

## Chapter 3

# Signs Signals and Markings

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### Pavement markings

Our roadways are filled with many signs and symbols that a driver must become acclimated to in order to be a safe and effective driver. They all have their meaning and it will be important for you as the driver to know what each of the signs and symbols means while driving. Driving takes year to develop these skills.

### Unmarked Roads

While driving you may encounter streets where there are no lines or markings on the road. Many people think that this gives them the ability to drive wherever they want. Even though there are no markings on the road, you should still imagine that the road has markings on it. Roadways are always assumed to have markings on it even when unmarked.

### Pavement markings and reflectors

One of the first important items on the road is pavement markings. You have several different types of pavement markings and colors. The two basic colors are white and yellow. You also have pavement markings that are red and blue.

### White Pavement Markings

White pavement markings are found to identify crosswalks, stop lines, right edge of the road, on freeway entrance ramps (gore area) and to separate traffic going in the same direction.



Crosswalks and stop lines are important so that a driver knows where to stop. It is important to always make sure that you stop behind the stop line or the crosswalk before proceeding through an intersection where there is a stop sign. A white line is usually placed before a crosswalk so that the driver will and does check for pedestrians prior to proceeding through the intersection and checking for traffic.



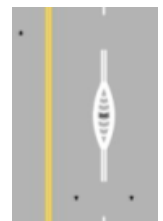
### White Lines



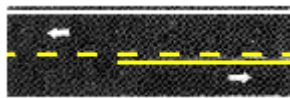
There are two types of white lines, solid and dashed white lines. Solid lines are not to be crossed unless it is for emergency purposes only. Dashed lines can be crossed when safe to do so. Dashed white lines separate traffic on one way streets and multi-lane roads where numerous lanes are going in the same direction. One way of identifying a one-way street is by paying attention to what color the line(s) are in the center of the street. If you see a white line that separates two lanes on a street this is probably a good indication that the road is one way. Solid white lines are usually found on the right side of the road or in the gore area of entering a freeway. Solid white lines help to identify the lane in fog, rain, darkness or other poor visibility situations. These should not be crossed or entered into unless there is an emergency your vehicle is not working properly then you can pull over into these areas if necessary.

### White cross-hatched lines

You may encounter white cross-hatched line in some situations. Most white hatched lines are telling you that there is a median/gore area or that there is no parking in that area. Most white hatched areas are found in parking lots or on the right side of the road.



### Yellow Lines

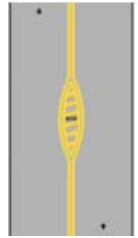


Yellow lines, solid yellow lines and dashed yellow lines. Yellow lines separate traffic going in the opposite directions. Yellow lines mean that no passing is allowed. Even though it is thought that you cannot cross a solid yellow line if you are making a left-turn into a driveway or street.

Usually there is a break in the lines but as long as you are making a left-turn you can legally cross a solid yellow line. A double yellow line means that there is no passing for either side of the road. A dashed yellow line means that you are allowed to pass a car as long as oncoming traffic is clear.

## Yellow cross-hatched lines

You may encounter yellow cross-hatched line in some situations. Most yellow hatched lines are telling you that there is a median or that there is no parking in that area. Most yellow cross-hatched areas are found in parking lots or on the left side of the road, designating turn lanes or medians. It is illegal to cut through or across a yellow cross-hatched area.

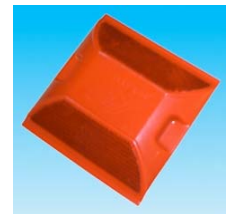


## Medians

In some situations cities or states want to separate traffic and will use medians to separate traffic. A **median** can be one of several things. They will sometimes use grass islands, guardrails, cement walls, curbs, metal cables or a solid yellow line. This solid yellow line is usually 18 inches or more. Most medians are there to reduce head-on collisions or to restrict certain action of drivers on the road like prohibiting left-turn or other such action. Legally you are allowed to cross a median and you can get a ticket by crossing a median. There are some turn outs and other paths to cross a median but these are for emergency vehicles only and are not for the use of normal traffic.

## Reflectors and Rumble Strips

There are some special indicators that you may see on the street while driving. One special indicator is a red reflector on the road. This signifies that you are going the wrong way down road. They are usually place on freeways and are only visible if you are going the wrong way down the freeway. Another special indicator is a blue reflector on the road. A blue reflector on road usually signifies that there is a fire hydrant within fifteen (15) feet of the blue reflector.



