









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 Guide — directions, distances, destinations |
|  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 |

Indiana signs you will see on the test

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  Divided highway begins Road ahead splits into a divided highway. Keep right of the median. |  No-passing zone Yellow pennant on left side marks the start of a no-passing zone. |  T-intersection Through road ends ahead. Yield or stop before entering the cross road. |  Sharp left curve Road curves sharply to the left. Slow before entering the curve. |  Winding road Series of curves ahead. Reduce speed and stay in your lane. |  Railroad crossing Round yellow advance warning. Slow, look, listen, prepare to stop. |
|  Do not enter Red circle: entry forbidden. Used on one-way roads and expressway ramps. |  Steep hill Steep downgrade ahead. Use lower gear; do not ride the brakes. |  Advisory exit speed Safe maximum speed for this expressway exit ramp. Not a legal limit. |  Low shoulder / Drop-off Shoulder is lower than road — drop-off hazard. Stay in lane. |  Traffic signal ahead Warning: signal-controlled intersection ahead. Be ready to stop. |  Stop Octagon. Full stop at line. Check traffic all directions before going. |
|  Right lane ends Right lane merges into left. Yield and merge when safe. |  Worker ahead Orange diamond: workers on or very close to the road. Slow down. |  Do not pass White regulatory. No passing other vehicles for any reason here. | | | |

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 advance warning.

Pentagon — School zone or school crossing — children may be present.

Rules of the road

Right of way

4-way stop — First to arrive goes first. Simultaneous arrival — yield to driver on your right.

Left turn — Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning left.

Uncontrolled intersection — Yield to vehicle already in the intersection or on your right.

Transit bus re-entering — Yield to a bus signaling to pull back into traffic from a stop.

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

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

Traffic light out — Treat as a 4-way stop — all approaches stop and yield in turn.

Stopped school bus — Stop in both directions on a two-lane road when red flashers are on.

Merging onto highway — Highway traffic has right-of-way; adjust your speed to merge safely.

Green arrow (left) — Protected turn — you have right-of-way over oncoming traffic.

Indiana BMV test at a glance

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total questions on test | 50 (34 rules + 16 signs) |
| Passing score | 84% — both sections must pass |
| Rules passing threshold | At least 28 of 34 correct |
| Signs passing threshold | At least 14 of 16 correct |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Learner's permit fee | \$14 |
| Minimum permit hold time | 180 days |
| Supervised practice required | 50 hours (10 at night) |
| Agency name | BMV — Bureau of Motor Vehicles |

Signaling and lane changes

Signal distance — Signal at least 200 ft before turn (some IN questions cite 100 ft — use the larger value to be safe).

Passing signal — Signal early enough for others to know your plans before passing.

Lane change — Signal, check mirrors, then check blind spot before moving.

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

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

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

Double solid yellow — No passing in either direction.

Broken yellow — Passing allowed when safe from the lane next to the broken line.

Speed and following distance

Speed limit meaning — Maximum under ideal conditions — slow for rain, fog, ice, traffic.

Following distance — Maintain a safe cushion; increase in bad weather, behind large vehicles, or exiting a highway.

Fog/reduced visibility — Use low beams when visibility drops to 500 feet or less.

Dim headlights (oncoming) — Switch to low beams within 1,000 feet of an oncoming vehicle.

Dim headlights (following) — Switch to low beams within 500 feet of a vehicle ahead.

High beams in fog — Don't — light reflects back and reduces visibility further.

Nighttime headlights — Required ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.

School zone speed — Observe the posted reduced speed; resume normal speed at the end-zone sign.

Railroad crossings

When to stop — Flashing red lights, lowered gate, flagger signal, or posted stop sign (Q7114).

Never stop on tracks — If following another vehicle, confirm you can clear fully before crossing.

Round advance sign — Yellow circle with R-R = crossing ahead. Slow and prepare to stop.

Crossbuck sign — X-shaped white sign AT the crossing. Yield to any approaching train.

School bus and sharing the road

Stopped school bus — Stop both directions on two-lane road — red flashers + stop arm extended.

