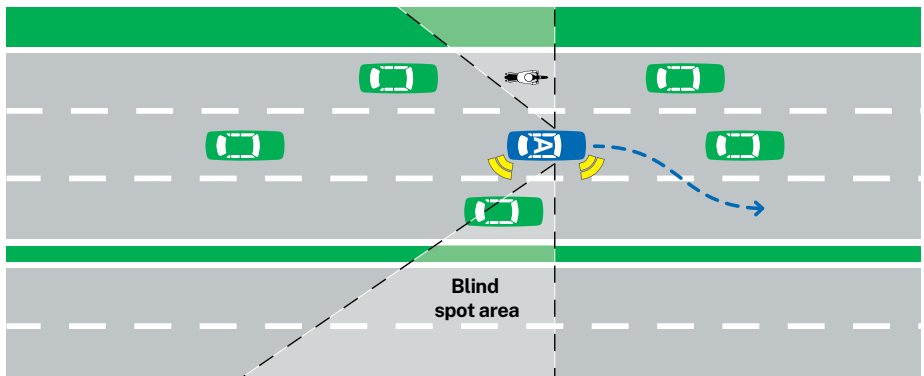


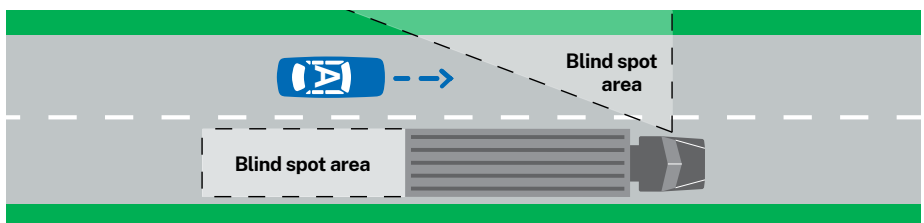
Before proceeding through traffic lights, you must turn your head and check to ensure there are no vehicles that may be ‘running’ the red light, or pedestrians crossing against the ‘don’t walk’ sign. You must also turn your head and check to ensure it is safe before proceeding across a railway level crossing.

## Checking blind spots

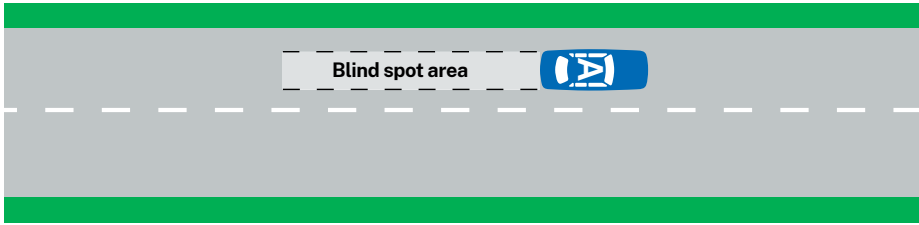
A car, motorcycle or bicycle in an adjacent lane can easily be positioned beyond the area visible in the mirrors. Checking your blind spots is an essential observation skill as many crashes occur because drivers do not turn their head and look over their shoulder before steering. Frequently not performing observation checks will result in a fail.



Check blind spots before changing your road position.



Do not drive in the blind spot of other vehicles.

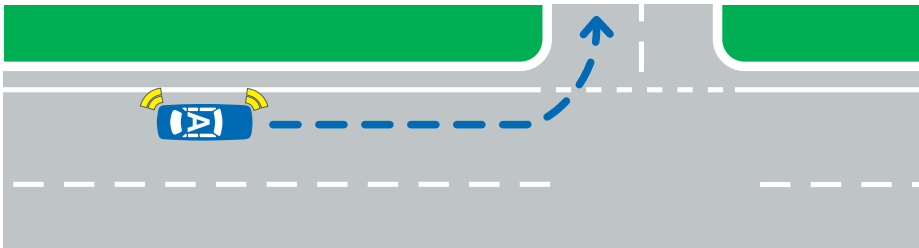


All vehicles have a large blind spot behind them. Because of this blind spot, extra care must be taken when reversing as small children can be out of view.

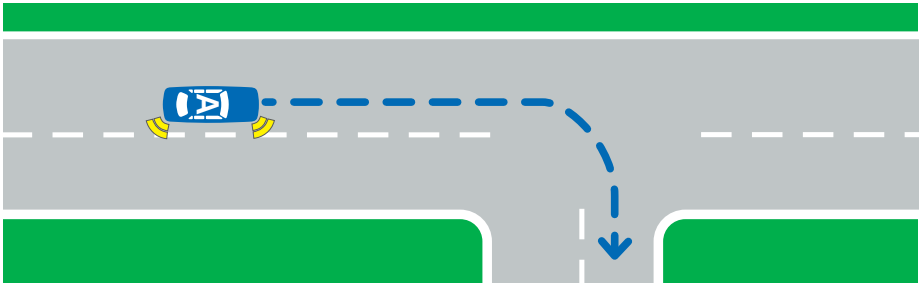
You must turn your head and check your blind spots before:

- changing lanes
- leaving or returning to the kerb
- merging or diverging
- reversing
- turning left – looking for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists who could be beside you in your blind spot
- turning right – looking for vehicles that may be overtaking you
- joining the traffic stream
- leaving the inside lane of a multi lane roundabout.

When reversing you must turn your head and look over your shoulder to check through the rear window for vehicles and pedestrians that may not be visible in your mirror. All vehicles have blind spots behind.



Before turning left you must check for bicycles and other vehicles that could be in your blind spot.



Before turning into a street or driveway you must have a head check for vehicles that may be overtaking you.

Observation errors are recorded on the Driving Test score sheet as a circle around 'D' (decision) and an 'H' in the notes column.

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## Speed management

You must drive at a safe and legal speed, managing your speed to suit traffic, weather and road conditions.

### Maintain space to the front

You must adjust your speed to maintain crash avoidance space to the front of your vehicle.

The minimum safe distance needed in front is three seconds. This must be increased in poor conditions, or when you are being followed too closely by another vehicle.

When you change lanes or if another vehicle moves into your 3-second gap, you will be expected to create a new gap by gradually dropping back.

To calculate a 3-second crash avoidance space when following another vehicle use this basic technique: as the rear of the vehicle in front of you passes a stationary object at the side of the road such as a power pole, tree or sign, start a 3-second count 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three'.