



6: Pedestrian Crossings

Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossings:

The main uncontrolled crossing is the zebra crossing. These have no traffic lights to control the traffic.

- Zebra crossings: have black and white stripes crossing the road with a Give Way line each side and zigzag lines on approach to them. The zigzag lines mean **absolutely** 'no parking' and 'no overtaking'. There is often a yellow light on each side of the road, which flashes at night.
 - Look well ahead to spot the crossing and check your mirrors before you get to the crossing to see if there is a vehicle close behind you (if there is, slow down a little). Scan the crossing to see if there is anyone crossing or about to cross. Be prepared to stop.
 - If there is someone crossing or about to cross, gently brake to a standstill behind the Give Way line. If you need to wait for a few moments put the handbrake on and select neutral.
 - Don't beckon people across or harass them in any way such as by using your horn or revving the engine.
 - When the crossing is completely clear check your door mirrors (for bikes) and scan the crossing again before you drive on.
- Traffic islands: provide somewhere relatively safe for pedestrians to stand in the middle of the road. You do not need to stop for people standing on the island but do check your mirrors on approach and be prepared to stop should they step out into the road.

Controlled Pedestrian Crossings:

There are several types of controlled crossing. The main ones are Pelican crossings, Puffin crossings and Toucan crossings. All are controlled by traffic lights and pedestrians can press a button to make the lights change to stop the traffic. Check your mirrors on approach whether the lights are green, red, or amber.

- Pelican crossings: The pedestrian presses the button and is given about 20 seconds to cross the road once the lights have changed to red. After 20 seconds the amber light flashes on and off for a few seconds. **If the crossing is clear when the amber light is flashing you should drive on.**
- Puffin crossings: The pedestrian presses the button and a scanner on top of the traffic lights can see if the pedestrian waits. If not the lights won't change. If they do wait the lights change to amber, then red and then amber and green once the crossing is clear. **You must not drive on until the green light comes on.**

- Toucan crossings: These are similar to Puffin crossings but there is also a cycle lane across them (at Toucan crossings 'two can go'). Always be careful to look for cyclists as well as pedestrians approaching the crossing and be prepared to stop.

The School Patrol:

These are often known as 'lollypop' crossings where school children are helped to cross the road by a 'lollypop person'. You are given advance warning of the crossing by the triangle sign showing school children with the word 'Patrol' or flashing amber lights underneath. The lights flash during the times that the crossing is in operation. You must be prepared to stop if the person holding the Stop sign steps out into the road.



Additional points about pedestrian crossings in general: When you are driving in a slow moving queue of traffic never move onto a pedestrian crossing unless there is definitely room for your vehicle on the far side of the crossing. In other words don't block the crossing. The same applies to traffic islands – leave a gap at the island so that people can still cross between the vehicles in the queue.

- **Suggestions for practice:**
 - Memorise the different types of pedestrian crossing (the main ones are zebra, pelican, puffin and toucan) and how to deal with them as a driver (Mirrors - Scan - Plan).
 - Re-read the section 'on the road' in the DSA book: 'Driving: The Essential Skills.'
 - Read the section on Pedestrian Crossings in the Highway Code.
- **Question:** What is a 'Pegasus crossing'?