









# Signs you must recognize

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

## Sign color decoder

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

## Massachusetts signs you will see on the test

 <b>No right turn</b> Right turns are prohibited at this intersection.	 <b>Stop</b> Octagon. Come to a full stop and go when it is safe to do so.	 <b>Low ground railroad crossing</b> Low clearance railroad crossing ahead — approach with caution.	 <b>Steep hill ahead</b> Steep downgrade ahead. Use lower gear; do not ride the brakes.	 <b>Do not enter</b> Entry forbidden. Used on one-way roads and expressway ramps.	 <b>Sharp left curve</b> Road curves sharply to the left. Slow before entering the curve.
 <b>Intersection ahead</b> Shows type of intersection ahead — be prepared for cross traffic.	 <b>Traffic signal ahead</b> Warning: signal-controlled intersection ahead. Be ready to stop.	 <b>Curve ahead</b> Upcoming curve in the road. Reduce speed before entering.	 <b>Railroad crossing</b> Slow down and yield for trains at this crossing.	 <b>Reduced Speed Ahead</b> New lower speed limit begins ahead. Begin slowing now to reach the posted speed at the sign.	 <b>Exit only (overhead lane)</b> Must exit the freeway if you stay in your current lane.
 <b>Narrow shoulder / drop-off</b> Shoulder drop-off ahead — losing control is the main concern.	 <b>Winding road</b> A series of curves ahead. Reduce speed and stay in your lane.				

## 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** — Vehicle approaching from your right has the right-of-way.

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

**Pedestrian** — Always yield — even if the pedestrian crosses carelessly.

**Blind pedestrian** — Slow down and be prepared to stop — white cane or guide dog.

**Emergency vehicle** — Pull to right edge and stop. Applies in both directions.

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

**Stopped school bus (two-lane)** — Stop in both directions when red flashers are on and stop arm is extended.

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

## Massachusetts RMV test at a glance

Total questions on test	25 questions
Passing score	72% — 18 of 25 correct
Application fee	\$30 at the RMV
Driver ed (under 18)	Required — 30 hrs classroom, 12 hrs behind-the-wheel, 6 hrs observation

Permit hold minimum (under 18)	184 days before road test
Agency name	RMV — Registry of Motor
Official handbook	Sharing the Road — A User's Manual for Public Ways

