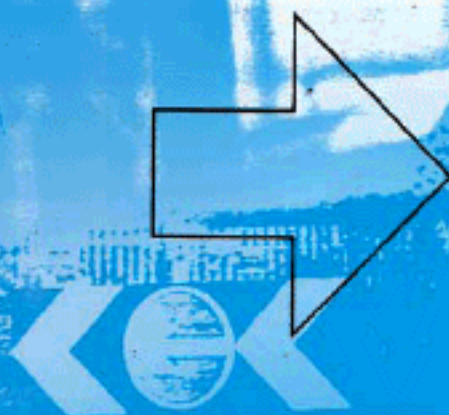


ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION OFFICE  
**ROUNDBABOUTS**



# ROUNDBABOUTS

## Roundabouts are safe and simple

If you know and use these rules...

Many drivers are satisfied with their own use of roundabouts, but believe others do it all wrong! Before criticising other drivers' roundabout behaviour, check your own knowledge of the rules.

### Why roundabouts?

Used properly, roundabouts smooth traffic flow at busy junctions. Vehicles can enter and leave roundabouts by different roads with less inconvenience or danger. They are really circular, clockwise, one-way traffic systems enabling several traffic streams to mix.

### The rules for using roundabouts

#### *Give Way*

The most important rule – when entering a roundabout, give way to traffic on the roundabout, unless road markings or signs say otherwise. If the way is clear keep moving. Stopping at a clear roundabout slows traffic and can cause frustrating delays.

A roundabout entrance is usually marked by a single broken line across the road. Sometimes you may find other markings. At some roundabouts one traffic lane might be allowed to flow free; there will be road markings or signs to show this.

### *Speed*

Approach so that you can stop and give way if necessary. Approaching too fast could make drivers on the roundabout think that you are going to drive in front of them. They could brake or swerve and perhaps cause a collision. If you approach too fast and brake hard at a roundabout entrance you could also cause a collision by panicking a following driver who might skid into the back of your vehicle.

On the roundabout, you should drive according to road, weather and traffic conditions as well as the roadholding qualities of your vehicle.

### *Position and signals*

Being correctly positioned and signalling clearly in good time helps other road users. Knowing and following the rules improves traffic flow and safety at roundabouts.

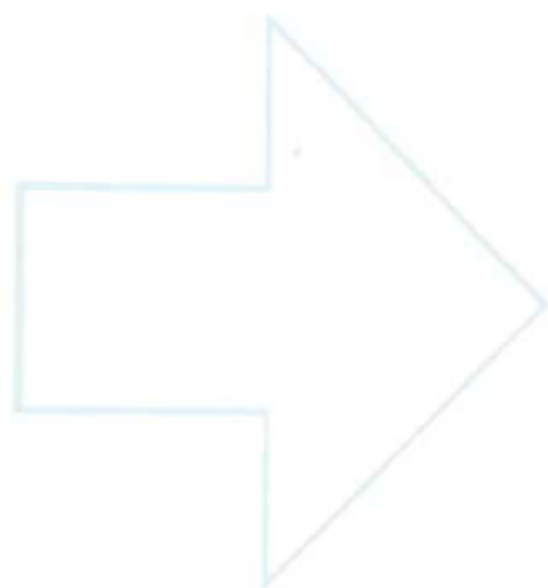
Although this leaflet provides general advice, other factors such as signs, road markings and the position and type of other vehicles can influence the choice of lane. Where there are signs or road markings, which indicate appropriate lanes, these should assume priority over the following procedures.

### *Correct roundabout procedure*

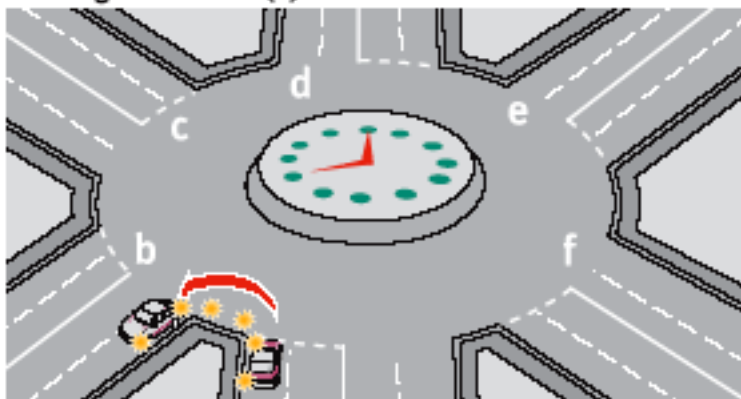
Imagine that you are approaching a busy roundabout with six converging roads. Follow the advice in the diagrams. Treat the roundabout as if it were a clock face. All movement on roundabouts is clockwise.

Always assume that your approach is from the six o'clock position. Approach at the correct speed and in the right gear. Always signal your intentions clearly. If there is no traffic at or on the roundabout you may take the shortest and most convenient route through it. Cancel your signal after leaving the roundabout.

Now that you know the rules, show a good example to other drivers by following them every time. Other drivers may even copy your driving style and do it right too!

