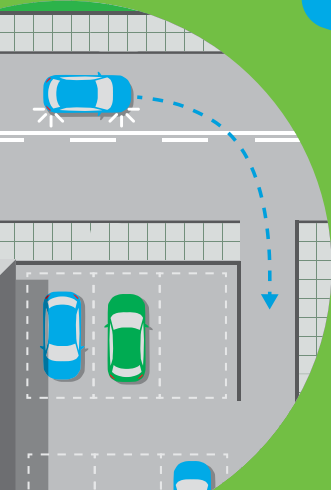


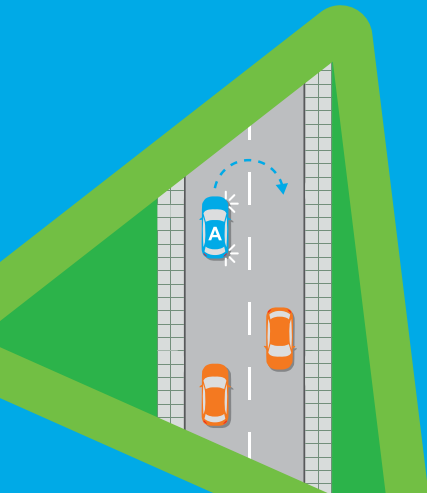
10

Top 10 misunderstood road rules in Tasmania

KEEP LEFT
UNLESS
OVERTAKING



Part 1 of our road
safety series





This document does not constitute legal advice and is provided only as a guide to the *Road Rules 2009* up until 25 November 2019, and thereafter the *Road Rules 2019*. Road users must ensure they are familiar with the Road Rules and comply with the requirements prescribed in law.

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Feedback

Please send your feedback or comments to
rsac@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Introduction

The Road Rules are an invaluable safety measure that, when followed, save lives. The rules make our actions on the road predictable, which helps us avoid crashes that can lead to death, injury and property damage.

This brochure contains information on 10 commonly misunderstood road rules. The original Top 10 Misunderstood Road Rules brochure has proven very popular since we first published it in 2015 – so we have given it a facelift.

“Top 10” is the first of two brochures that present misunderstood road rules, the other being the Five More Misunderstood Road Rules brochure. We strongly recommend reading these two publications together.

We all have a responsibility to follow the Road Rules and drive with care. It is your responsibility to be aware of what the rules are, and how to comply safely. While the road laws may change from time to time, ignorance of the law is not an excuse if you break a road rule.

Other useful resources

- *Tasmanian Road Rules 2009*
www.legislation.tas.gov.au
- Tasmanian Road Rules Booklet –
www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/publications/tasmanian_road_rules
- Road Safety Advisory Council webpage, including the Five More Misunderstood Road Rules
www.rsac.tas.gov.au

Department of State Growth

- For licensing information
www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing
- For registration information
www.transport.tas.gov.au/registration

I. Navigating roundabouts

Road Rules – 109 to 119

A roundabout is an intersection with a traffic island at its centre. Traffic moves clockwise, keeping to the left of the island.

The design of roundabouts significantly increase road safety as they force you to slow down, which minimises potential crash impact.

Giving way at roundabouts

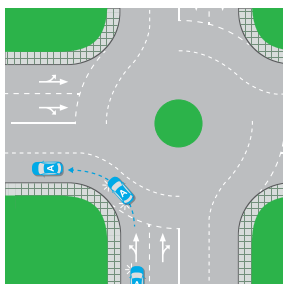
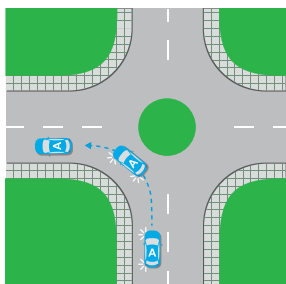
The 'give way to the right' rule does not apply to roundabouts. At a roundabout, you must give way to all vehicles already in the roundabout. This includes those approaching from the right. This helps to ease the flow of traffic.

