

The rural road challenge for motorcyclists

Why do riders run off, or end up in frontal collisions?

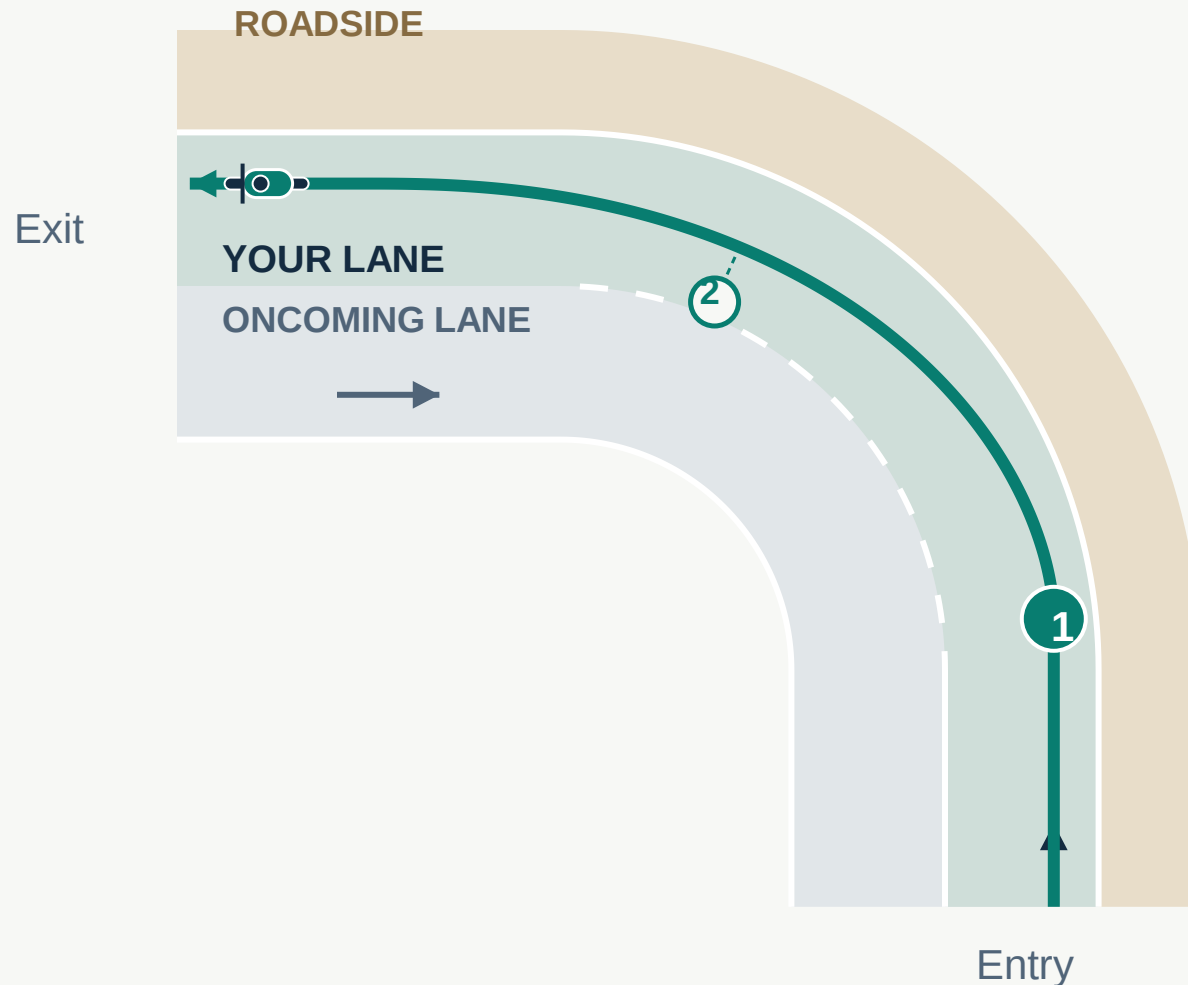
Jesper Christensen
Motorcycle Rider Coach



The Federation of European
Motorcyclists' Associations



Cornering technique; Turn point, apex and a safe exit



1 Turn point

Where you begin steering into the bend.

