

**HILTON SCHOOL OF MOTORING**  
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**SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

"Would you pull up on the Left just past the lamp-post, please?" or

"Would you pull up on the Left at a convenient place, please?"

An Examiner or a passenger could well say this to you.

With one direction you are given a definite place, with the other direction you are left to choose where you will pull up. In either case it should, at least, be safe to stop.

"I would like you to turn your car round to face the opposite way, using your forward and reverse gears. Try not to touch the kerb when you are turning.

Now **ONE** - is it a safe place to carry out this manoeuvre? It might and should be a safe place to pull up, but it might NOT be a safe place to turn your vehicle round. If you are in any doubt move it to a safer place - even if you are on a driving test. If necessary tell the Examiner what you are doing and why.

**TWO** - is this a convenient place? Convenient to who? You? Me? Others? The Examiner?

To be convenient to you it needs to be flat, wide, clear and free of all traffic.

Convenient to me - well I'm only your Instructor so many of your needs are mine - until you can do this manoeuvre reasonably well - then I'll have the same needs as an Examiner.

Convenient to others - nuisance to the neighbours (after all if you practise continuously on 'test routes' this can become a great nuisance to those who live there).

Don't pick a busy road, especially a bus route.

Convenient to the Examiner - since 1935 and the start of the Driving Test, this manoeuvre has been included because it shows to the Examiner that you can safely control a vehicle in a confined space in the simplest way.

**THREE** - Shall I be within the Law? The Highway Code and commonsense will correctly answer this one.

**LASTLY** - Can I control my vehicle accurately enough to use this particular place?

This is what I am going to teach you.

**There is a very simple secret to manoeuvring -**

**WHEN YOU MOVE YOUR VEHICLE - MOVE IT VERY SLOWLY.**

**WHEN YOU MOVE YOUR STEERING WHEEL - MOVE IT VERY VERY QUICKLY**

On the DL24/25 - The Statement of Failure to Pass Test of Competence to drive and the Examiner's marking sheet, the particular marking for this manoeuvre is

Turn round by means of forward and reverse gears under control with due regard for other road users.

As it says in DRIVING on page 207 - "for instance, turning in the road requires the use of all the controls - steering, accelerator, footbrake, handbrake and clutch - and the driver also has to keep a proper look-out at the same time. Also on page 211 "This exercise is sometimes called the 'three-point-turn', but this is a bit misleading because the examiner will not necessarily expect you to complete the turn in three movements. The number of backward and forward movements you need to make certainly depends partly on how neatly you use the controls. But it also depends on the size and steering of your vehicle, as well as the width of the road".

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Remember the object is to get round in the road NOT to just park on the wrong side of the road. Now how is it done? Allowing for terrain - maybe

Uphill, downhill,

camber going One way or steep drainage fall

From the crown of the road,

You will have to get your vehicle

Fully under control first.

**Observations –**

**is it clear?**

**Movement** - go slowly forward in

First gear, turning your steering

Wheel briskly to the right.

Aim at getting your car at

Right angle across the road.

When the front of your car is

About 3 feet from the kerb and still

Moving very slowly, change the

Lock by turning the steering wheel

Briskly to the left.

AS your front wheels get near the

Kerb, declutch and stop (footbrake),

Handbrake. Select reverse gear.

Again get your vehicle under

Control.

**Observation –**

check up and down

The road to see when it is clear.

Look behind through the rear

Window and if it is clear all round,

Whilst still looking backwards start

**THE MOVEMENT** -

Back slowly across the road. As you do this, turn the steering wheel

Completely to the left (if you haven't already done so) to full left-lock. Then, as the back of your

Vehicle nears the kerb; start looking over your right shoulder to that point of the car that is nearest

To the kerb, and turn the steering wheel briskly to the right so that when you stop, you will be as

Near as possible on the right-hand lock ready to drive forward again.

As your back wheels get near the kerb, declutch and stop (footbrake), **HANDBRAKE**.

Select first gear and again get your vehicle under control.

**Observation – Check up and down the road to see when it is clear.**

**Movement** - Drive forward. You should then be able to drive away on your own side of the road.

If your vehicle is awkward to steer, or if you had to turn in a narrow road, or where the camber is

Very steep, you may have to reverse again and again.

