









Signs you must recognize

Shape and color tell you what to do before you read the text.

Sign color decoder

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Red Stop, yield, or do not enter |  Yellow Warning of hazard ahead |  Orange Work zone, construction, or detour |  Green Permitted movement or directions |
|  Blue Driver services, hospitals, rest areas |  Brown Recreation, parks, scenic areas |  White Regulatory — must obey the posted rule |  Yellow-green Pedestrian, school, or bike crossing |

California signs you will see on the test

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Cross road Another road crosses the highway ahead. Be ready to yield. |  Reverse curve Road curves right then left. Slow before the first curve. |  Railroad crossing Round yellow advance warning. Slow, look, listen, prepare to stop. |  Merge from right Watch for traffic merging into your lane from the right. |  Steep hill Steep downgrade. Use lower gear to control speed; do not ride brakes. |  Stop Full stop at line. Check traffic all directions before going. |
|  Do not pass White regulatory: do not pass other vehicles, for any reason. |  No-pass pennant Yellow pennant on LEFT side marks START of no-passing zone. |  Curve right Road curves to the right ahead. Slow before, not in, the curve. |  Shoulder work Orange = work zone. Workers near road edge; slow + give space. |  Low clearance Distance from the road surface to the bottom of a bridge or overpass ahead. |  Flagger ahead Person directing traffic ahead. Obey their signals. |
|  School zone Pentagon = approaching school. Watch for children. |  Divided highway Highway divides ahead. Keep right of the median. |  Slow vehicle Orange triangle with red border, on rear = vehicle goes ≤ 25 mph. |  Yield Red+white triangle. Slow and give right-of-way to cross traffic. |  Right lane ends Right lane is ending. Merge left when safe. |  Cyclist LEFT Cyclist arm STRAIGHT OUT = LEFT turn. Expect them to move left. |

Sign shape shortcuts

- Octagon** — Always means STOP. The only 8-sided sign.
- Downward triangle** — Always means YIELD. Red and white edges.
- Diamond** — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.
- Vertical rectangle** — Regulatory — speed limits, turn restrictions, lane use.
- Horizontal rectangle** — Guidance — route markers, exit info, distance signs.
- Pennant** — Sideways triangle on LEFT side = START of no-passing zone.
- Round** — Yellow circle with X+R-R = railroad crossing ahead.
- Pentagon** — School zone or school crossing — children present.

Rules of the road

Right of way

4-way stop — First to arrive goes first. Ties yield to driver on the right.

T-intersection — Driver on the through road has right-of-way.

Uncontrolled intersection — Yield to vehicle on your right.

Left turn — Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Pedestrian — Always yield in any crosswalk, marked or unmarked.

Emergency vehicle — Pull to right edge and stop. Never block intersections.

Funeral procession — Yield even at a green light; do not cut through.

Stopped school bus — Stop both directions unless divided by a median.

Roundabout — Yield to traffic already circulating; enter on a gap.

Merging onto freeway — Freeway cars have right-of-way; you match their speed.

Blind person with cane — Must stop and yield. Do not honk.

Bicyclist in bike lane — Yield to cyclist before crossing the bike lane to turn.

California speed limits

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Business or residential | 25 mph | Alley | 15 mph |
| 2-lane undivided highway | 55 mph | Towing or commercial truck | 55 mph |
| School zone (children present) | 25 mph | RR crossing — within 100 ft, can't see 400 ft | 15 mph |
| Freeway or divided highway | 65 mph | Basic Speed Law | Never faster than safe |

Lane markings and changes

Solid yellow — No passing on your side of the line.

Broken yellow — Passing allowed when safe.

Double solid yellow — No passing in either direction.

Solid white — Lane change discouraged; usually marks the shoulder.

Broken white — Lane change OK when safe.

Two-way left-turn lane — Center yellow lane: turning only — never travel in it.

Carpool / HOV — Diamond-marked. Check the minimum-passenger count.

Bike lane entry — Enter the bike lane no more than 200 ft before your turn.

Turning and signaling

Signal distance — Signal at least 100 ft before turning or changing lanes.

Hand signal — left — Arm straight out the driver window.

Hand signal — right — Arm bent up at the elbow.

Hand signal — slow / stop — Arm bent down at the elbow.

U-turn in business — Only at an intersection or where signs allow.

Right on red — Allowed after a full stop, unless posted otherwise.

Left from one-way — Allowed onto a one-way going left, after a full stop.

Starting from curb — Yield to all moving traffic before pulling out.