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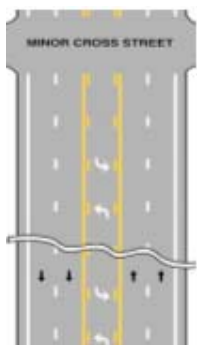


Rumble strips are found on the side of a road. They are grooves on the shoulder that are place there to warn drivers that they are going on off of road. They are made to make a vibration and noise in your car that will either wake you up or tell you that you need to move back onto the roadway. Rumble strips are usually found on freeways and other major roads that have a shoulder.

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## Shared Left-Turn Lane

In many states you will encounter a lane in the center of the road that is called a **shared-left-turn lane**. This lane gives people the ability to pull into this center lane to make left-turns. This makes it so that a car is not in the middle of the road blocking traffic or running the risk of getting rear-ended by another car.



A shared left-turn lane is marked by a solid yellow line on the outside of the lane with a dashed yellow line inside of the solid yellow line. There are left arrows in the middle of the lane for both directions of traffic. In most states you are only given a specific distance that you are allowed to drive in a shared left-turn lane.

There are many dangers to a shared left-turn lane. One of the risks that you may encounter in a shared left-turn lane is that you may get into a head-on collision. When entering a shared-left-turn lane you should make sure that you pay attention to the oncoming traffic and what they are doing. You should look at the signal of oncoming traffic and you should pay attention to the tires of cars that may turn into lane. You should look to see if there are already other cars in the shared left-turn lane also.

Another risk is that you may turn into someone that may be behind you and turned into the lane earlier than you. Most of these people that turn in the lane early are people that are in a big rush and are trying to find ways to cut get around slower or stopped traffic. For this reason you should pay attention to who is behind you and know whether or not the person behind you is tailgating you or in a rush. This will give you a forewarning that you may have someone behind you that may be in a rush and trying to get in to the turn lane early. Also before you pull into a shared left-turn lane you should make sure that it is clear prior to pulling in. You should treat it like changing lane. Signal, Check your mirror and check your blind spot prior to pulling into the shared left-turn lane.

Your third risk is cars that are stopped in the turn lane or using it as an acceleration lane. Make sure that you pay attention to people that may be pulling into the turn lane from a drive way or another street. The most important part of a turn lane is to have proper scanning skills and to make sure that you are away of all of the hazards that you may encounter before entering the turn lane. Also you want to make sure that you pull in to the turn lane to slow down. Never slow down on the road and then pull into the turn lane. Use the turn lane as a deceleration lane.

## Reversible Lanes

In some states you will also encounter what is called a reversible lane. A **reversible lane** is a lane in the center of the road where the direction of travel can be changed depending on the amount of traffic going in one direction or another. The reversible lane is marked by double dashed yellow line in the on either side of the lane. Reversible lanes are usually found on some busy streets where there may be different influxes of traffic depending on the time of day. This way the lane can change direction to suit the influxes or outflows of traffic from a major city or other situations.



There are certain signs or lights that are found at a reversible lane. Some reversible lanes have signs that can be changed to tell you how the lane should be used. Most reversible lane will have lights that will tell you what you can or can't do. The following are the lights that are usually used at a reversible lane and what they mean.

- Red X – means that the lane cannot be used
- Flashing Yellow X – means that the lane is used for turning left. (Comparable to a shared-left-turn lane)
- Steady Yellow X – means that the light is about to change to a Red X and that you should exit the lane.
- Green Arrow – means that you can use the lane.

## Painted Curbs

There are three types of painted curbs that you can find on the side of the road; yellow, red, and white. Yellow and red painted curbs usually mean that they are no parking zones. Yellow usually gives you the ability to load or unload your vehicle only while red painted curbs are for emergency vehicles only. A white painted curb usually means that limited parking is allowed. Usually about fifteen (15) minutes.

## Signs

There are different groups of signs and each group of signs have specific shapes and colors to identify which type of group and sign it is. These groups consist of regulatory signs, warning signs, service signs, destination signs, construction signs, and historical/recreational signs.

### Regulatory signs

**Regulatory signs** are signs that regulate traffic and are the law. If you don't obey these signs then you will get a ticket for these illegal actions. Regulatory signs are usually white with black lettering, black with white lettering, red with white lettering or white with red lettering. Regulatory signs have a wide range and assortment of shapes and sizes. They are usually rectangular or square shaped with some other varying shapes. There is only one sign that is not this color and that is a handicap sign. Even though it is not the same color as the normal regulatory signs it is still considered a regulatory sign.

Some examples of regulatory signs are stop signs, yield signs, one-way street signs, do not enter signs, wrong way signs, speed limit signs, railroad crossing signs, etc.