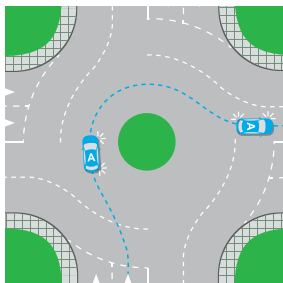
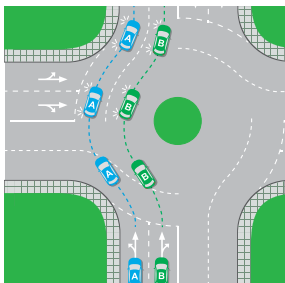
Indicating at roundabouts

You must indicate when you turn left or right, if you make a U-turn, if you change lanes, and as you exit a roundabout. There is no requirement for you to indicate when approaching the roundabout if you are going straight ahead.

Turning left

You must indicate left on approach and be travelling in the left-hand lane. Unless there are road markings with other instructions, stay in the left lane and exit in the left lane.





Going straight ahead

You may approach the roundabout from either the left or right lane (unless there are road markings with other instructions). Remember to indicate as you exit the roundabout.

Turning right

You must indicate right on approach and be travelling in the right-hand lane (unless there are road markings with other instructions).

Making a U-turn

When using a roundabout to make a U-turn, you must approach in the right lane and indicate right.

Changing lanes in a roundabout

You may change lanes in a roundabout when it is safe to do so. You must indicate before changing lanes, in addition to indicating when entering and leaving the roundabout.

Exiting a roundabout

Just like exiting any road, you must indicate left when leaving a roundabout, and stop indicating as soon as you have exited the roundabout.

2. Giving way to pedestrians when turning

Road Rules – 67 to 75

You must always give way to pedestrians on any road you are entering.

This applies to intersections with and without traffic lights, slip-lanes, or when you are entering or leaving a driveway.

You must share the roads safely with pedestrians. You should always drive safely and avoid crashing into a pedestrian.

For their own safety, pedestrians should always check their surroundings before crossing the road.



3. Mobile phones

Road Rules – 300

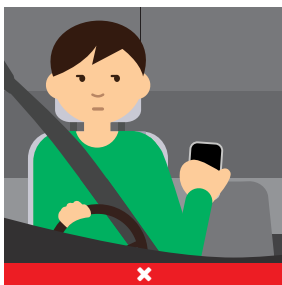
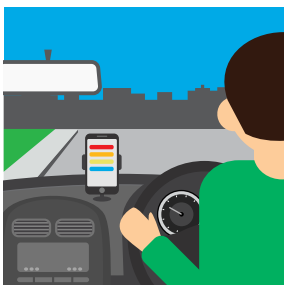
You can only use a hand-held mobile phone if your vehicle is parked in an authorised parking spot.

Using a mobile phone legally while driving

You must not use a hand-held mobile phone to make or receive a call when you are driving or when the vehicle is stationary, but not parked, unless:

- the mobile phone is in a commercially designed holder and fixed to the vehicle, and
- the mobile phone can be operated without being touched.

You may use the navigational or GPS function and audio functions of a phone while driving, provided the phone is secured in a fixed mounting.



Illegal use of a mobile phone

It is illegal to do any of the following when driving:

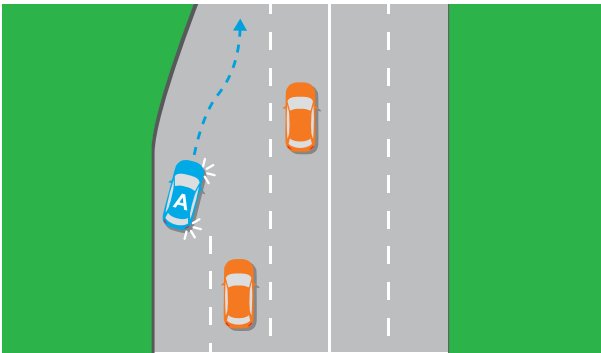
- hold a mobile phone in your hand or rest it on any part of your body (whether or not you are on a phone call),
- type or enter anything into a mobile phone, or send or look at anything that is in a mobile phone, and
- operate any other function of a mobile phone.

4. Merging

Road Rules – 148 and 149

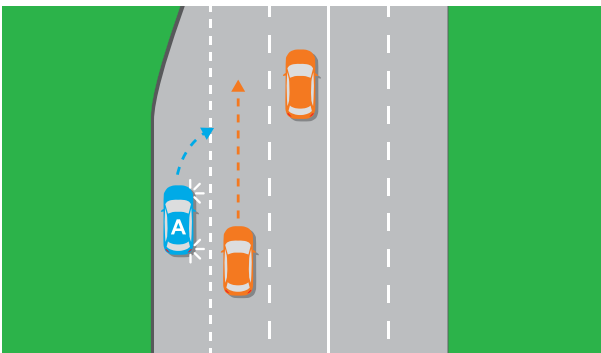
Merging when the number of lanes is reduced

If you are travelling on a road without lane markings and the number of lanes or lines of traffic is reduced, you must merge by giving way to any vehicle that is ahead of you. This is often called a zip merge.



