

What is Highway Merging?

Worksheet

Highway merging is the technique of matching highway speed on an on-ramp, checking for a safe gap in traffic, and entering the highway lane with smooth acceleration and spacing.

Questions

1. When is it safe to merge onto a highway?
 - A) When you see any gap
 - B) When your speed matches and a 3+ car-length gap exists
 - C) When the ramp ends
 - D) When you honk your horn
2. What should you do if the on-ramp ends before you reach highway speed?
 - A) Brake hard
 - B) Merge carefully and continue accelerating on the highway
 - C) Reverse on the ramp
 - D) Switch to local roads
3. Blind spot check is most critical when merging because...
 - A) trucks are always there
 - B) cars may be hidden beside you
 - C) you cannot see the ramp
 - D) lights are off
4. What does a smooth merge require?
 - A) Quick swerve
 - B) Steady acceleration and steering
 - C) Sudden speed change
 - D) No signaling needed
5. You see a 80-meter gap in highway traffic while on the 2-km on-ramp. Is it safe to merge?
6. The on-ramp is uphill and you cannot reach highway speed before the ramp ends.
7. A truck is in your target lane. Multiple cars wait behind it.
8. Define: What is highway merging?
9. Define: Why match speed before merging?
10. Define: What mirrors should you check when merging?

Answer Key

1. B) When your speed matches and a 3+ car-length gap exists — Match speed and ensure adequate spacing (≈ 80 m gap) to merge safely.
2. B) Merge carefully and continue accelerating on the highway — Merge with caution if speed is lower; accelerate once in the highway lane.
3. B) cars may be hidden beside you — A vehicle next to you may not be visible in mirrors.
4. B) Steady acceleration and steering — Smooth, predictable motion keeps other drivers safe.
5. Check your speed matches the gap (60 km/h) Confirm $80\text{ m} \approx 3$ car lengths ahead and behind Signal early and merge smoothly
6. Increase acceleration gradually If speed gap remains, continue merging with caution Watch vehicle in gap carefully; reduce gap if needed
7. Watch for the truck's position and speed Identify a gap further back (with more space) Evaluate if merging behind the truck is safer
8. Safely accelerating on an on-ramp to match highway speed and entering the traffic lane in a safe gap.
9. To avoid sudden speed changes that surprise other drivers and create dangerous situations.
10. Rear-view mirror, left side-view mirror, and left blind spot.

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