### Warning signs

Warning signs are on the road to warn drivers of any hazards that may be approaching. Warning signs are usually yellow with black lettering and come in many different shapes and sizes. Usually warning signs are diamond shaped and are

placed to warn driver of certain regulatory signs, limited visibility situations, or dangers that could cause the driver to get into an accident.

Some examples of warning signs are:



### Service signs

Service signs warn drivers of services that are up and coming. Service signs are blue with white lettering and usually are square or rectangular-shaped.

Some examples of service signs are:



### Destination signs

Destination signs help drivers to identify where they are going on the roadway. Destination signs are green with white lettering and usually are rectangular-shaped. Destination signs are found on the freeway and to identify streets. They give specific distances to locations and mark exits.

Some examples of destination signs are:



### Construction signs

Construction signs are orange with black lettering and come in an assorted array of shapes and sizes. They are usually diamond shaped but are circular, rectangular and other shapes depending on the type of construction sign that you encounter. Construction areas are well marked and signed due to the fact that there are many workers that are close to traffic and run the risk of getting hit by cars. Beware of your speed in construction zones and pay attention to what the signs are advising you to do. In some states the traffic fine in construction zones doubles. When driving through construction zones the whole goal is to slow down so that if you were to hit someone you would give them a better chance of living the slower that you go. You give a person an 80% chance of living if you were to hit them at speeds of 25 mph or lower.

Some examples of construction zones are:



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## Historical and Recreational signs

Historical and recreational signs are usually brown with white lettering. They are usually rectangular shaped. They are used to identify any recreational area, historical site, state parks or national parks.

Examples of historical signs are:



## Signals

There are three types of colors used for signals. You have yellow lights, red lights and green lights. Yellow lights and red lights can be found in both flashing and solid forms. Lights and signals warn you of actions that you should or should not take and either are there to accompany signs to let you know what actions to take or work individually to let you know how to proceed through certain situations.

### Flashing Red Lights



A flashing red light means the same as a stop sign. It means that you should stop and proceed when clear. Flashing red lights are usually found at intersections. Some drivers associate a flashing red light with a four-way stop. Beware that a flashing red light does not always mean stop. One direction of traffic can have a flashing red light while the other direction can have a flashing yellow light. We will discuss a flashing yellow light next to tell you the meaning of it but be aware that a flashing yellow light has the right-of-way over a flashing red light. As discussed before, flashing red lights are found at intersections and also are found on school buses.

### Flashing Yellow Lights

A flashing yellow light means the same as a yield sign. It means that you should slow down and proceed with caution. There are many places that you may find a flashing yellow light. You can find a flashing yellow light on school buses, at intersections, at crosswalks, on streets where fire stations are at, in construction areas, in school zones, etc.



### Steady Yellow Lights

Steady yellow lights are found at intersection on a **signal tree**. A signal tree is the column of three lights that tell you what to do at an intersection. A steady yellow is in the middle of the signal tree. It is between the steady red light which is at the top and the steady green light that is on the bottom. Steady yellow lights mean that you should prepare to stop. It does not mean that you should go faster to try to beat the light.



### Steady Green Lights

Steady green lights are found at the bottom of the signal tree. It signifies that you should go. Beware that in some situations that you don't have the full right-of-way. When making turns you need to beware of pedestrians and in some situations oncoming traffic. (Refer to *Right-of-way, Chapter 4*)

### Steady Red Lights

Steady red lights are found at the top of the signal tree. It tells you to stop and there is a closed zone ahead. It is important to realize that the lights are also put in a specific order. The order of the light is arranged in such a way that you can be

color blind and know what the lights are telling you. You always know the light on top is to stop, the middle light is yellow and the green light is on the bottom.

### Stale Green Light

At **stale green light** is a light that has been green for a long period of time. When you approach an intersection and you are scanning ahead you may notice from a distance down the street that the light is green. As you continue to approach the light you will notice that the light will continue to be green. This is what is known as a stale green light. As you approach this type of light you have to be aware that the light can change at any time and usually will change as you are approaching the light. As you approach a stale green light you need to make sure that you are ready to stop if the light turns yellow. You should have your foot over the brake as you approach the light.

### Pedestrian Signals



You will encounter two types of signals for pedestrians. You will encounter a DON'T WALK symbol and a WALK symbol. As the driver you need to pay attention to what the light says of the pedestrians. You can be at fault for hitting a pedestrian when the WALK symbol is on. Remember that if you are making a right or left-turn on a green light and you notice that there are pedestrians that are in the crosswalk parallel to your position then you will have to yield to those pedestrians because they will have the WALK symbol.