Changing lanes when a marked lane ends

If you are travelling in a marked lane which is ending and you are required to cross a broken white line to enter the adjacent lane, you must give way to any traffic travelling in the lane being entered.



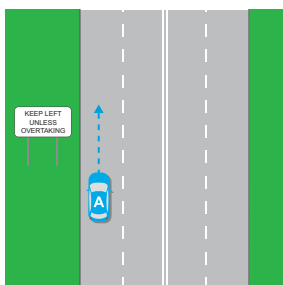
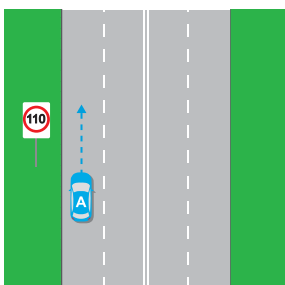
5. Keeping left

Road Rules – 130

On multi-lane roads with a speed limit of more than 80km/h, you must not drive in the right-hand lane unless you are:

- overtaking
- turning right or making a U-turn
- avoiding an obstacle
- driving in congested traffic
- driving in a special purpose lane or if there is a **Left lane must turn left** sign or a left traffic arrow and you are not turning left.

If a **Keep left unless overtaking** sign is displayed, the requirement applies regardless of the speed limit.



6. Using headlights and high beam lights

Road Rules – 218

Headlights

Head lights and tail lights are very important visual aids when driving. They help to illuminate your path, but also inform other drivers that you are moving on the road.

To be considered roadworthy, your car must always have:

- two working headlights
- two working tail lights
- two working brake lights, and
- a working number plate light.

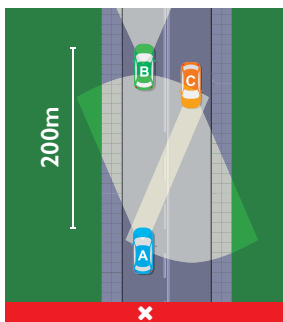
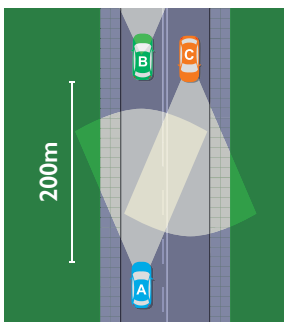
High beam

In addition to headlights, you can use your high beam lights to further illuminate your path, if necessary.

Only use your headlights on high beam when you are:

- more than 200 metres behind a vehicle travelling in the same direction
- more than 200 metres from an oncoming vehicle.

Never use your lights to dazzle another road user.



7. U-turns

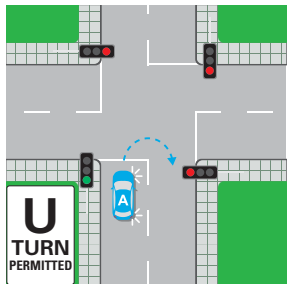
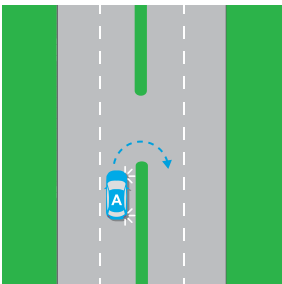
Road Rules – 37 to 42

Performing a U-turn

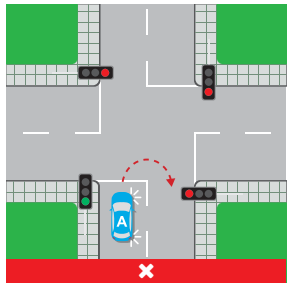
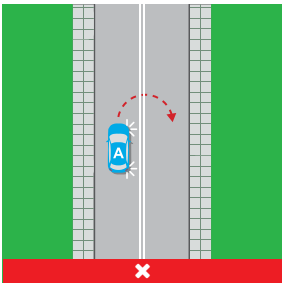
You can only perform a U-turn (if it is safe to do so):

- where there are no marked lanes
- where there is a single broken line
- where there is a broken line, left of a single continuous line
- at a break in the median strip (unless there is a **No U-turn** sign)
- at an intersection without traffic lights (unless there is a **No U-turn** sign)
- at an intersection with traffic lights only if there is a **U-turn permitted** sign.