2 Apex

Where your path comes closest to the inside. The marker is a reference.

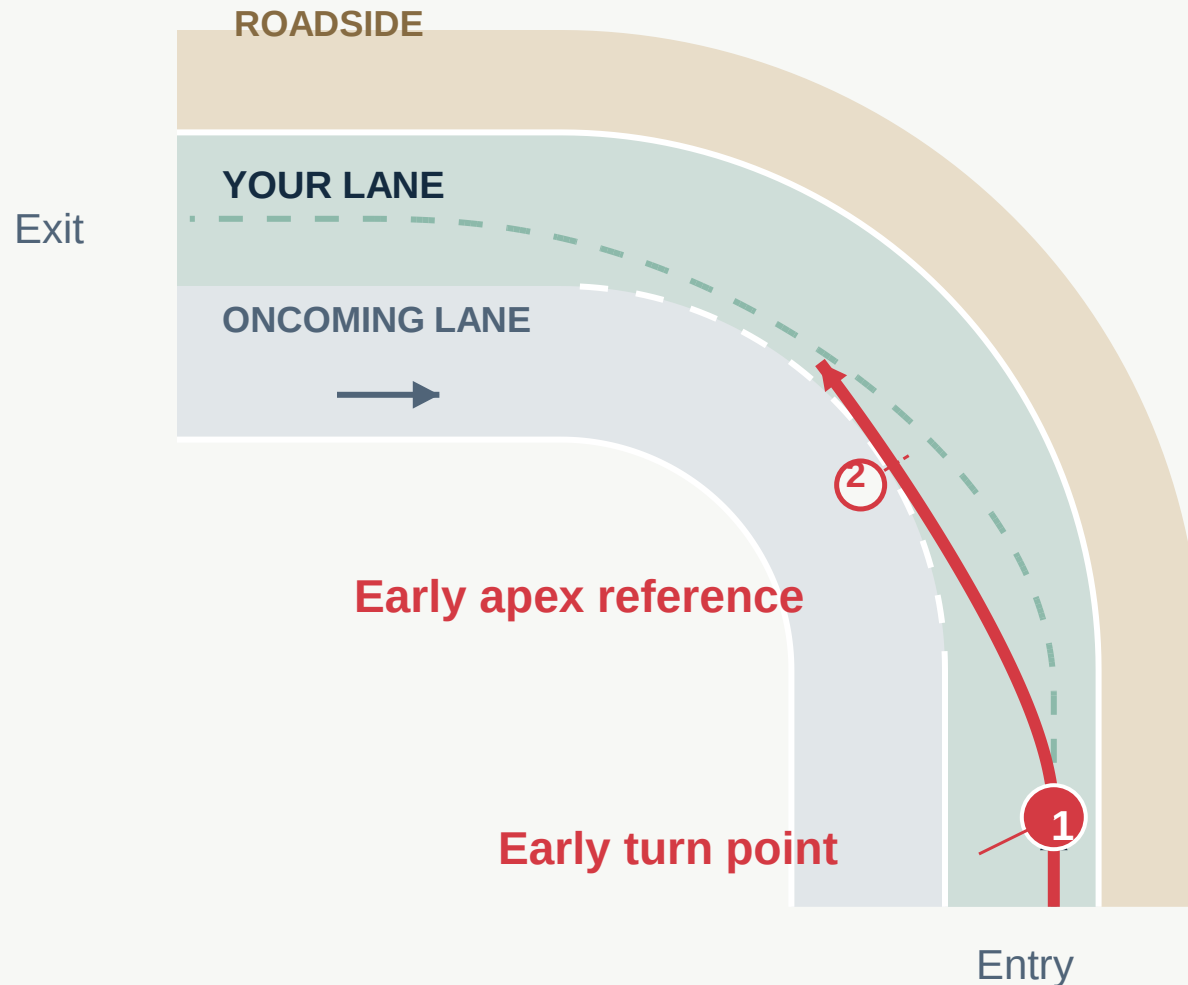
3 Exit

A clear path ahead, inside your lane, with room to adjust.

