

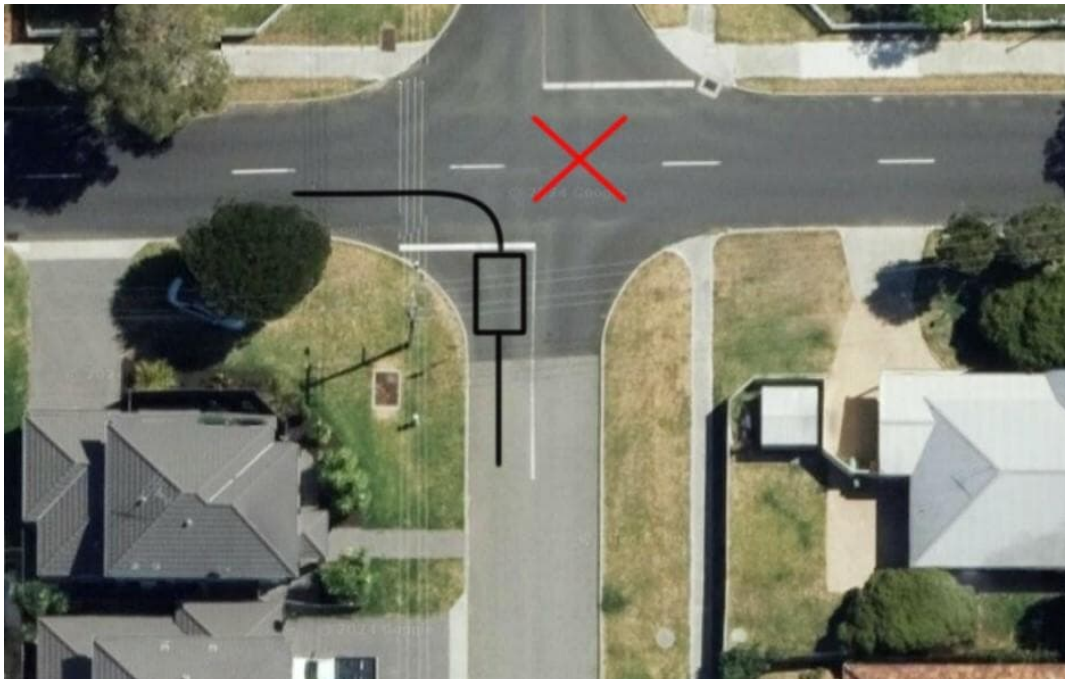
Turning Left and Right

In this lesson we'll be doing some basic left and right turns and starting to develop some important, functional habits.

Turning Left

Find somewhere you can go around a block just doing left hand turns - ideally with as little traffic as possible.

When turning left, we are always following the kerb-line. So even when we approach a give way or stop line, we want to start to follow the bend of the kerb as we prepare to stop. Always focus on position first and then look for traffic. If we get ourselves in a good position at the intersection, 90% of our turning is already done.





Position first, look for traffic second

When thinking about speed as we turn, we need to slow down **before we turn, not as we turn**. This means that all of our braking needs to be done before we turn, we should go around the corner at a consistent speed, and then only accelerate when we've straightened up.



Slow down before we turn, not as we turn

When you turn left, look at the bend of the kerb and as it disappears away from the car, follow the bend of the kerb. When you can see around the corner, look all the way down the lane to keep yourself in your lane.

When it comes to turning, it's just hands and eyes. The only thing you should be thinking about is whether you're going too fast or maybe a bit slow. Look where you want to go and trust your hands to take you there, especially when it comes to straightening up. Almost all of us can ride a bike, and you don't need to think about straightening your handlebars when you turn a corner, you just look where you want to go. And it's the same when you're driving. Try not to overthink it.

If you find yourself heading towards the kerb, or leaving your lane from time to time, don't panic and rush your steering. Squeeze the brake to gain more **control** of the car.

Almost always, we are only doing one thing at a time. Brake, start to turn, gentle touch of gas, straighten up, more gas to take us away. Start slow and methodical and then gradually you will become more fluid and adaptable through each turn.

If you are turning downhill, you will need to use your brake to control the speed of the car as it turns.

If you are turning uphill, you will need a bit of gas to maintain your speed as you turn.

Common Mistakes

Turning too slowly will pull you towards the kerb.

As we turn there is almost always a point where we need to turn the steering wheel not even a quarter of a turn more. However, it is very common for learners (initially) to wait for the car to finish turning rather than just turning the wheel a fraction more to finish the turn themselves. If you find yourself slowing down as you turn, this might be something you're unconsciously doing.

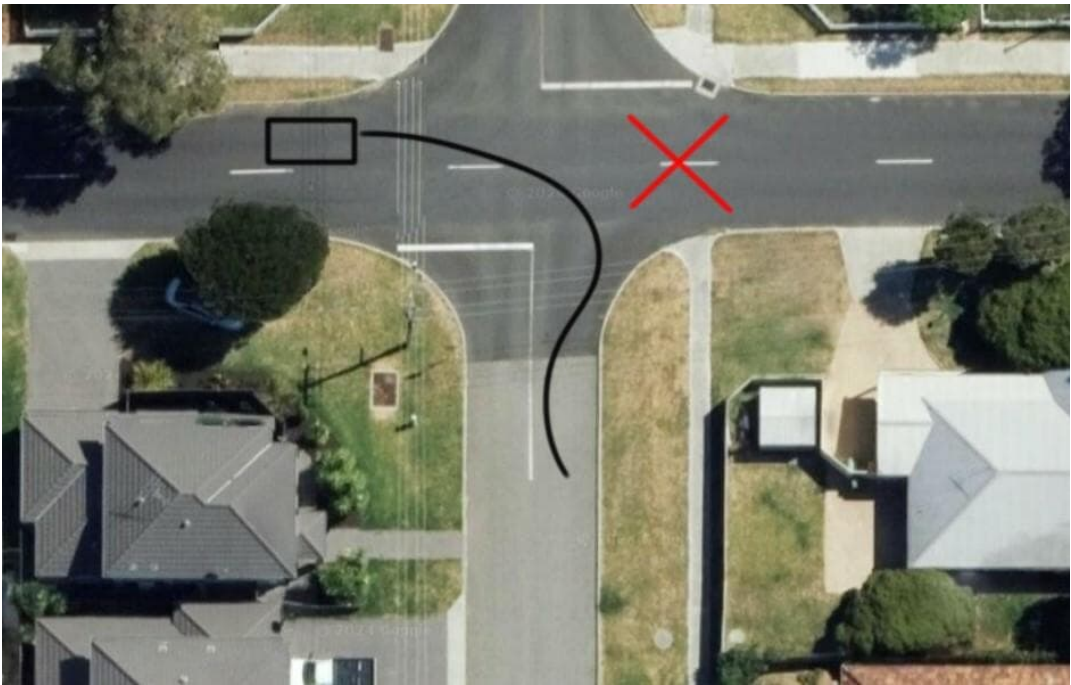
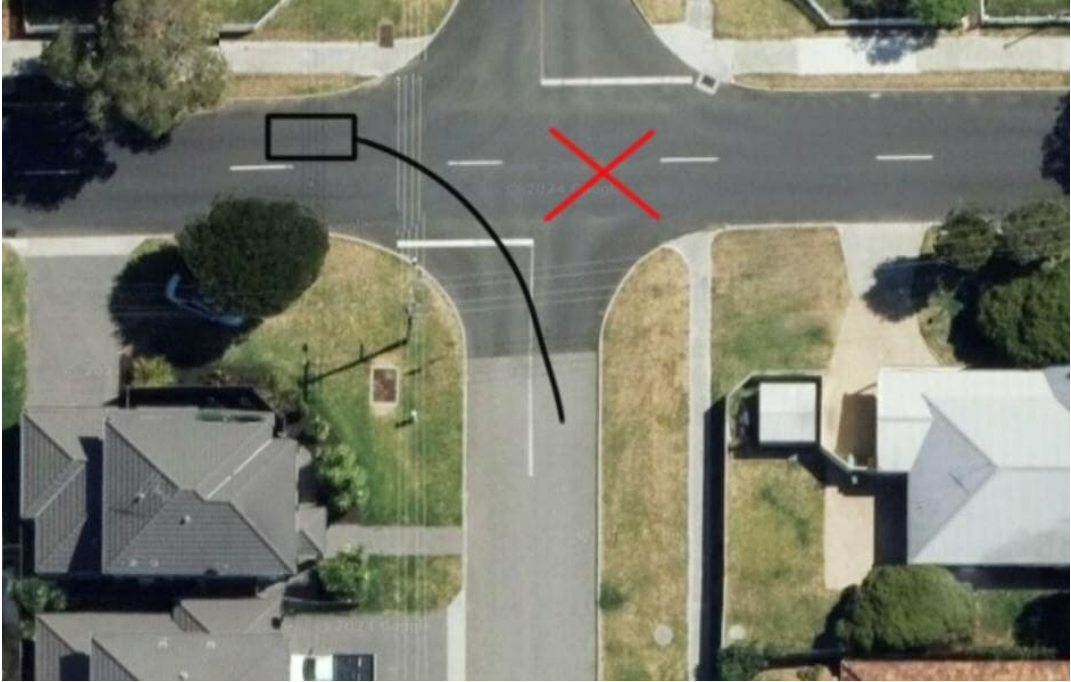
If it feels rushed trying to straighten the car up, you're probably trying to accelerate away from the corner just a bit too soon.

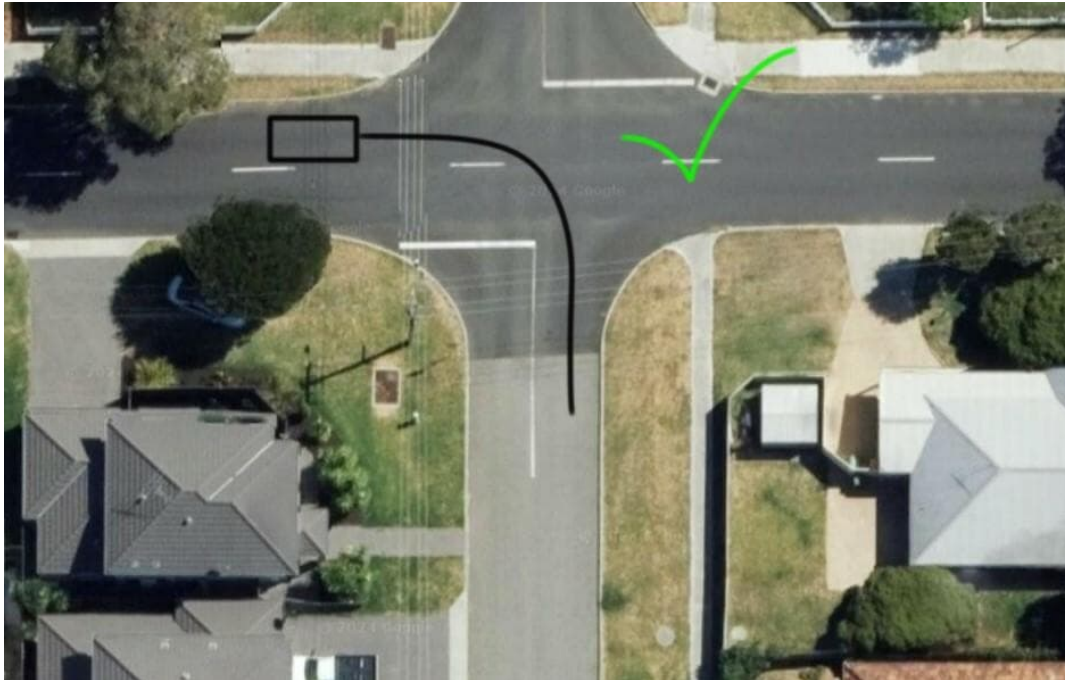
If you find yourself crossing into the opposing lane regularly, try and visualise a line in the middle of the road and don't allow yourself to cross it. You might have to do a bit more steering or slow down a bit more.

Turning Right

When we turn right, it's very important we're staying in our lane at all times. Because our right turns require more precision than flow, it's important to slow down, maybe even more than you need to, before turning into a street.

When we're turning right into a street we need to **turn from our lane into our lane**. We can't drive in the opposing lane at all.



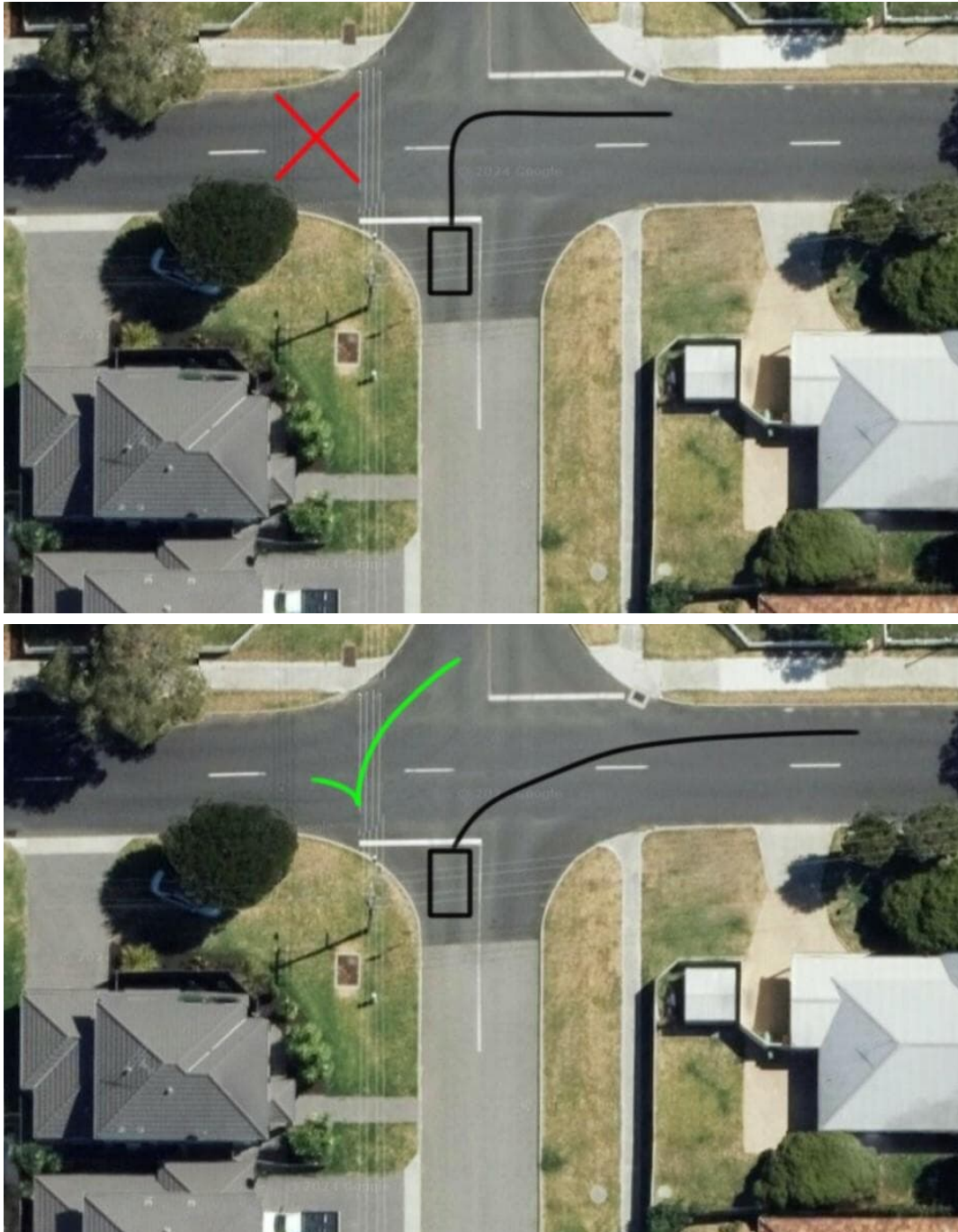


Try looking at the middle point of the intersection and turning around it. Then when we can see down our lane, look all the way down the lane to keep us straight.

Alternatively, you can look at where the kerb straightens at the end of the street entrance and start heading nice and wide out towards that kerb until we can see all the way down our lane to keep us straight.

Turn from our lane, into our lane

When turning out of a street, we have to drive across the opposite lane of traffic. It's unavoidable. So don't try to stay straight as we cross that lane and then turn into our lane. Just turn across that lane immediately and take a nice, easy curved path.



Common Mistakes

When we turn right, looking at the middle of the road will pull us into the middle of the road. If this is happening to you, change your point of reference. Look out towards the far kerb instead.

If you find yourself cutting the corner from time to time, you're either turning too early or going too fast and feeling hurried in what you're doing.

Again, if you feel rushed trying to straighten the car, you're probably trying to accelerate away too early or just going too fast for the turn.

If your path resembles a question mark when you're turning into the street, it's because you're looking at the bend of the kerb and driving towards that. Move your eyes further to the right where the kerb straightens.

This should give us some basic foundations for our left and right turns. Its time to learn about the rules for give way and stop!