Examples of what to do

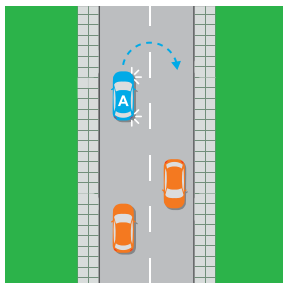
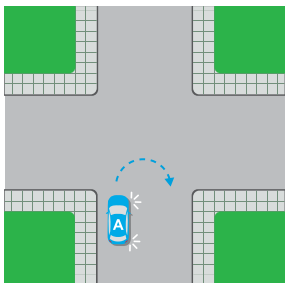


Examples of what NOT to do



Before performing a U-turn:

- have a clear view of any approaching traffic
- make sure you can turn without unreasonably obstructing the free movement of traffic
- give way to all vehicles and pedestrians
- indicate.



When not to perform a U-turn

You must not perform a U-turn:

- anywhere there is a **No U-turn** sign
- across a single continuous line
- across a single continuous line, left of a single broken line
- across double broken lines
- across double continuous lines
- at an intersection with traffic lights (unless there is a **U-turn permitted** sign)
- if you do not have a clear view of any approaching traffic
- if you will unreasonably obstruct the free movement of traffic.

8. Safe following distances

Road Rules – 126

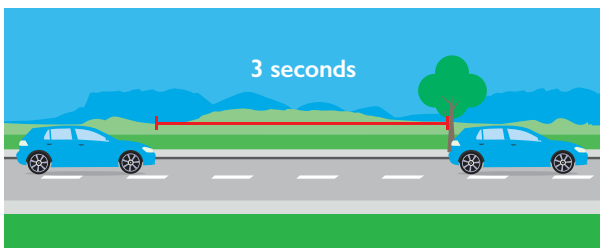
Driving too close to a vehicle in front of you is dangerous. This is often called *tailgating*.

You must keep enough distance behind a vehicle travelling in front of you to safely avoid a crash.

Safe following distances are different depending on the conditions, the type of vehicle, and the speed at which the vehicles are travelling.

It is recommended that when following a vehicle you should travel **three seconds** behind the vehicle to provide enough time to avoid a crash.

In poor conditions, such as rain, gravel roads or low light, increasing the following distance may be necessary to decrease the risk of crashing.



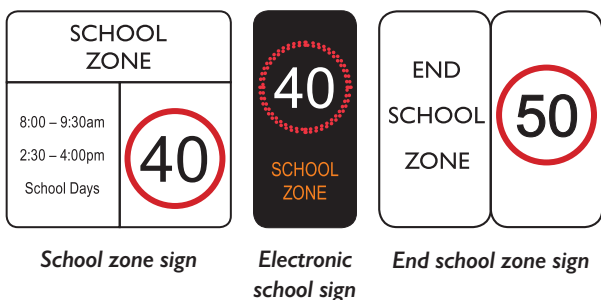
9. School zones

Road Rules – 23 and 374

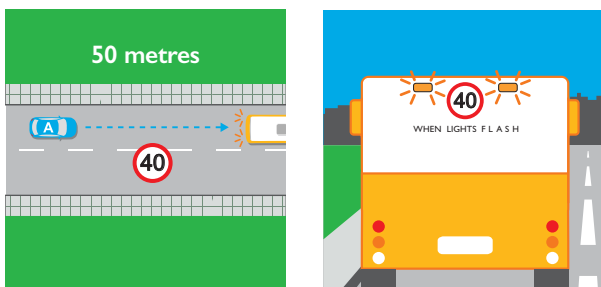
A speed limit of 40km/h applies in school zones.

This means you must not travel faster than 40km/h when you pass a **School zone** sign on official school days during the times on the signs.

The 40km/h speed limit applies until you pass an **End school zone** sign or another speed limit sign, even if you turn into another road.



Also remember – the 40km/h speed limit also applies when you are within 50 metres of a school bus with a warning sign and lights flashing or lit up.