Left-hand bend, right-hand traffic. Keep clearance on both sides.

Jesper Christensen

Excess speed or lack of skills can trigger an early turn



“This feels too fast.”

Speed above your skill level can trigger survival instincts and an earlier turn point.

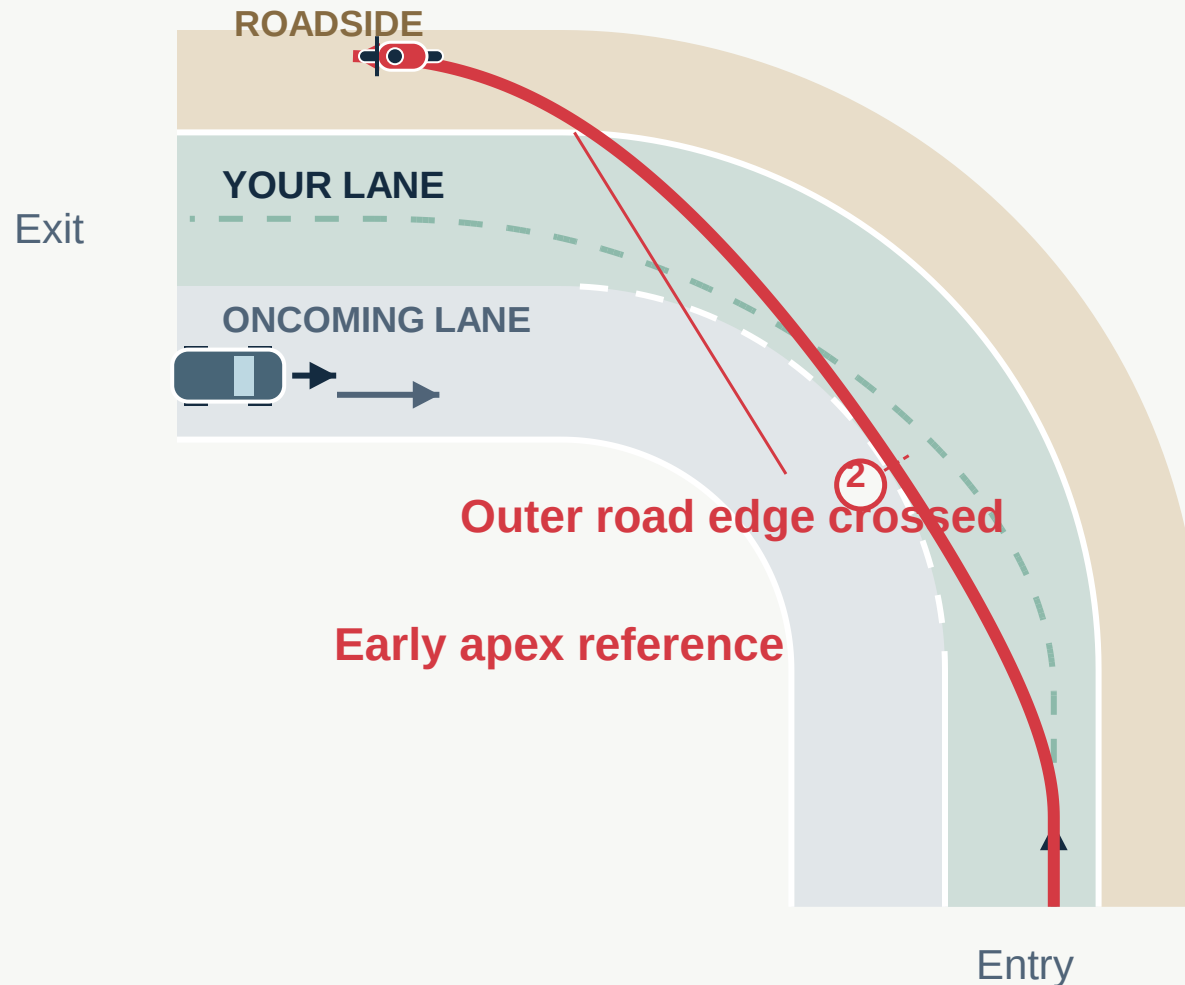
Less time to make a plan

Turning early may feel reassuring, but much of the bend is still ahead.

