

Roundabouts

General

A roundabout is a junction with an island in the middle. Traffic travels round the island in a clockwise direction, which means it always comes from your right. Unless road markings or traffic lights indicate otherwise, you must give way to traffic coming from your right.



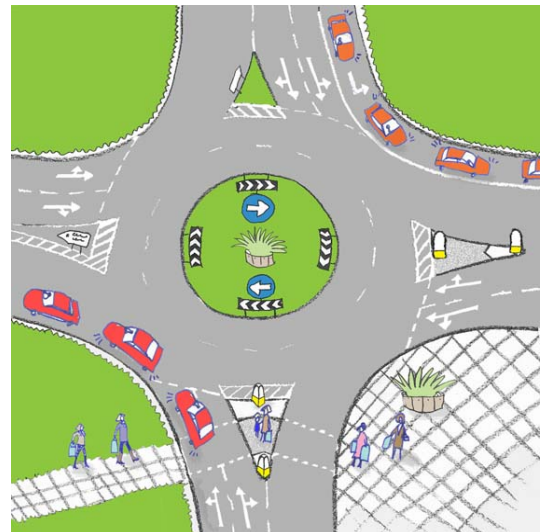
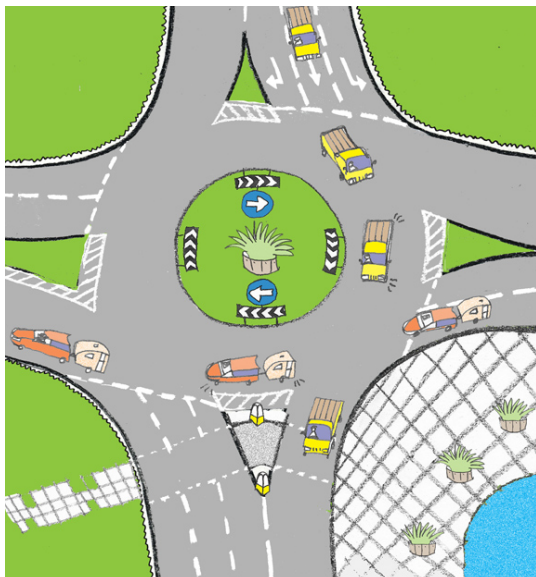
Approaching a roundabout

As you approach, gather as much information as you can about the roundabout. Look for signs that tell you which exit you need, and which lane you need to get there. If there are no road signs, look for clues in the way the road ahead divides into lanes. Use your usual MSPSL procedure.

On a simple, four-exit roundabout, approach in the following lanes:

Turning left

Take the left lane. On some bigger roundabouts there is a left-turn feeder lane that by-passes the roundabout.



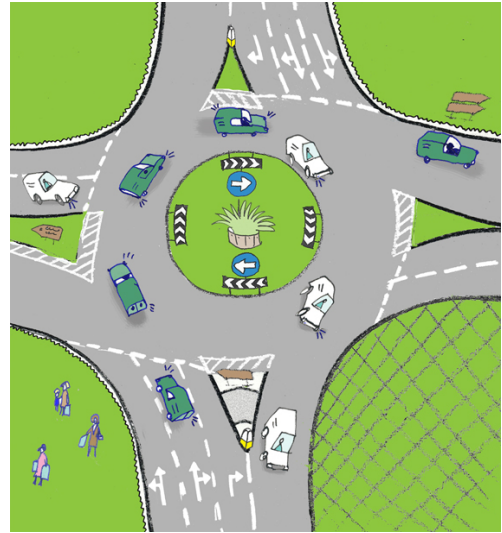
Going straight ahead

If there are no road markings, take the left lane. Otherwise follow the road markings. Where there's a choice of lanes marked to go straight ahead, take the lane on the left.

Turning right

Take the right lane. On some bigger roundabouts there may be two lanes to turn right. Where there's a choice, choose the lane on the left because you'll find it easier to exit the roundabout – you'll have fewer lanes to cross.

As you approach, keep scanning the road ahead and the traffic flows from the right. Control your speed. Be ready to stop on the give-way line or to slip into a safe gap in the traffic. If you get your speed just right, you may be able to time your arrival at the roundabout to coincide with a safe gap in the traffic.



