Roundabouts

When approaching a roundabout you always use the MSPSL routine.

Mirrors

Signal

Position

Speed

Look



1 : Once you get to about where the roundabout sign is you’d check your mirrors (centre and left if going straight across or any exit before straight across because you will be keeping to the left unless signs tell you otherwise and it’s centre and right for anything past straight across or on the right side of the roundabout, unless signs tell you otherwise you’ll be approaching and staying to the right)

2 : signal if you need one at that time. Right on approach if you’re going to the right side of the roundabout or taking any exit after straight across then signal left as you pass the exit before the one you want.. Signal Left if you’re taking the first exit. If you’re taking any exit in between the first and straight across then you wouldn’t signal until you’ve just passed the exit before the one you want

3 : position yourself either to the left or right, sometimes there is a centre lane for straight across, use that if you need to.

4 : take your speed down by using your brake (brakes to slow, gears to go) don’t change gear until you’re at the appropriate speed for the gear you want to be in and don’t change gear until you know what gear you need.

5 : look at the roundabout and analyse it. Where are they positioned? What indicator (if any) have they got on? How fast are they going? Are they in my quarter of the roundabout? Are there any blockers?

Remember what you would be doing at a roundabout. If you’re going straight across then you won’t be signalling until you pass the exit before the one you want and you’ll be positioned to the left, further away from the roundabout (unless signs have told you to do something different), so if they’re further away from the roundabout then you can guess they’re going either left or straight., Depending on what exit they’re at compared to your position depends on whether they would interfere with you or not, etc.

If we’re the pink car (in the diagram below) then we would see the blue car to the left indicating left and assume they are doing so, if they weren’t indicating I’d assume they are going straight across and so, unless someone was going to come from another exit and block them by coming past them and going into our road then I would give way to them. The purple car is coming from the exit straight across and they are positioned in the left lane (furthest from the roundabout) no indicator so I’m assuming they’re going to come into the road I am waiting in, not interfering with me but potentially blocking the blue car, meaning I could perhaps use them as a blocker and move off. The orange car is on the right, next to the roundabout so whether they are indicating or not I’d assume they’re going to come past me. Potentially they could be a blocker of anyone who is in an exit nearer to me on the right. Whether they’re indicating or not (which they should be) because of their position I would definitely assume they are coming round towards me. Now, dependant on other traffic on the roundabout they may not be an issue for you, remember on most roundabouts (not mini ones) you can cut the roundabout into quarters and if nothing is in your quarter to the right then you can go. There are variables to this, like another vehicles speed but most of the time this works.



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