Dashed green: planned line. Red: early entry, shown to the apex area.

Jesper Christensen

An early turnpoint can lead off the road



The bend continues

The rider opens the line too soon and runs wide.

The exit is lost

The red path crosses the outer road edge towards the verge.

A verge, ditch or barrier can turn a wide exit into a serious crash.

One possible consequence of an early turn and an unsuitable line.

Jesper Christensen

Oncoming traffic needs real space



What if this appears around the bend?

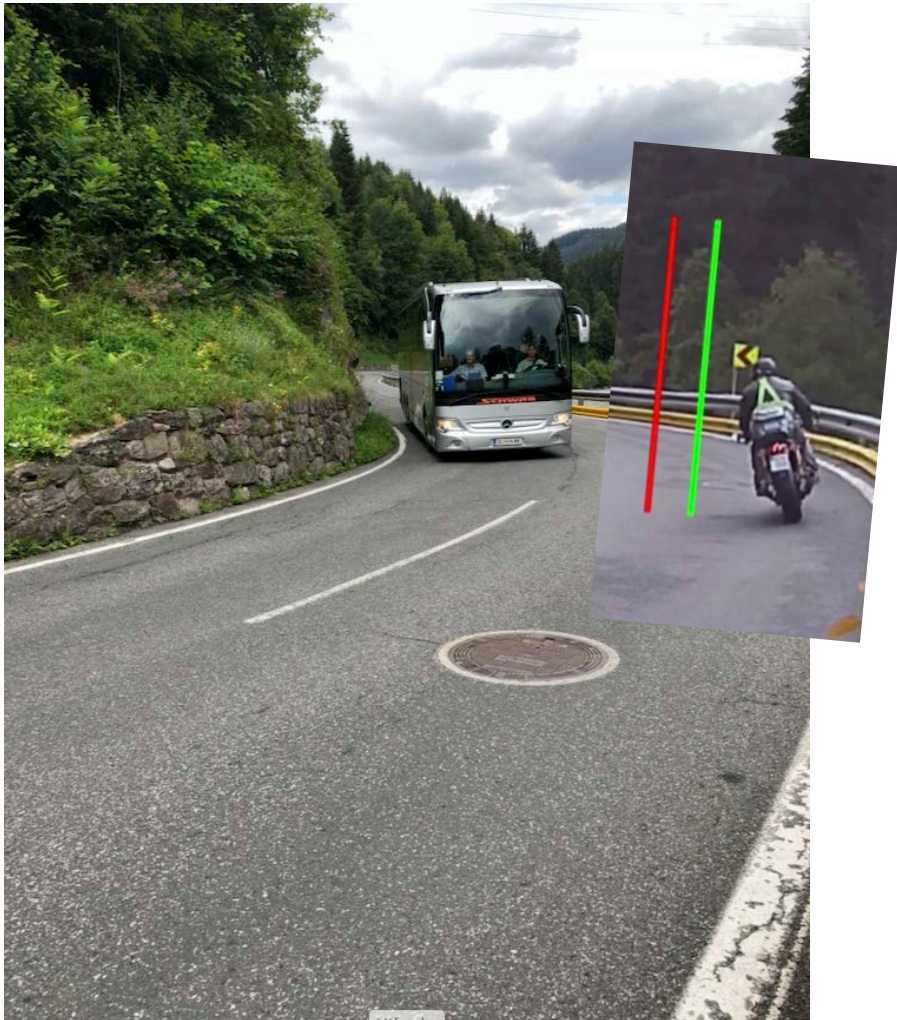
A large vehicle can leave little room near the centre line.

Keep space for your whole body when leaning, as well as the motorcycle.

Choose an entry speed that lets you stop within the clear road you can see in your lane.

Photo from Jesper Christensen's VTI / SMC presentation, October 2024.

