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Brake Control

What is brake control?

As the name suggests brake control is where a driver, travelling at very slow speeds uses the brake to control the speed of the vehicle.

For instance if a driver needs to move their vehicle forward very slowly while travelling forward down a slope, such as in a traffic queue that keeps stopping and starting. They may move the vehicle using brake control.

Practice.

To practice brake control you will need somewhere quiet with a gradual downhill slope. Even though you will not be using the engine to power the vehicle forward you will still need to start the engine. This is so that vehicle systems such as the brakes and steering will operate correctly. Next select first gear, then with the clutch still fully depressed press down on the footbrake. The pressure on the footbrake should be sufficient so that when you release/ put down the handbrake the vehicle does not move. Now (if it is safe) slowly start to release/raise the footbrake until the vehicle starts to move/roll forward. If you now slightly depress the footbrake further the vehicle will slow, or raise/ release the footbrake the vehicle should subject to the slope increase in speed.

Remember all the time the clutch pedal should be fully depressed/down, if the vehicle stops moving and you have fully raised the footbrake you will need to change to clutch control to continue to move the vehicle forward. Brake control can be used either when moving forward or reversing (select correct gear).

As with clutch control this is best practiced in a dual controlled car and with care.