

# LIFE 101:

YOUR HOW-TO FOR ALL OF LIFE'S LITTLE THINGS

# STOP WATCH

## Make right maneuver at intersections

By KATIE REETZ  
Staff Writer

**GREENSBORO** — Slow down there, Speed Racer. It's time for a driving skills tune-up.

The braking and accelerating thing? You've got it down.

Ditto that for seatbelts and stoplights.

The issue that seems to be tripping some of you up — if reader phone calls and e-mails are any indication — is the elusive four-way stop.

It seems simple enough. Stop at the intersection, wait your turn, and then proceed.

But what happens if four cars arrive at once?

Or two cars from opposite directions?

Or if a pedestrian crosses the street when it's your turn? Should the other cars wait or do you lose your chance?

Intersections are considered the most dangerous place on the road; more than one-third of fatal crashes occur at intersections.

Translation? This is serious stuff, so listen up.

Pull in for a pit stop and we'll do our best to ensure you're well-versed in the rules of the road.

### The basics

Come to a complete stop — rolling stops don't count.

If you're the only car in the intersection, look both ways and then proceed.

The first vehicle to arrive at the intersection has the right of way.

If two cars reach the intersection at the same time, the car on the right goes first.

Use your blinker; failing to do so will confuse other drivers and might lead to a wreck.

### Tougher stuff

If two facing cars enter the intersection at the same time consider the situation:

- if both cars are going straight or turning right, both can proceed.
- if one car is going straight and the other is turning right, both can proceed.
- if one car is going straight and the other is turning left, the car turning left must yield.

If four cars enter the intersection at the same time, put the cell phone down and make meaningful eye contact. There's no rule for this situation; drivers will need to wave each other through safely.

Always yield to pedestrians. Proceed only when they have reached the other side of the road. The other cars should wait; you won't lose your turn.

Sources: Mark Smith, director of operations for the North Carolina Driving School, North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles Handbook and Answers.com

Contact Katie Reetz at 691-5091 or [kreetz@news-record.com](mailto:kreetz@news-record.com)

### IF TWO OR THREE CARS ARRIVE AT SAMETIME

The car on the right goes first.



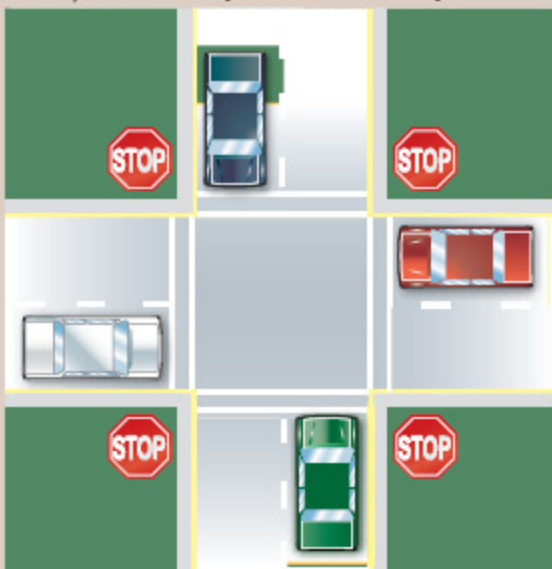
### IF TWO FACING CARS ARRIVE AT SAMETIME

If both are going straight, or either is turning right then both can proceed. If one is turning left, the car that is going straight has the right of way.



### IF FOUR CARS ARRIVE AT SAMETIME

You're on your own. Use hand signals to wave each other through.



TIM RICKARD/News & Record