



Purpose: To reverse park the car safely off road, into a parking bay, whilst giving due consideration to other road users. This manoeuvre can be carried out in any car park including a driving test centre car park.

Key points:

Observation: Looking mainly in the direction of travel, you must be on the lookout for other road users (including pedestrians). You must not rely on the exterior/interior mirrors, use effective all-round observations throughout the manoeuvre.

Control: These manoeuvres should be conducted under full control, slowly and safely. This gives you time to make effective observations and maintain accuracy.

Accuracy: Drive or reverse into the bay neatly, without swinging from side to side, finishing as central and parallel within the lines as possible.

Reversing in: (White numbers)

Pull up about half a car length past the bay and at least a doors width away ① checking the bay is clear as you pass. Apply the handbrake and, if safe to continue, select reverse to show your intention to others. Check all-round as you are about to move and steer into the bay and so the front of the car will swing out into the path of other road users. If it is safe to do so start reversing slowly and steer in the direction you want the rear of the car to go.

As the rear of the car nears the entrance to the bay ② check your position with glances into your side mirrors, using other parked vehicles if there are any, as a reference. Continue to check around as you continue back. When the car is almost parallel with the bay lines ③ being to slowly unwind the steering until straight. Continue to ease back slowly until the front of the car is inside the parking bay ④ and secure the car.

Reversing out: (Amber numbers)

After driving into position ①, central and parallel within the bay, apply the handbrake and select neutral. Carry out good all-round observations and if safe select reverse to signal your intention. Looking mainly to the rear, ease slowly back in a straight line until your door mirrors come level with the end of the bay ②. Check all-round again and if safe continue slowly back as you begin to steer. Frequently glance forward checking the distance from other parked vehicles, to ensure adequate clearance (the dashed orange line shows the path of the corner of the car). Apply more steering if necessary whilst checking around as you swing clear of the bay ③. As you are coming to a position you can drive away from bring the steering back to straight ④. Stop, apply the handbrake and select 1st gear. Make effective observations before moving off.

With compliments from

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