Drive carefully and look out for pedestrians, especially school children.

10. Yellow traffic lights

Road Rules – 57, 58, 61, 64 and 65

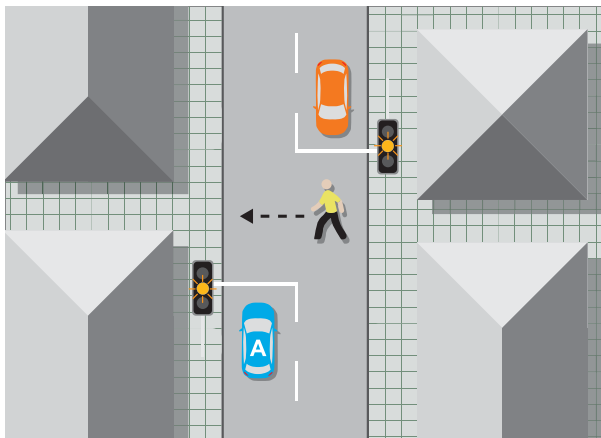
A yellow (amber) traffic light or arrow means stop.

It does not mean speed up to try and get through the intersection.

The yellow light is the beginning of the red light phase, not the end of the green light phase.

You should only travel through an intersection showing a yellow light when it is not safe to stop before reaching the Stop line or traffic lights.

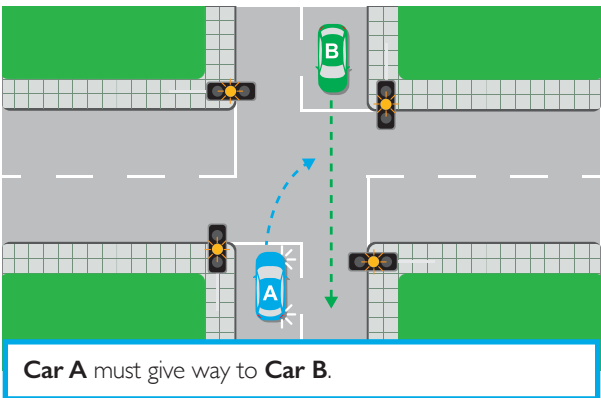
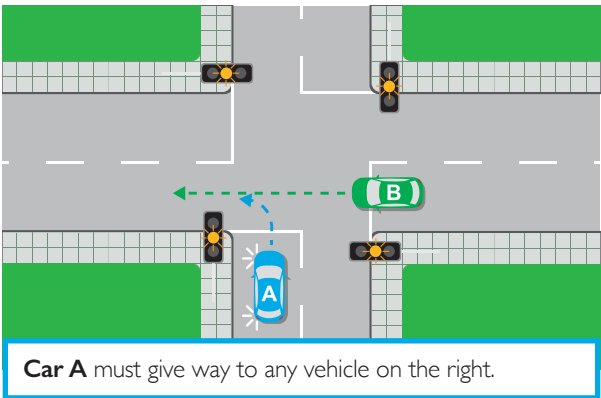
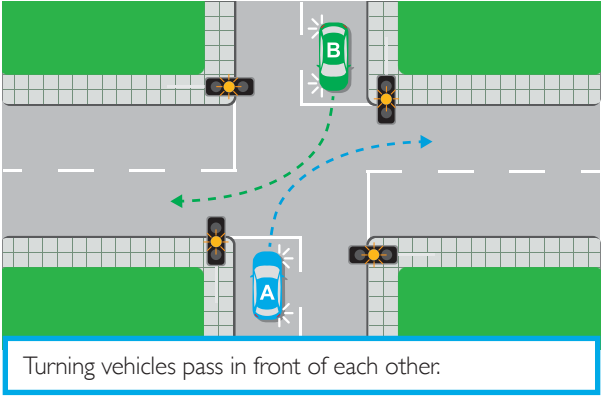
Penalties for running a yellow light are the same as for running a red light.



When all traffic lights flash yellow

Sometimes all the traffic lights at an intersection will be flashing yellow. This means the rules for uncontrolled intersections apply. You should give way to the right and when turning across another vehicle's path.

When all the traffic lights are flashing yellow





Department of State Growth

GPO Box 536
Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Phone: 1 800 030 688

Fax: 03 6233 5800

Email: rsac@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Web: www.rsac.tas.gov.au

Top 10 Misunderstood Road Rules
in Tasmania, version 2

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