### Emergency Vehicles

Emergency vehicles consist of fire trucks, police cars, or ambulances on the roadway. You may encounter emergency vehicles on the road when you are driving. If you hear or encounter an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing then you will want to pull over to the right side of the road. If you are in the middle of an intersection then you should get through the intersection first and then pull over. Never stop in the middle of an intersection. If you are in an area like a shared left-turn lane or in a left-turn lane and you cannot move to the right due to other vehicles being in your way then you should stay where you are at. Some people think that you should move to the left so that the emergency vehicle can get around you, but you should not move to the left because if an oncoming car hits you then it will be your fault for moving into oncoming traffic. You should stay in place because an emergency vehicle has the right-of-way to move into oncoming traffic legally. When you are behind an emergency vehicle you should always remain a safe distance away. Many people try to follow an emergency vehicle so that they can get ahead of other drivers and get the right-of-way through the light. This IS illegal and usually most states have a minimum distance that you should be following behind an emergency vehicle. This distance is usually 500 feet.



### School buses

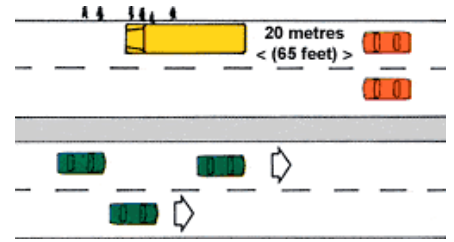
While driving you may encounter school buses out on the street that may slow up and stop. School buses make frequent stops and drop off or are picking up students constantly. If you are around a school bus you will need to be aware of these frequent stops and expect to make frequent stops. Buses don't only stop to drop off and pick up kids but it also stops all railroad crossings to check for trains.

When you encounter a bus you will encounter two different types of lights that a bus has. You will either see a flashing yellow light or a flashing red light. The flashing yellow light tells you that the light is going to change to a flashing red light and you should prepare to stop. The flashing red light means that you should stop and that you are not allowed to pass the school bus. If you do not stop you can and will get a ticket.



Once you have stopped you should look for many dangers and around the bus. You should be aware of kids that are getting of the school bus and where they go. Even though kids should not cross in front of or behind a bus in certain situations they still may try to do it so you have to pay attention to these actions. You should be aware of other cars on the road that may not be paying attention to the bus or everyone else stopping. There can be an accident with you or another car because another driver is not paying attention to the situation and that the school bus is stopping.

There are a few situations in some states that will allow you to pass a school bus. These situations are when there is a median, highway divider or a lane between you and the school bus. School districts and the officials that set up school bus stops are usually not allowed to have a kid cross a roadway that is three lanes or more or roads where there is a median. For this reason if you are going the opposite direction of a school bus and you have a median, highway divider or a lane separating you and the school bus then you can continue to go. You as the driver should still slow down to make sure that there are not any kids that may be crossing the road. If you are following a school bus you will never be able to continue driving without stopping.



## Questions Chapter 4

### Vocabulary

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- Median
- Shared left-turn lane
- Reversible lane
- Regulatory sign
- Signal tree
- Stale green light

### True / False Questions

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1. **T/F** You can cross a solid yellow line to make a left-turn into a driveway or an alley.
2. **T/F** It is illegal to drive over medians.
3. **T/F** A two-way left-turn lane can be used for passing.
4. **T/F** Traffic signs have uniform color, shape, and symbols.
5. **T/F** All construction signs are red with black lettering.
6. **T/F** Regulatory signs are red, white, and black.
7. **T/F** Warning signs are yellow with black lettering.
8. **T/F** A flashing red light always means that it is a four-way stop.
9. **T/F** You must yield to transit buses that have signaled are pulling back onto the roadway.

### Fill in the blanks

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10. A \_\_\_\_\_ inch solid yellow line can be one form of a median.
11. You cannot follow any closer than \_\_\_\_\_ feet to an emergency vehicle.
12. The law says who must \_\_\_\_\_ the right-of-way it does not give anyone \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions

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13. What does a yellow line down the middle of the street separate?
14. What does a white line down the middle of the street separate?
15. If you encounter a dashed yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic, what can you do?
16. If you encounter a double solid yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic, what can't you do?
17. Besides an open space, give three other types of separations or medians.
18. What color are crosswalk lines?
19. What color are stop lines?
20. Name two ways that you would know that you are about to enter a one-way street.
21. How is a two-way left-turn lane marked?
22. How far can you travel in a two-way left-turn lane?
23. List some of the dangers of a two-way left-turn lane.
24. What are reversible lanes and what are they used for?
25. What are the pavement markings on a reversible lane?
26. What does a red X mean over a reversible lane?
27. What does a steady yellow X mean over a reversible lane?
28. What does a flashing yellow X mean over a reversible lane?
29. What does a green arrow mean over a reversible lane?
30. What do yellow and red painted curbs mean?
31. What do white painted curbs mean?
32. Name three types of pavement markings.
33. Give three examples of regulatory signs.
34. Give three examples of warning signs.
35. Give three examples of service signs.
36. Give three examples of construction signs.
37. Give three examples of guide signs.
38. Name three types of traffic control devices.

