

Guide to safely giving way to pedestrians at junctions - using existing skills.

1. Treat each junction approach as if there is a ZEBRA Crossing at the junction. There are many existing junctions which have these and therefore the necessary awareness, anticipation and planning skills are the same. Anticipate pedestrians approaching to cross, you SHOULD give way to those waiting to cross and give way to those who are already crossing. Proceed when it is safe to do so. No new skills required.
2. Recognise the key features of the junction. Does it have an open or closed view? Approach using the same procedure as always. Check your mirrors, signal and position in good time to help the following driver recognise what you're doing and react safely to your actions. No new skills required.
3. Approach at a speed at which you can stop safely within the distance you can see to be clear and avoid sudden stops. Use your judgement, as you would when, for example, approaching traffic lights which turn amber. Is it more dangerous to stop or continue? No new skills required.
4. Use your situational awareness skills to make a decision as to whether or not it is necessary to come to a full stop. As with any other meeting situation, it may not always be necessary to stop to give way. If the pedestrian decides not to take priority, continue with caution. The pedestrian doesn't necessarily have to be completely off the road for it to be safe to continue. It's the risk assessment and situational judgement which is important. No new skills required.
5. If you do have to stop, whenever possible, especially when turning into a road, stop on the road you were travelling on and avoid turning your wheels towards the pedestrian. If a following driver isn't paying attention and a rear-end collision occurs, you won't be pushed towards the pedestrian or into oncoming traffic (you are not responsible for the actions of drivers who are not paying attention). This advice has always been given - don't start a turn you can't complete. Nothing new here.
6. DO NOT wave, flash your lights or gesture to the pedestrian who is waiting to cross. Let them make their own decisions. Make eye contact whenever possible, give them the opportunity to cross, if they don't, proceed with caution - as you would at a Zebra crossing. No new skills required.
7. Keep a check on your surroundings and before moving away, check for potential or developing hazards such as cyclists passing alongside. Just as we always have. No new skills required.
8. You will encounter drivers who don't like to follow rules. This has always been the case. If another driver beeps at you for following this process, it changes nothing. As with all aspects of driving, even if you are the only one following the rules, you are still right. You are responsible for making the situation safe. You are not responsible for the other driver's behaviour or attitude. No new skills required.