Signalling

On a simple, four-exit roundabout, signal as follows:

Turning left (pale blue car and arrow)

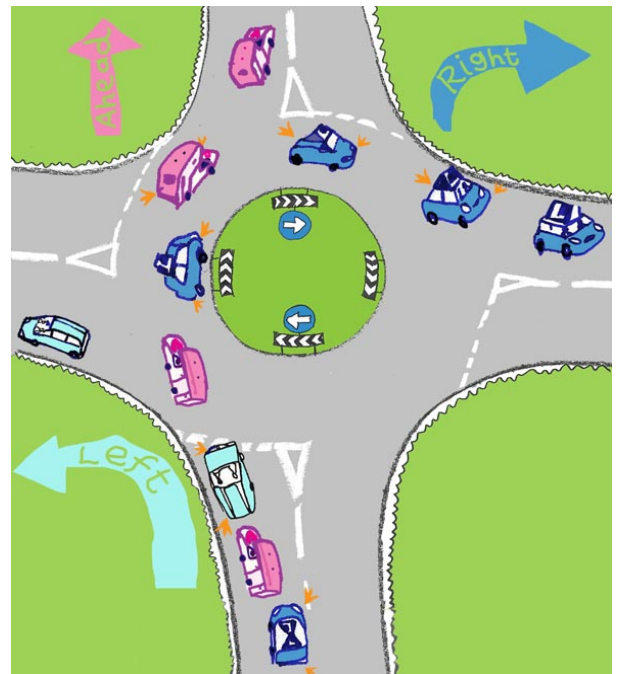
Signal 'LEFT' as you approach the roundabout, and while you're on the roundabout. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.

Going straight ahead (pink car and arrow)

Do not signal until you are level with the exit before the one you want. Then signal 'LEFT'. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.

Turning right (dark blue car and arrow)

Signal 'RIGHT' as you approach the roundabout. Continue signalling 'RIGHT' until you are level with the exit before the one you want. Then signal 'LEFT'. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.



Not all roundabouts divide neatly into four exits at right angles. In the six-exit roundabout below, the exits are numbered as if they were positions on a clock face. You are approaching from the bottom – from the 6 o'clock position.

First left exit (pale blue car and arrow)

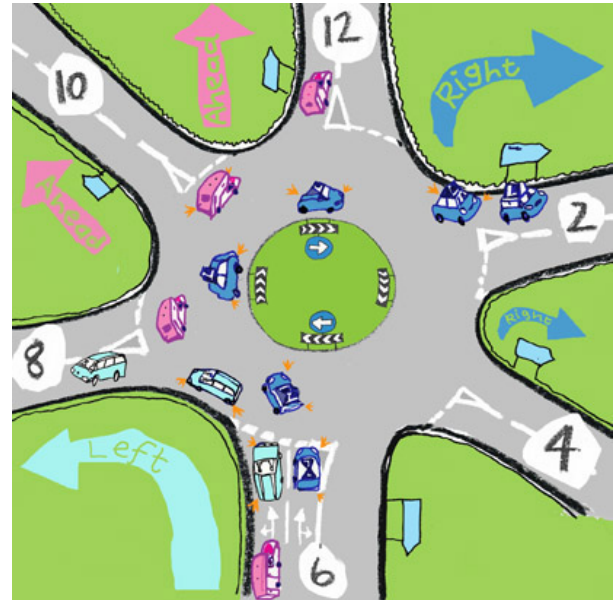
Signal 'LEFT' as you approach the roundabout, and while you're on the roundabout. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.

Second and subsequent exits – up to and including 12 o'clock (pink car and arrows)

Do not signal until you are level with the exit before the one you want. Then signal 'LEFT'. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.

All exits after 12 o'clock (dark blue car and arrows)

Signal 'RIGHT' as you approach the roundabout. Continue signalling 'RIGHT' until you are level with the exit before the one you want. Then signal 'LEFT'. Cancel your signal only after leaving the roundabout.



Watch your lane

On a simple, four-exit roundabout, you normally leave in the left lane even if there are two exit lanes. Leave via the right lane only if traffic is heavy or there are obstructions.

If you're on a multi-lane roundabout, you may have to change lanes as you travel round it. Follow the MSPSL procedure, taking special care to check that the lane you want to move to is clear. Check your mirrors and blind spots.

The lanes on some larger roundabouts known as spiral roundabouts guide you into position. But still keep an eye out for other traffic. Other drivers may not have noticed the lane markings or they may need to change because they got into the wrong lane.



Mini roundabouts

Deal with a mini roundabout in the same way that you'd deal with a full-size one. Follow the usual rules for signalling, and give way to traffic from the right. Don't drive over the centre circle if you can avoid it. Sometimes space is tight and you have to drive over it.



Bear in mind that you will have less time to signal as you drive round. And look out for lorries that may be too big to avoid driving over the white circle.

Double roundabouts

Treat each part of a double roundabout as a roundabout in its own right. Give way to traffic coming from the right as you approach the first one, then do so again as you approach the second one.

