

Glossary



Abreast	Side by side
Acceleration	Speeding up
Arrhythmia	Irregular or abnormal heart beat
Axle	A pin, pole, or bar that connects a pair of opposite wheels on a vehicle
Binocular vision	Vision with both eyes
Blind spot	An area that a driver or other road user cannot see directly or with their mirrors This requires them to turn or look sideways to see other road users
Blow out	Sudden tyre failure
Build outs	Kerbing which extends from the side of the road to reduce traffic speed
Cardiovascular diseases	Diseases involving the heart and blood system
Central median island	An area in the centre of a road which separates approaching flows of traffic or a pedestrian crossing
Central nervous system	Brain and spinal cord
Cerebrovascular diseases	Diseases involving blood vessels in the brain
Certificate of Professional Competency (CPC)	A certificate drivers must have before they can drive a HGV or a bus for a living
Chicane	A traffic-calming measure to make vehicles slow down and weave between traffic lanes
Congenital myotonic disorders	Disorders from birth that make it difficult for a person to relax their muscles after contracting them
Chevron board	Traffic warning signs with hatch-markings indicating a sudden change in direction
Cross-ply tyres	Tyres with cords made of steel and other materials, which cross at various angles to strengthen the side of the tyre and its tread

Deceleration	Slowing down
Defects	Faults, such as broken mirrors, missing lighting
Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGWV)	The manufacturers specifications of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW see below)
Diplopia	Double vision
Diverging	Moving apart. For example, traffic taking a right turn when other traffic is moving straight ahead or traffic leaving a motorway
Fixed wheel bicycle	A bicycle you can back-pedal to brake. It has one wheel which cannot rotate independently of the pedals
Gantries	Overhead steel structures across carriageways to hold up signs
Garda Síochána	Ireland's national police service
Ghost island	A marked area on the road that shows where a motorway and a slip road meet
Graduating	Moving from one stage to the next
Gross vehicle weight (GVW)	The weight of a vehicle together with the maximum load it is designed to carry
Hard shoulder	A part of the road that is divided by broken or continuous yellow lines from the rest of the road and should be used only by certain road users in certain situations
Hatched marking	Chevron markings on the road which help separate traffic lanes
Hazard	Anything that could be a source of danger on the road
Intoxicant	Something that can affect a person's behaviour, perception, mood or alertness
Invalid-carriages	Vehicles specially designed or constructed for people with disabilities. This does not apply to conventional motor cars which are specially adapted for disabled persons and which are permitted to use a motorway



National road	A major road linking urban areas and consisting of motorway roads identified by 'M' route numbers, for example M1, and other routes identified by 'N' route numbers, for example N11
Land tractor	Commonly called 'an agricultural tractor,' these vehicles are designed to work on land in connection with agricultural, forestry or land drainage-type operations and are driven on a public road only when proceeding to or from the site of such work
Lighting-up hours	The period commencing one half-hour after sunset on any day and expiring one half-hour before sunrise on the next day.
Luas	The tram system operating in Dublin city and suburbs
Manoeuvre	Any action to steer or change the course of a vehicle, such as moving off, changing lanes, leaving a roundabout, turning left or right, taking U-turns or reversing
Median space	A gap provided in the centre of a dual carriageway to allow vehicles to cross through or turn onto another road
Merging	Coming together. For example, traffic entering a motorway from a slip road and joining other traffic
Moped	A light motorcycle of 50cc or less that has a maximum speed of 45km/h
Motorcycle engine capacity	Cubic capacity or CC of engine
Motorcycle power rating	Engine power output
Muscular atrophy	Wasting of muscles
Nearside	Left-hand side
Negligence	Failing to act with reasonable care
Night-driving mode (mirror)	Darkened reflection which reduces dazzle
Non-national road	A local or regional road linking villages and towns within a county or district identified by an R or L number sign
Offside	Right-hand side

Ophthalmic optician	An optician qualified to prescribe glasses and contact lenses and detect eye diseases
Outer lane	The lane nearest the centre of the road in a dual carriageway or two- or three-lane motorway
Paraplegia	Loss of movement in both legs
Peripheral nervous system	Nerves in the body outside the brain and spinal cord
Permit	A legal document giving permission to do something like park in a particular place or use certain roads
Pinch points	Traffic calming measure where sections of the road are narrowed to reduce speed
Pointsman	A Garda who controls the flow of traffic
Prescription	A written note from a doctor or hospital stating what medicines a person should take and when they should take them
Professional drivers	Drivers whose main income is from driving, such as bus, coach and haulage drivers
Psychotropic	Chemical substance that affects the mind, leading to changes in emotions, behaviour, alertness and perception
Radial tyres (radial ply tyres)	Tyres with cords made of steel and other materials, which run around under the treads to strengthen them and make them last longer
Retarder	A device that reduces the speed of the vehicle without using the brakes
Safe headway	A safe distance between two vehicles on the road
‘Sam Browne’	A wide strap, made of reflective material, worn around the waist with a strap diagonally over the right shoulder





Secondary controls	Devices in a vehicle that do not direct its movement or braking but control how the driver sees out of the vehicle and how the vehicle is seen; examples are de-misters, windscreen wipers, washers and hazard lights
Single lane (for shuttle working)	Control of traffic through road works one-way system where manual operated stop/go signs are in use
Stationary	Stopped, for example in a line of traffic, at a stop light or in a parking space
Swan neck	The course followed by a vehicle when the driver passes the correct point for taking a right turn and needs to make a bigger effort to correct the position when completing the turn
Tachograph	A device that measures and records the speed, distance and time travelled by a vehicle
Tailgating	Driving too close to a vehicle in front
Tarpaulin	Waterproof canvas material used to cover cargo being transported
T-junction	A junction where the meeting of a minor road with a major road forms a 'T' shape
Tread (tyres)	The grooves on a tyre which provide a grip on the road
Variable message sign	An upright electronic sign, whose content changes to inform on roads and road safety
Vigilant	Careful, watchful, looking out for possible danger
Work vehicles	Vehicles used at sites or roadworks that usually do not drive on the road
Yield	Give way to other road users