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39. When approaching a SPEED ZONE AHEAD sign, when should you have your speed adjusted?
40. What do you do at a yield sign?
41. What happens to the fine in construction zones?
42. What is an eight-sided sign?
43. What type of marker is required on farm equipment traveling less than 25 mph?
44. What color is a yield sign?
45. What does a flashing red light mean?
46. What should you do if the traffic signals do not work?
47. What does a flashing yellow light mean?
48. Where are flashing yellow lights found?
49. Name three groups of people that can direct traffic and override the signs and signals.
50. What does a steady yellow light mean?
51. What must you do if an emergency vehicle approaches with its lights flashing?
52. When you are approaching an intersection with a green light, no arrow, whom do you have to yield the right-of-way to?
53. When backing out on to the street, do you need to stop before entering traffic?
54. When are you required to stop for a school bus?
55. When are you not required to stop for a school bus?
56. If you are in the intersection and an emergency vehicle is coming with its lights flashing, what should you do?
57. If you cannot pull to the right when an emergency vehicle is coming with its lights flashing, what should you do?

## Driving Situations

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1. What should you do in this situation?



2. What should you do in this situation?



3. What should you do in this situation?



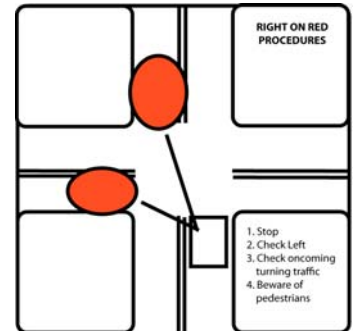
4. What should you do in this situation?

- Traffic Control Personnel (Local DOT, traffic police, or school crossing guards)

The problem that most drivers encounter when approaching a situation where there is one of these people handling these situations is that they don't know who to obey; the light, sign or the traffic control person. Always remember that any of the above listed people override the signs, signals and markings. If you see a police officer telling you to go even if the light is red, you have the right-of-way to do so.

### Right on red

It is legal to turn right on red when you are at an intersection. First, you have to stop and make sure that no pedestrians are crossing the road. Even though it may be clear to go, red always means stop. After coming to a complete stop you need to make sure that traffic is clear from the left. Also make sure, once traffic is clear from the left, that oncoming traffic that may be turning left is clear. A common mistake that people do when turning right on a red light is that they do not pay attention to oncoming traffic. There are situations where the oncoming traffic has a green arrow to turn, while your light remains red. Most people look left but do not look ahead for these oncoming turning cars. Pay special attention to these vehicles.



### Left on red

In some states you will have the ability to turn left on a red light. Verify in your state's driver's guide to see if this is possible. The only way that you can turn left on a red light is if you are turning onto a one-way street. Usually it is from a one-way street onto another one-way street, but in some states you are allowed to turn left from a two-way street as long as you are turning onto a one-way street.

### Lights / Signals Don't Work

When you encounter a situation where the lights aren't working you should treat the intersection as a four-way stop. If you are the first person to the intersection then you will get to go first. If two cars get there at the same time then the person to the right has the right-of-way and will go first. Beware of the other car and make eye contact with the other driver to make sure that you are aware that they see you or are not going to proceed through the intersection. Usually at busy intersections each direction of traffic takes turns so cars going east and west go and then cars going north and south go and so on.

### **No Parking Zones**

Every state varies when it comes to no-parking zones. Most have restrictions on the distance that everyone can park from certain objects or situations. These situations include:

- Fire stations
- Intersections
- Stop signs
- Fire hydrants
- Alleyway / Driveways
- Railroad Crossings

Check your state's drivers guides to find out what the specifics are for your state. When parking in these situations beware that there are sometimes painted curbs to indicate where you can or can't park but this is not always the case. So make sure that you are aware of the situations in your state.

### **Controlled intersections**

**Controlled intersections** have devices to control traffic. They have stop signs, yield signs, flashing yellow lights, flashing red lights, etc. There are several types of controlled intersections. These different types of controlled intersections are:

#### 4-way stop / 3-way / all-way stops

A **4-way stop / 3-way / all-way stop** are intersections where all of the streets entering the intersection have to stop. The primary rule for a 4-way stop is to see who arrives at the intersection first. Whoever arrives at the intersection first and

comes to a complete stop first, gets to go first. If two cars arrive at the same time then the car to the right has the right-of-way. If two opposing cars arrive at the same time and one is turning to the left then the car that is going straight has the right-of-way.