Oncoming traffic needs real space



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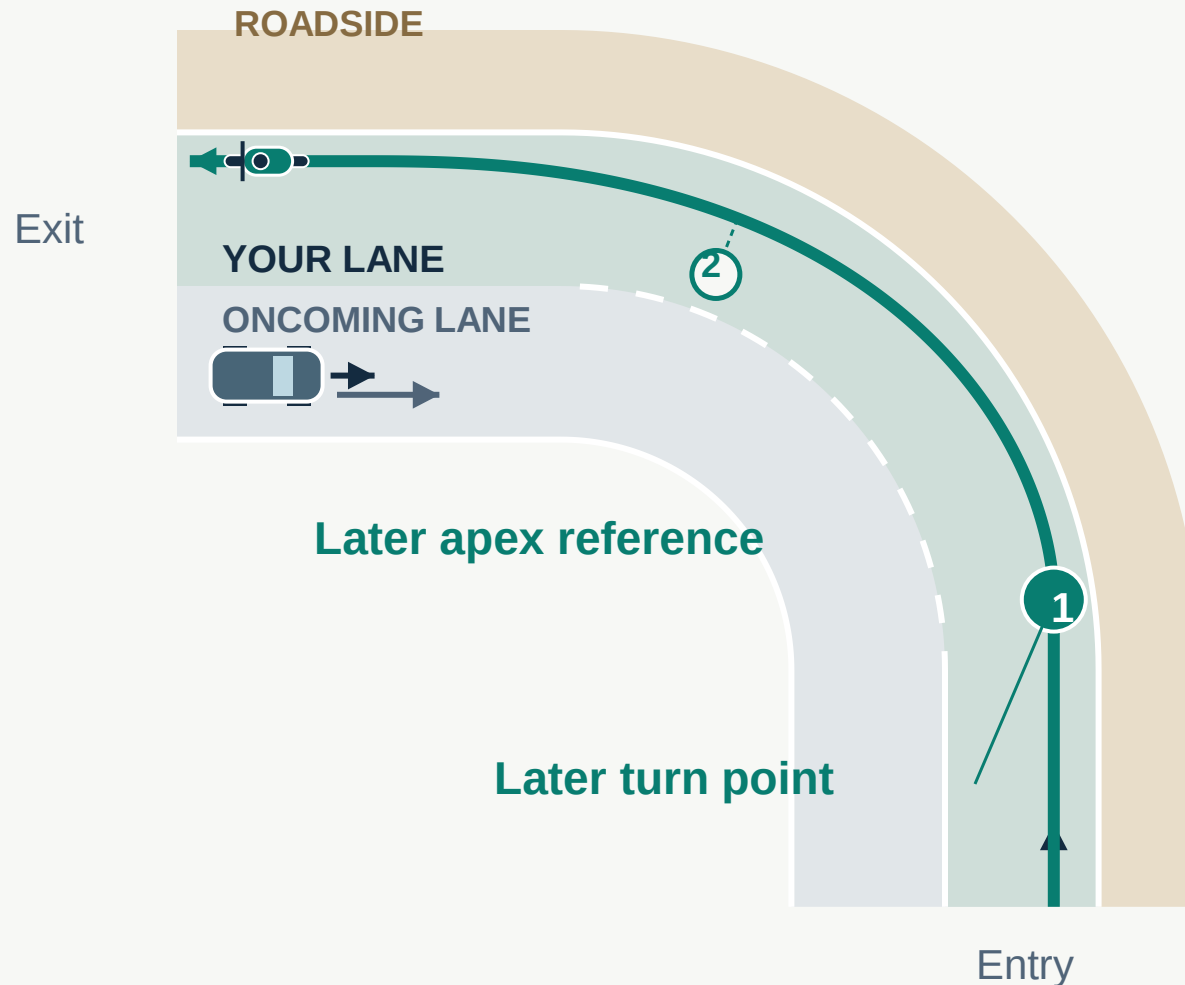
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Photo from Jesper Christensen's VTI / SMC presentation, October 2024.

A planned later turnpoint preserves safe exit space



More information first

Set a suitable speed and read the bend before the main turn.