## Speed limits (Massachusetts defaults)

**School zones** — 20 mph unless otherwise posted.

**Thickly settled / business districts** — 30 mph unless otherwise posted.

**Rural highways (outside settled areas)** — 50 mph unless otherwise posted.

**Posted signs override defaults** — Always obey the posted sign over the statutory default.

**Driving too slow** — Driving much slower than the speed limit may create a dangerous environment.

**Reduced speed sign** — New limit begins at that sign — not at the next intersection.

## Signaling, lane changes, and passing

**Signal distance** — Signal at least 100 feet before any turn, lane change, or leaving a curb.

**Signal always required** — Signal your intentions even when no visible traffic is present.

**Lane change steps** — Check mirrors, signal, then check blind spot over your shoulder.

**Double solid yellow** — No passing in either direction from either lane.

**Broken yellow next to you** — Passing allowed when safe — use oncoming lane, return promptly.

**Passing right side** — Legal only if the vehicle ahead is turning left and a passing lane is open.

**Bicyclist passing** — Slow, wait for clear gap, pass leaving at least 3 feet of clearance.

## Following distance and railroad crossings

**Normal following distance** — At least 3 seconds in normal conditions.

**Behind a motorcycle** — Increase to at least 4 seconds — fallen rider is a road obstacle.

**Bad weather / large vehicles** — Increase following distance further for any non-ideal condition.

**Tractor-trailer at 55 mph** — Fully loaded truck needs up to 400 feet to stop.

**Railroad crossing — stop distance** — Stop no closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail.

**Multiple tracks** — Wait until you can see clearly past all tracks before crossing.

**Crossbuck sign** — Yield to any approaching train at an uncontrolled crossing.

# Safety, alcohol, parking and test tips

## Massachusetts alcohol / OUI quick-facts

<b>Adult BAC limit (21+)</b>	0.08%	<b>Alcohol + other drugs</b>	Effects of both multiply — extremely dangerous.
<b>Impairment starts</b>	Even the smallest amount of alcohol — one drink raises crash risk.	<b>Chemical test refusal</b>	Automatic license suspension under implied-consent law.
<b>What reduces BAC</b>	Only time — not coffee, food, exercise, or cold showers.	<b>Open container</b>	No open alcohol container allowed in the passenger area.
<b>Body clears alcohol</b>	Approximately one drink per hour.	<b>Alcohol affects</b>	Reflexes, reaction time, judgment, concentration, vision.

## Hazardous conditions

<p><b>DO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Use low beams in fog, rain, and snow</li> <li>+ Increase following distance in any poor conditions</li> <li>+ Steer in the direction of a skid; ease off the gas</li> <li>+ Slow down as you enter a curve; speed up as you exit</li> <li>+ Stop at the start of rain — roads are slipperiest in first 10–15 minutes</li> <li>+ Glance toward the right edge when blinded by oncoming headlights</li> <li>+ Pull to the curb and stop when you hear a siren — check which street it is on</li> </ul>	<p><b>DON'T</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Use high beams in fog — light reflects back, reduces visibility</li> <li>– Brake hard on ice — pump brakes if no ABS; hold brake with ABS</li> <li>– Use cruise control on winter or slippery roads</li> <li>– Drive drowsy — impairment equals alcohol's effect</li> <li>– Text or use a handheld phone while driving (never permitted in MA)</li> <li>– Pass a stopped school bus with red flashers on</li> <li>– Enter a railroad crossing unless you can fully clear the tracks</li> </ul>
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## Parking rules

<b>Downhill (two-way street)</b>	Turn wheels to the right — toward the road edge.	<b>Crosswalk / bike lane</b>	Never park on a crosswalk or in a marked bicycle lane.
<b>Uphill with a curb</b>	Turn wheels away from the curb (left) — curb catches the tire.	<b>Parallel parking start</b>	Pull even with the car in front, then reverse into the space.
<b>Freeway shoulder</b>	Stop only in an emergency.	<b>Unattended parked car (if you hit it)</b>	Leave a written note with your name, address, and circumstances.

## GDL — after you pass the knowledge test

**Permit supervisor** — Licensed driver 21+ with at least 1 year of experience, seated beside you.

**Permit hold (under 18)** — 184 days minimum before taking the road test.

**Supervised hours** — 40 total hours; 30 hours if in certified driver ed. At least 30 minutes at night.

**JOL curfew** — Junior Operators cannot drive alone 12:30 AM–5:00 AM.

**JOL passenger restriction** — First 6 months: no non-family passengers under 18 unless licensed adult 21+ is present.

**When restrictions end** — 6 months of licensure OR 18th birthday — whichever comes first.

## Last-minute test-day cheat box

<b>Questions on the test</b>	25	<b>4-way stop tie</b>	Yield to vehicle on your right.
<b>Pass mark</b>	18 correct (72%)	<b>School zone speed</b>	20 mph
<b>If you fail</b>	RMV gives only the verdict — not which questions you missed.	<b>Thickly settled / business district speed</b>	30 mph
<b>Signal before turning</b>	100 feet minimum — required by law.	<b>Rural highway speed</b>	50 mph

## Last-minute test-taking tips

Read every option before choosing — Massachusetts questions frequently place 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'). The RMV 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 MA questions — confirm every sub-item listed is actually true before choosing it. Know your three default speed limits cold: 20/30/50 mph. Know that 100 feet is the signal distance, 3 seconds is normal following distance, and 0.08% is the legal BAC limit.