After bus moves — Check for children on the shoulder before proceeding.

Passing a bicyclist — Slow, wait for a clear gap, then pass with as much space as possible.

Cyclist swerving — Give extra space — cyclists may swerve to avoid road hazards.

Truck No Zone — If you can't see the driver's mirrors, they can't see you.

White cane / guide dog — Stop and yield — person is likely blind. Do not honk.

Safety, alcohol, parking and test tips

Indiana alcohol / DUI quick-facts

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Adult BAC limit (21+) | 0.08% | Alcohol + other drugs | Effects of both multiply — extremely dangerous |
| Impairment starts | Even the smallest amount of alcohol | Prescription drugs | Read label warnings before driving |
| What reduces BAC | Only time — not coffee, exercise, or cold showers | Open container | No alcohol in passenger area of vehicle on public roads |
| Body clears alcohol | Only time — body processes alcohol at its own rate; no shortcut speeds it up. | Alcohol affects | Reflexes, reaction time, judgment, concentration, memory |

Hazardous conditions

DO

- + Use low beams in fog, rain, and snow
- + Increase following distance in any poor conditions
- + Steer in the direction of a skid; ease off the gas
- + Pull off the road if visibility is dangerously reduced
- + Slow down for rain — hydroplaning risk rises with speed
- + Turn on headlights at dusk and on overcast days
- + Glance toward the right edge when blinded by oncoming headlights

DON'T

- Use high beams in fog — light reflects back, reduces visibility
- Brake hard on ice — locks wheels, kills steering
- Follow too closely behind large trucks — massive blind spots
- Drive drowsy — same impairment level as alcohol
- Use a phone while driving (any handheld use is distracted driving)
- Pass a stopped school bus with red flashers on
- Enter a railroad crossing unless you can fully clear the tracks

Parking rules

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Downhill (two-way street) | Turn wheels right — toward curb or road edge | No stopping sign | Stop only to obey a signal, police officer, or avoid traffic conflict. NOT for pickup/dropoff. |
| Uphill with curb | Turn wheels left — away from curb (3 questions reinforce this) | Crosswalk / bike lane | Never park on a crosswalk or in a marked bicycle lane |
| Freeway shoulder | Stop only in an emergency | Parallel parking | Pull even with the car in front, then reverse into the space |

GDL — after you pass the knowledge test

Learner's permit supervisor — Licensed driver 25+ related by blood, marriage, or legal status — OR licensed spouse 21+ — OR certified instructor.

Permit hold minimum — 180 days before applying for a probationary license.

Supervised hours — 50 total hours, including at least 10 at night.

Probationary curfew (Phase 1) — First 180 days: no driving 10 pm–5 am.

Probationary curfew (Phase 2) — After 180 days until 18: 11 pm–5 am weeknights; 1 am–5 am weekends.

Passenger restriction — First 180 days: no non-family passengers unless licensed adult 25+ is present.

When all restrictions end — All curfew and passenger limits lift at age 18.

Last-minute test-day cheat box

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|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Questions on the test | 50 (34 rules + 16 signs) | Driver ed (under 16) | Required; must be at least 15 to enroll |
| Pass mark | 84% — both components must pass independently | With driver ed | Probationary license available at 16 yrs 90 days |
| If you fail | BMV tells you your score, not which questions you missed | Without driver ed | Probationary license available at 16 yrs 270 days |
| Bring to BMV | Birth certificate or passport, SSN, proof of Indiana residency | All-of-the-above trap | Indiana bank uses it often — verify every sub-option is true first |

Last-minute test-taking tips

Read every option before choosing — Indiana's bank frequently places a plausible-but-incomplete answer early and the fully correct one later. When two options look right, pick the more cautious one ("slow and yield" beats "proceed quickly"). Indiana's sign section is its own passing hurdle — don't neglect it. The test shows you real sign images, not text descriptions, so drill shapes and colors visually. "All of the above" is correct on a large share of Indiana questions — don't reflexively skip it, but confirm every sub-item listed is actually true.