



You should only overtake if it is safe, legal and necessary. If you do have to overtake, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as it is safe to do so. Plan well ahead and apply the relevant parts of the MSM/PSL routine.

Illustration 1 shows the **MPSL** routine which can be used when assessing an overtaking situation and/or when holding back waiting for a safe gap.

Mirrors: Check your mirrors to assess the speed and position of traffic behind. This should be done early on faster roads.

Position: You must maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front, leaving space to accelerate and move out gradually. You might also need to position more toward the centre line to improve your zone of vision of the road ahead.

Speed: You should keep a steady pace with enough speed in reserve to be able to overtake promptly without exceeding the speed limit.

Look: Look well ahead to assess if it is safe, legal and convenient to overtake. Check what the traffic is doing, the road conditions and any other hazards.

Illustration 2 shows the **MSM** routine which should be used **well before** you intend to overtake.

Mirrors: Check your mirrors again to reassess the situation. Watch out for following vehicles that may overtake you.

Signal: Due to the higher speeds you need to signal your intention to move out in good time. This gives other drivers time to plan their own actions in advance. Even if there is no-one behind you should still give a signal.

Manoeuvre: Check a final time ahead, behind and to the side. If it is safe ease gradually across to the lane to your right. Overtake progressively and maintain a safe gap.

Mirrors: Check your mirrors to see if it is safe to move back to the left. Make sure you do not pull back to the left too soon. Don't cut in.

Signal: Give a left signal when you are a safe distance past the vehicle to move back to the left.

Manoeuvre: Check a final time ahead, behind and to the side. If it is safe ease gradually across to the lane to your left and take up your normal driving position.

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