A smooth arc to the exit

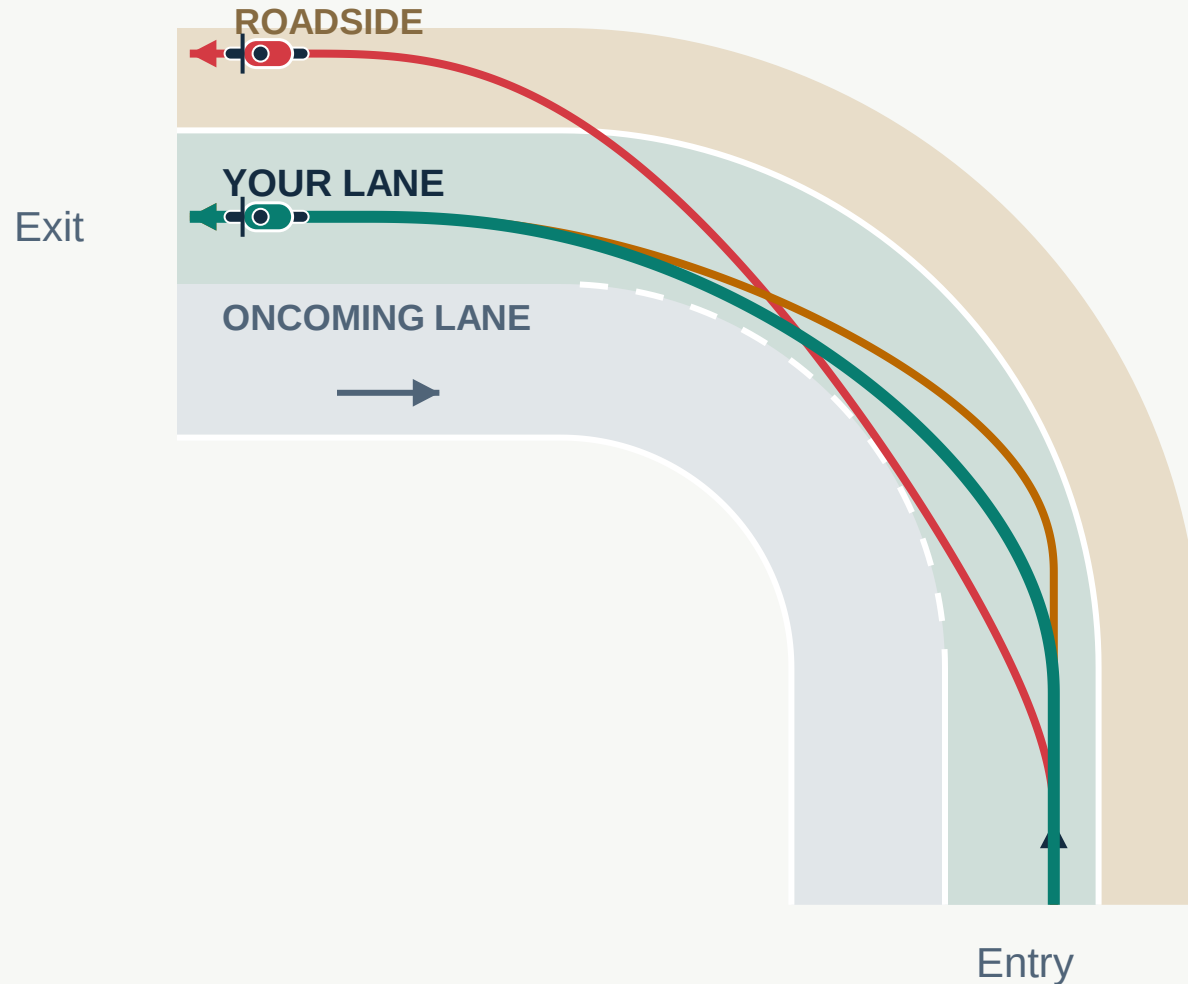
Keep clearance from the centre line at the apex, then open the line within your lane.

Keep your motorcycle and your leaning body clear of the centre line and road edge.

A later turn point must fit the view, speed and road conditions.

Jesper Christensen

40.000.000 European Motorcycles should learn this!



Solutions

A number of speakers will talk about smart solutions.