

GUIDANCE NOTE No. 8: Commentary Suggestions

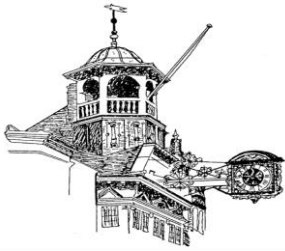
The following are not intended to be learnt word perfect. They are merely suggestions to help you get started. Use the phrases that you can relate to and that assist you in imparting an accurate, brief and timely commentary.

Set the scene you are driving in before you start your commentary: i.e. "Mirrors, one behind, safe. My new road is a single carriageway, one lane in each direction divided by hazard lines, the surface is dry level and good, subject to the national speedlimit..."

1 General Phrases

1.1 Information Phase

1. "Vision up"; "In the distance I can see..."
2. "Loss of vision, mirror, loss of speed"
3. "Brake lights cascading down the line"
4. "Approaching a roundabout/give way, planning to stop looking to go, my first point of danger is from the right"; "My gap is.. ."
5. "Entering the national speed limit, three-way mirror safety check"
6. "Junction left/right, looking for the fingerboard to locate the junction"
7. "Junction marker, I can't see the junction, so they can't see me"
8. "One threatening on the left/right, mirror, off the drive, covering the brake"
9. "One active on the nearside/offside"
10. "One in the junction on the nearside/offside, driver's looking in my direction/brake lights are on, I am happy with that"
11. "Looking for the lane of least resistance". (Approaching a roundabout, traffic lights, etc.)
12. "Change of road surface both texture and colour/colour not texture"
13. "Offside mirror and scan"
14. "Positioning for vision"
15. "Single track road, half stopping distance rule applies"
16. "The car in front is committed by speed/position"
17. "Using the vehicle in front of me as a shield" (Very narrow road with one in front)
18. "Using the vehicle in front as a pathfinder"



19. "Standing water, firming up my grip on the wheel"
20. "Mindful of the strobing effect of the sun through the trees"
21. "Dual Carriageway, potentially the most dangerous type of road, motorway speeds but with pedestrians, cyclists, learner drivers/riders and unmarked junctions on the nearside/offside"

1.2 Position Phase

22. "Taking a 50/50 position to split the danger"
23. "Sacrificing position for safety"

1.3 Speed Phase

24. "Gentle braking, firmer braking, gently off brakes (three stage braking), gear for the speed is..."
25. "Using acceleration sense to match my speed with the one in front"
26. "Covering the brake, but not braking"
27. "The limit point is running/matched as the trees/lamp posts are growing (cresting a hill)"
28. "Selecting a low gear and using engine compression to maintain a steady speed (downhill)"
29. "Slow on the road, slow it will be"; "Slow on the road, it's there for a reason"

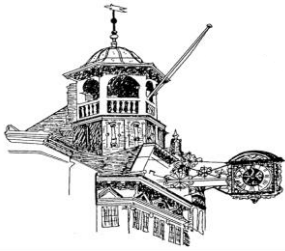
1.4 Gear Phase

30. "Matching speed with the one in front, the gear for the speed is.. "
31. "30/60/90 miles per hour, the gear for the speed is..."
32. "Taking a gear with the steering set"
33. "40 mph speed limit, selecting a 4th gear for passenger comfort and mechanical sympathy"

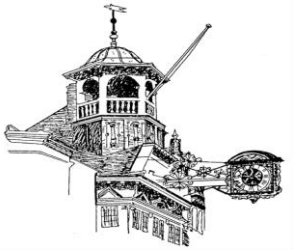
1.5 Acceleration Phase

34. "Approaching the nationals, three-way mirror check for safety, taking a X gear to maximise acceleration"
35. "Firming up the drive"

