when moving off from the side of the road and during slow speed manoeuvres.

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Lesson Notes:

