

Turning right at box junction

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Understanding correctly how to use a yellow box junction and its rules is important as they are designed to keep traffic flowing. Blocking a box junction can result in a penalty as certain junctions use detection cameras for such purposes, and of course, inappropriate use of a yellow box junction will fail a driving test.

If your driving test involves the use of box junctions, you will need to approach them exactly the same as any other junction by using the MSPSL routine, in this case, for Turning right at a junction.

A question frequently asked is 'can you stop in a box junction?'. The answer is yes, but a yellow box junction must not be entered unless your exit road is clear. If you do stop in a yellow box junction and your exit is not clear, you are committing a road traffic offence as you will prevent other vehicles from making progress and bring the entire junction to a standstill.

If entering a box junction during your driving test when the exit is not clear, this will be an instant test failure. Other than failing the test and making other motorists angry, it is also illegal.

The cars exit road on the right is perfectly clear. When the oncoming traffic has either passed the crossing, or stopped moving due to the traffic lights changing to red, the red car can proceed to clear the crossroads without blocking the junction and impeding the progress of others. It's important that you are sure the exit you intend on taking is clear before proceeding into the yellow box area; not just if you're turning right. Ensure you clear the yellow box even if your traffic lights have changed to red.

If the cars exit does not clear in time, he will be blocking the junction and the progress of motorists. This situation also applies to vehicles traveling straight instead of turning right; the box junction must remain clear.

You are permitted to enter a box junction, stop and wait for oncoming traffic to pass, provided your exit road is clear. It is against the law to enter the box junction if your exit is not clear as you will be blocking the junction for other road users. Many box junctions around the country, especially in busy city areas have cameras fitted to take evidence of the incorrect use of box junctions.

If you are caught, you will receive a fixed penalty fine in the region of ?100, although this depends where you are. Local councils will often reduce the fine if you pay quickly or by the date provided.

STOPPING RULES AT BOX JUNCTIONS Ideally the red car should have stopped behind the first line of the cycle waiting area, even if the traffic lights are green. If a vehicle has passed the first line and has entered the cycle area, the vehicle must stop at the second line and not enter the box junction. This is still likely to fail a driving test although in terms of general driving, far more acceptable than remaining in the yellow box.

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Some junctions are quite complicated with cycle lanes, advanced stop lines, yellow boxes – pretty much everything. It’s best to practice these junctions as much as possible before your test.

I am approaching a yellow box junction with the intention of turning right. My exit is clear so I proceed onto the box and wait to turn. However, while I’m waiting the oncoming traffic turning left into my intended road blocks it. I am now unable to proceed off the yellow box. Can I still be prosecuted despite me not being in the wrong? I was legally entitled to access the box when I got to it.

Hi Trevor, The ‘offence’ of a box junction occurs the moment you enter it, so in your circumstances, you committed no offence because your exit was clear at the time of entering the box junction. However, you may still receive a ticket. If you do receive a ticket, you’ll need to ask them to review video footage of the incident and also to give you access to the footage. In this instance, you’ll be able to appeal the ticket.

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