2 Observation Links



36. "Entering a built-up area, expecting an increase in pedestrian and vehicular activity, I will mention junctions and driveways as they affect me/become active"
37. "Buildings/Church (or Ecclesiastical!) building in the distance, expecting a change of speed limit"
38. "Skid marks on the road tells a story"
39. "Wide tyre (or tandem axle) marks on the road tells me that large vehicles use this road"
40. "Scarred/uneven road surface will cause problems with braking and steering, exercising restraint."
41. "Mud on the road tells me that agricultural vehicles use this road and may be ahead."
42. "Hay on the road, looking for the tractor."
43. "Roadworks, looking for ATS, stationary traffic and highway engineers."
44. "The bins are out, looking for the cleansing technicians".
45. "Footpath, looking out for ramblers"
46. "Equestrian/bovine defecation, looking for horses/cows" etc.
47. "Cyclist, they often go in groups, looking for more"
48. "Chewed verges indicates that large vehicles use this road"
49. "Going under/over a bridge, looking for microclimates and crosswinds"
50. "Bus stop tells me we are on a bus route"
51. "Stationary bus, looking underneath for feet and people getting on/off"
52. "The car in front is slowing, it may be looking for somewhere to turn off"
53. "Industrial buildings, it could be where the heavy is going"
54. "Looking for gaps in the hedges, the tractor may turn into a field"



3 Bends

3.1 Information Phase

55. "The road goes to the left/right, mirror position, using lateral vision I can see.. ."
56. "The one towards is quite slow suggesting the bend is tight"
57. "The one towards is quick suggesting the bend is not too severe"
58. "Looking at the hedgerow tells me the general angle of the bend"
59. "Lamp posts in the distance are going off to the left/right"
60. "Reading the limit point beyond the lead/subject vehicle"
61. "Telegraph poles give me an idea where the road goes, but I can't rely on them as they may cut across fields"
62. "The one in front is braking around the corner, why?" (Obstruction?)
63. "Double bend, first to the left/right, expecting the second feature to be tighter" (It normally is!)

3.2 Position Phase

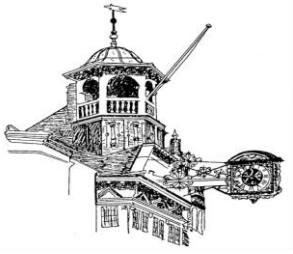
64. "Sacrificing position for safety" (Point of potential danger)
65. "Road bends left, offside mirror and scan, position 2/4 wheels over"
66. "Road bends right, mirror position in, mindful of near side danger"
67. "There is nothing towards, mirror, I can straighten this one"

3.3 Speed Phase

68. "The limit point is static" (is 10/10th)
69. "The limit point is moving but not matched" (is 9/10th)
70. "The limit point is matched" (is 8/10th)
71. "The limit point is running"

3.4 Acceleration Phase

72. "Running with the limit point"
73. "Maintaining the drive through the bend - balancing the car"
74. "Allowing the car to settle, setting the steering, now firming up the drive" (High speed)
75. "Vision up"



4 Overtaking

76. "It looks like the overtake might be on, moving into a contact position"
77. "The overtake is not on, moving back into a following position"
78. "Not committing to the overtake until I can see both sides of the road"
79. "My next point of contact is"
80. "Looking for my stop over gap"
81. "My stop over gap is.. ."
82. "I will monitor the stop over gap"
83. "Junction marker, option for the vehicle in front, dropping back to a following position"
84. "Solid white line not in my favour (normally preceded with two throw-back arrows), it may end on the exit of this bend or brow of this hill" (where you can overtake)
85. "Hazard lines are changing to normal lane markings, there may be an opportunity for an overtake"
86. "Making sure the one in front completes the overtake before committing myself"
87. "I'm not happy with the one in front, exercising restraint and moving back into a following position"

5 Motorways

88. "Onto the motorway, motorway rules apply, hard shoulders, junctions normally posted one mile in advance"
89. "One mile exit board, looking for the half mile marker/three two ones" (Countdown markers set at one hundred yard intervals)
90. "Half mile marker, my banker gap is..."; "I have a sterile area..."
91. "Matching my speed with the ones on the motorway, mirror, over the shoulder check, claiming lane one, two, etc."
92. "There's a sterile area (stop-over gap) to the nearside of the one in front, moving into contact to encourage them over"
93. "What goes off must come on" (Junction)