Following distance and emergencies

Following rule — 3 sec baseline; 3-4 sec behind a motorcycle; more in rain or poor weather.

Tailgater behind you — Move right or slow gradually; let them pass.

Brake failure — Downshift, pump pedal, use parking brake, find soft shoulder.

Tire blowout — Grip the wheel, ease off the gas; when slowed, apply brakes lightly.

Skid — Steer in the direction of the skid; ease off gas. ABS: brake firmly + steer straight.

Approaching emergency — Pull to right edge and stop until it passes.

Move-over law — Slow and change lanes for stopped emergency / tow vehicles.

After a crash — Report to CA DMV within 10 days if injury or damage > \$1,000.

Sharing the road and railroad

Motorcyclist — Give a full lane; check blind spots before lane change.

Passing a cyclist — Leave at least 3 ft of space (CA 'Three Feet for Safety').

Pedestrian — Yield in any crosswalk — marked or unmarked.

Truck blind spot — If you can't see the driver's mirror, they can't see you.

Slow vehicle / tractor — Pass only when broken yellow + clear sight.

Stopped vehicle (parked car) — If you hit one, leave a note with name + phone + address.

Railroad — flashing lights — Stop 15 ft from nearest rail. Do not cross until clear.

School bus — red flashers — Stop both directions unless median divides road.

Safety, DUI, parking and test-day

California DUI quick-facts

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adult driver BAC limit | 0.08 % | Commercial driver BAC | 0.04 % |
| Implied-consent refusal | 1-yr suspension | First DUI jail / suspension | Up to 6 mo / 6 mo |
| Under-21 zero tolerance | Any amount (0.01 %) | Drug or marijuana DUI | Impairment-based, any drug |
| First DUI fine | \$390 – \$1,000 | Open container in car | Illegal even if sober |

Hazardous conditions

DO

- + Use low beams in fog, rain, snow
- + Increase following distance in rain, fog, snow, or any poor visibility
- + Steer in the direction of the skid; ease off gas (ABS: brake firmly, steer straight)
- + Press and hold ABS brakes; pump non-ABS brakes
- + Pull off the road if visibility drops below 100 ft
- + Turn on headlights 30 min after sunset and when wipers are on
- + Coast off ice patches — do not brake hard

DON'T

- Use high beams in fog (light reflects back at you)
- Brake continuously on ice — locks front wheels, kills steering
- Use cruise control on wet or icy roads
- Stop on the freeway shoulder unless emergency
- Pass a school bus with flashing red lights
- Drive with headphones in both ears
- Hold a phone while driving (any age)

Parking and curb-color rules

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Red curb | No stopping or parking | Downhill with curb | Wheels TOWARD curb |
| From fire hydrant | Stay 15 ft away | Green curb | Time-limited — see sign |
| Yellow curb | Load passengers / freight only | Uphill with curb | Wheels AWAY from curb |
| From a marked crosswalk | Stay 20 ft away | Blue curb | Disabled placard only |
| White curb | Short pickup / drop-off only | Hill with no curb | Wheels TOWARD road edge |

Equipment and vehicle rules

Children under 2 — Rear-facing car seat unless 40 lb or 40 in.

Children under 8 or 4 ft 9 in — Booster or car seat, in the back seat.

Headlights — when on — 30 min after sunset to 30 min before sunrise; when wipers on; when visibility under 1,000 ft.

Phone — under 18 — No handheld OR hands-free use while driving.

Phone — adult — Hands-free only; texting prohibited.

Insurance proof — Minimum \$30,000 / \$60,000 / \$15,000 (effective Jan 2025). Carry proof.

Front side windows — Must transmit at least 70 % visible light.

Hit a parked car — Leave note with name + phone + address; report to DMV in 10 days if damage > \$1,000.

California test-day cheat box

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Adult exam length | 36 questions | Under-18 exam length | 46 questions |
| Permit fee (2026) | \$42 | Provisional restriction | 12 mo, no passengers <20 unless adult 25+ |
| Adult passing score | 30 of 36 (83 %) | Under-18 passing score | 38 of 46 (83 %) |
| Min supervised hours <18 | 50 (10 at night) | Retake wait | Next business day (7 days after 3 fails) |

Last-minute test-taking tips

Read every option before you pick — the DMV often includes a partially-correct option to trip you up. When two options seem right, pick the more cautious one ("slow and yield" usually beats "speed up" or "honk and proceed"). If you blank, eliminate the obvious wrong answers first, then guess — unanswered counts as wrong. Save tough questions for last; the test isn't timed by question.