22 Freeman Lane St. Thomas Ontario N5P 4R2

MSS and SMS Explained for Driving

These are **safe driving checks** that help prevent accidents and make sure you're fully aware of your surroundings when turning or changing lanes.

MSS = Mirror → Signal → Shoulder Check

When to use:

- Before pulling out from the curb
- Before moving off from a parked position
- Before turning or merging into traffic from the roadside

♦ Step-by-step:

- 1. Mirror Check your rearview and side mirrors for traffic behind you.
- 2. Signal Turn on your indicator in the direction you're going.
- **3.** Shoulder Check Look over your shoulder (left or right) to check your blind spot before moving.
- \bigcirc SMS = Signal \rightarrow Mirror \rightarrow Shoulder Check

When to use:

- Before changing lanes
- Before merging on a highway
- Before turning at intersections or driveways

♦ Step-by-step:

- 1. Signal Let others know your intention early.
- 2. Mirror Check your mirrors to see if it's safe (look for traffic in your intended lane).
- 3. Shoulder Check Look over your shoulder into the blind spot just before you move.

Tips for Students:

- Always do the full sequence don't skip the shoulder check.
- Be deliberate and obvious during driving tests so the examiner sees your checks.
- Practice both sequences until they become a habit.

Quick Summary Table

Situation	Use	Sequence
Leaving the curb	MSS	$Mirror \rightarrow Signal \rightarrow Shoulder$
Merging into traffic from side	MSS	$Mirror \rightarrow Signal \rightarrow Shoulder$
Lane change	SMS	Signal → Mirror → Shoulder
Highway merging	SMS	Signal → Mirror → Shoulder
Turning at an intersection	SMS	Signal → Mirror → Shoulder