

Subject: Adequate Clearance

Recap: Stopping distances. Experience of drivers following very close & harsh braking.

Objective:

- What* Consider leaving adequate clearance while driving.
- How* Discuss the main points of leaving adequate clearance in various driving situations followed by on road practice.
- By the end* Be able to keep a safe space all round your vehicle when driving.

Main Points:

- Why?** Allowing enough space all round vehicle creates a safety bubble which gives us time to *Look*, *Think* and *Act*.
- In Front** Separation Distance - Ideally, overall stopping distance for speed (practical?)
1 metre for every mph of speed - how to judge - 2 second rule
(At least double the distance in poor weather conditions - possibly more)
Allow space to see around large vehicles and, in queues, room to manoeuvre.
- Behind** Tailgaters - Slow down gradually to give yourself more space in front as the following driver will need more warning (let them pass if safe).
- To the Sides** Avoid driving along-side other drivers - escape route?
Avoid driving in someone else's blind spots (be aware of people in yours)
- Clearance that we should allow when passing other road users:
 - Parked cars** Approximately a doors width / 1metre - be aware of doors opening, pedestrians stepping out, drivers in parked cars, cars pulling off suddenly.
 - Cyclists** Treat them as if they were a small car - allow as much room (be prepared for them to swerve/wobble and make unexpected sideways movements).
 - Horses** Allow even more room - as much as is practical. Pass very slowly and avoid revving the engine or sounding the horn (be aware of horses behaviour).
- Remember** Not always enough space to allow ideal clearance - Less Space, Less Speed

References: Driving the Essential Skills P. 118/201 Official Driving Test P. 44
BSM Pass Your Driving Test P. 71-74 / 121-122

Any Questions?