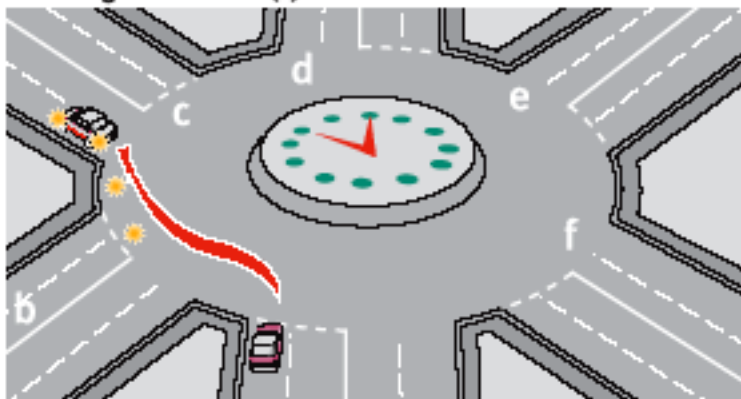


### 1. Taking the first exit (b) at 8 o'clock



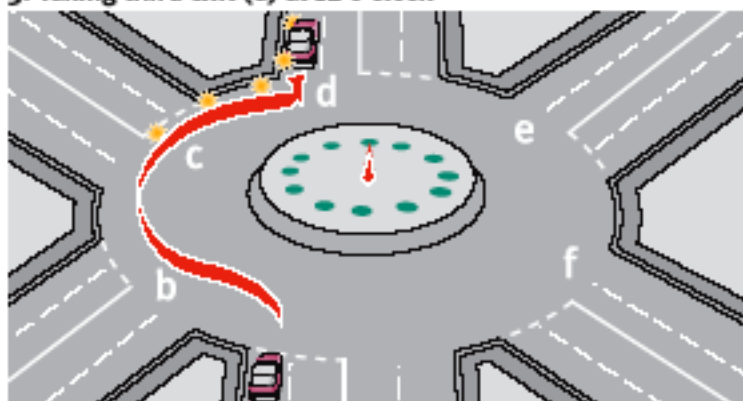
<b>Approach</b>	Left Lane
<b>Signal</b>	Left-turn indicator on approach
<b>On Roundabout</b>	Keep in left lane
<b>Exit</b>	Keep left-turn indicator going until just after leaving the roundabout.

### 2. Taking second exit (c) at 10 o'clock



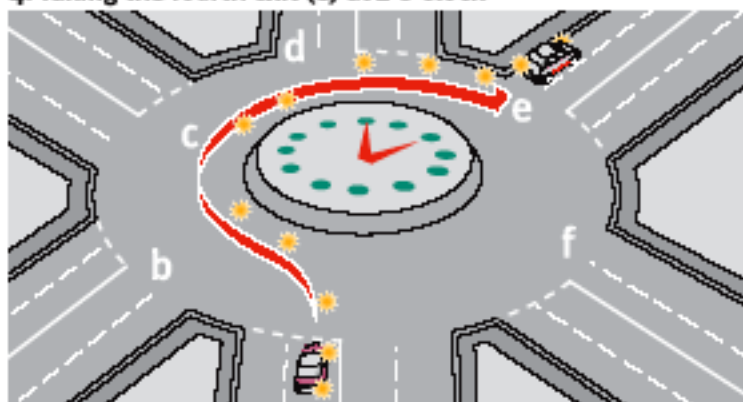
<b>Approach</b>	Left Lane
<b>Signal</b>	No approach signal
<b>On Roundabout</b>	Keep in left lane
<b>Exit</b>	Use the left-turn indicator when you have passed exit (b) before the one you want to take.

### 3. Taking third exit (d) at 12 o'clock



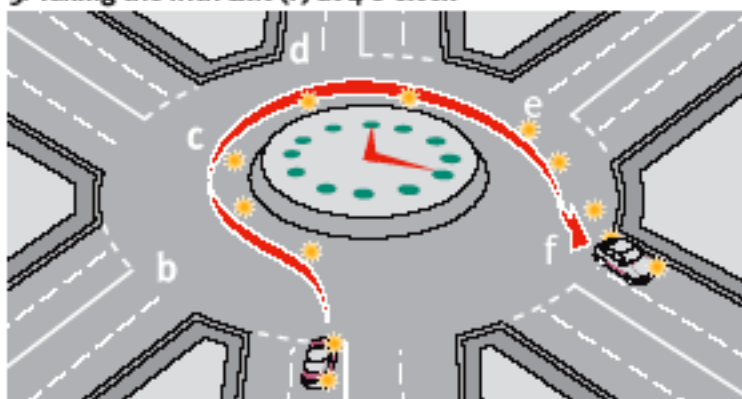
<b>Approach</b>	Left Lane (use right lane if left lane is blocked)
<b>Signal</b>	No approach signal
<b>On Roundabout</b>	Keep in left lane (use right lane if approach was in right lane)
<b>Exit</b>	Use left-turn indicator when you have passed exit (c) before the one you want to take (d).

### 4. Taking the fourth exit (e) at 2 o'clock



<b>Approach</b>	Right Lane
<b>Signal</b>	Right-turn indicator on approach
<b>On Roundabout</b>	Keep in right lane near centre of roundabout; keep right-turn indicator going
<b>Exit</b>	Look behind, change to left-turn indicator when you have passed exit (d) before the one you want to take (e). Check behind over your left shoulder and ease into left lane for exit (e).

### 5. Taking the fifth exit (f) at 4 o'clock



<b>Approach</b>	Right Lane
<b>Signal</b>	Right-turn indicator on approach
<b>On Roundabout</b>	Keep in right lane near centre of roundabout; keep right-turn indicator going
<b>Exit</b>	Look behind, change to left-turn indicator when you have passed exit (e) before the one you want to take (f). Check behind over your left shoulder and ease into left lane for exit (f).

# CONTACTS

Further information on Road Safety may be obtained from the DOE Road Safety Education Offices located at the following addresses:-

## **Belfast Education and Library Board Area**

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## **North Eastern Education and Library Board Area**

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