### 2-way stop

This is an intersection where two out of the four intersections have to stop. If you are approaching the intersection and have a stop sign, you must stop first, scan the intersection (look left, right, left, and straight ahead), and then proceed once it is clear. If there is a car at the opposing stop sign, you must first make sure it is clear. Once it is clear, whoever arrived at their stop sign first gets to go first. If you are approaching the intersection and have no stop sign, you will continue through the intersection after scanning the intersection to make sure that nobody is entering the intersection in front of you. You can do this by looking left, right, straight ahead, and by covering the brake with your foot if it looks like somebody is going to run his or her stop sign.

### Roundabout

A **roundabout** is an intersection with an island or obstacle in the middle of it. You should always enter the roundabout to the right, even if making a left-turn. The traffic in the roundabout always has the right-of-way. Roundabouts don't only have one lane but have multiple lanes. Beware of roundabouts with multiple lanes. You will need to know which lane to be in and where you are going. If there are two lanes on a multi-lane roundabout usually you can only go right or straight from the right lane or you can go straight or left from the left lane. Beware that since there are multiple lanes that you have to yield the right-of-way to more cars.

### Multi-lane intersection

A **multi-lane intersection** is an intersection with turn lanes and roadways with two or more lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction. As a rule of thumb, if you are approaching a multi-lane intersection and desire to turn you must always turn from the closest lane of traffic into the closest lane of traffic. So when turning right you should start from the right lane and turn into the right lane, if you are turning left you should start from the left lane and turn into the left lane. Now if you are turning right or left and there is more than one lane to turn from you can turn into the outside lane if you start your turn from the outside lane, but only if the intersection permits it. When making turns at a multi-lane intersection you may encounter turn lanes. If this is the case, always be sure to signal, check your mirror, and check your blind spot before entering. Also, make sure that you pull into the opening provided. Do not cut across the solid yellow lines, this is illegal. When you are waiting in the turn lane be sure to keep your signal on. Even though people know you are turning, a turn signal still needs to be on.



### **Uncontrolled intersections**

**Uncontrolled intersections** are intersections without stop signs, yield signs, or signals. They are usually found in residential areas where there are no pavement markings on the street. If you are in a residential area with no pavement markings, you should pay attention to every intersection you approach to see if there are stop signs, yield signs or signals. If you do not have any controlling devices then look to the other corners to see if they have any controlling devices (look for the back of their stop sign or yield sign). If there are no signs or signals then you need to treat the intersection like a 4-way yield. You should slow down to 10 mph and make sure it is clear. As you go through the intersection, your foot should be over the brake. Usually, if you are approaching an uncontrolled intersection and there is another car that is also approaching at the same time, the primary rule is whoever stops at the intersection first gets to go first. Beware though because if you get there first, the other car may think that you are permitting them to go. Never assume that they are going to stop for you.

### **Scanning an intersection**

Always remember to look left, right, and left when scanning an intersection. Also be aware of things that are going on straight ahead of you. Many drivers get so caught up looking to the sides that they sometimes forget or overlook what is happening in front of the car. Also, remember to check your rear-view mirror when approaching an intersection. You want to be aware of any cars that may be tailgating you, so that you can prepare a little sooner, if you need to stop because you'll know that there is somebody behind of you. If you are scanning the intersection from the stopped position, even

though you may think that it is clear, you should still double check the intersection every time before proceeding through the intersection.

Also remember that if you are the first person stopped at a stop light, you should scan the intersection when the light turns green. Right after the light turns green is the most likely time that somebody is going to try to run the red light.

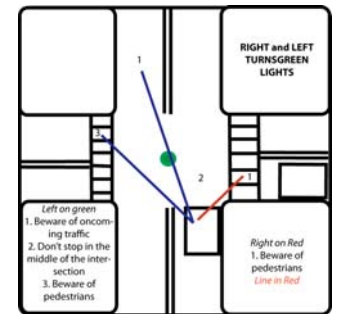
### Point of No Return

When approaching an intersection there is a point that you cannot stop because you don't have enough distance or time due to the speed you are going. This called the **point of no return**. The point of no return varies on how fast you are going, the quality of your brakes and car. But you should always underestimate the ability of you car and not overestimate its ability. When you start overestimating the ability of your car then you will wait until the last second and think that your car can and will handle anything. Don't do this! Most people get into trouble at an intersection because they overestimate the ability of their car or they are not ready for the light to change. As you approach the point of no return your foot should be over the brake and you should be preparing to stop. If you make that decision before then you will not hesitate and you will make the proper decision because you have already made it prior to anything happening.

### Making turns on green

When making a turn on a green light you need to be aware of pedestrians. The crosswalks that run parallel to the lights that are green always will have a WALK signal. When you are making a right or a left on a green light you need to be aware of pedestrians that will be crossing the road.

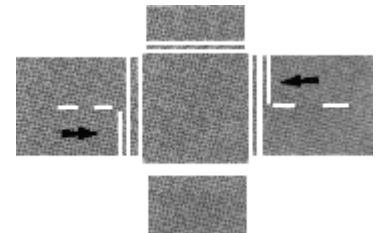
When making a left-turn on a green light (no arrow), you need to always yield to oncoming traffic. If oncoming traffic is not clear then you need to stop behind the white line, not in the intersection, and make sure that traffic is clear before making your left hand turn. You should never stop in the middle of the intersection.



### Where to stop

When approaching an intersection there are certain places that you as the driver must stop at. You as the driver must always stop at the stop line (solid 18 inch white line). If there is no stop line, then you must stop before the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk, then you must stop at the at the curb line. Now in some cases there may be a stop line and a crosswalk, if this is the case you don't need to stop at both of the stop line and the crosswalk. You just need to stop at the stop line and make sure that nobody is crossing the street. Then you can ease your way forward and make sure that traffic is clear (Remember to keep your foot over the brake when easing your way forward).

When exiting a driveway, alley, or parking lot it is necessary to always stop before the sidewalk. After stopping and making sure that no pedestrians are crossing the road, you can ease your way forward out towards the street to make sure that it is clear. (Make sure that you keep your foot over the brake when easing your way out into traffic) If there is no sidewalk when exiting a driveway, alley, or parking lot then stop with your car even with the curb line.



### Parking Lots

Parking lots are another place that drivers could encounter problems and accidents. There are many direction and places that dangers can come from in parking lots. Since drivers may have a hard time turning around and looking and not having the ability to maneuver as freely as possible, they will have to make sure that they have the equipment to be aware of everything. When backing out of a parking space, you should make sure that you can turn around and see everything that is going on behind you. Many drivers think that using the mirrors is good enough but you as the driver have to realize that only using your mirrors will restrict preventing accidents. Your mirrors cannot pick up people, car, and other obstacles that may be approaching from the side. Your mirrors only see behind you. You have to pay attention to traffic from the left, the right and immediately behind your car. You need to pay attention to other drivers in other cars that may



be backing out of their spaces as well as drivers that may be backing out of their parking space next to your car. The large majority of the time that you get into an accident while you are backing up, it will be your fault. So you should beware of all situations when in a parking lot.

There are a few preventative actions that can be taken to avoid problems in parking lots:

- Back into parking spaces. This will allow you to not have to turn around when backing up. The danger of backing up in a parking lot is backing up after not knowing what is going on behind and not being able to see. If you back in you will prevent this from happening.
- Add extra mirrors to your car. Adding extra mirrors to your car will allow you to see better when backing up
- Have someone outside to help guide you out. If a person is outside telling you where to go then you will have someone that is looking out for the driver and letting other cars know that the driver is backing out.
- Park in areas where you can pull straight through
- Park in areas where there are no cars parked behind you. If you have cars that are parked behind you, this will be one extra thing that you will not have to pay attention to and maybe the hardest thing to see for an older driver since some drivers can't turn around far enough.
- Make sure that your foot is always over the brake when backing up. If you panic when backing up and your foot is over the gas pedal then you may hit the gas accidentally and lose control of your car.

## Questions Chapter 4

### Vocabulary

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- Right-of-way
- Point of no return
- Multi-lane intersection
- Roundabout
- Controlled intersections
- 4-way stop

### True / False Questions

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1. **T/F** An uncontrolled intersection should be treated like a 4-way stop.
2. **T/F** When entering a turn lane at a multi-lane intersection, your blind spot should always be checked.
3. **T/F** If you are in a turn lane, your signal does not have to be on because people already know where you are.
4. **T/F** At an intersection, even though you may have the right-of-way, you should still look left, right, and left.
5. **T/F** You should go immediately after the light turns green.

### Fill in the blanks

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6. At an uncontrolled intersection, you must slow down to \_\_\_\_\_ mph to make sure that it is clear.

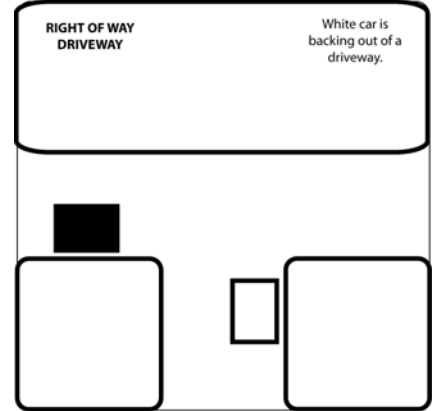
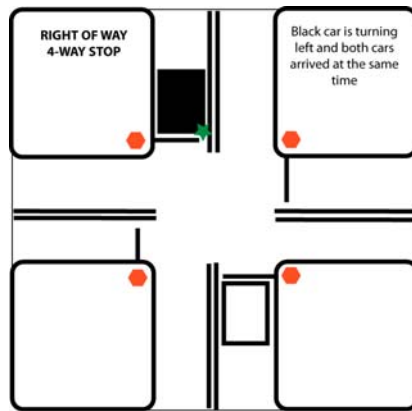
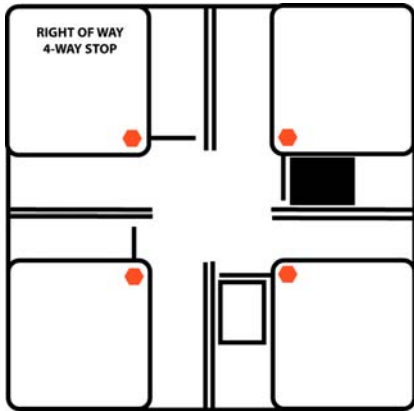
### Questions

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7. Name the two types of intersections.
8. What should you do at an uncontrolled intersection?
9. What is the primary rule at a four-way stop?
10. When approaching an intersection, which mirror should you check?
11. Which directions do you need to scan, to make sure that it is clear, when approaching an intersection?
12. What is the secondary rule at a four-way stop?
13. Besides traffic, what must you be aware of when making a turn on a green light?
14. When turning right on a red light, what two directions do you need to look to before making your turn?
15. When you are approaching an uncontrolled intersection and there is another car coming what should you never assume?
16. Who should yield the right-of-way at a roundabout intersection, traffic entering or traffic in the roundabout?
17. When making a right or left-turn at a multi-lane intersection, you must turn into which lane?
18. going.
19. If there is no stop line or a crosswalk, where should you stop?
20. If you are pulling out of a driveway or an alley and there is a sidewalk, where should you stop?
21. before going through the intersection.
22. Name two preventative actions that can be taken in a parking lot to prevent an accident?
23. When pulling out of a driveway, where do you need to stop?
24. When stopping at a light and there is a crosswalk and a stop line, where should you stop?
25. Many people scan left and right at the intersection, but you should beware of what other direction when scanning an intersection?
26. Name three no parking zones.
27. What should you do if the signals do not work?
28. You should pull to which direction if you are approached by an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing?
29. What is the most common reason for pedestrians being hit by cars?
30. When is a pedestrian more likely to be hit?

# Right of Way

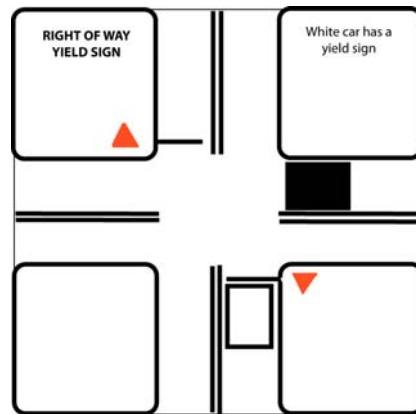
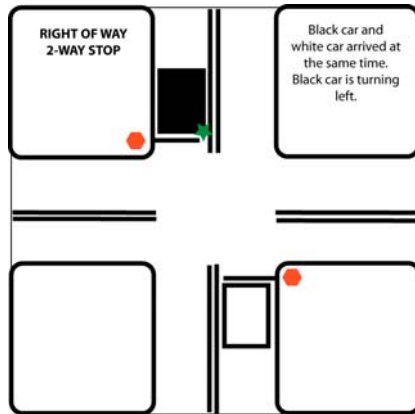
Which car should yield?



1. Black and white car arrive at same time

2. Black and white car arrive at the same time and black car is turning left

3. White car is backing out of a driveway



4. Black and white car arrive at the the same time at a 2-way stop and the black car is turning left

5. White car has a yield sign

## Driving Situations

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1. Who has the right-of-way?

2. What should you do prior to going in this situation?



3. What should you do in this situation?