

# Kentucky TC

## Permit Practice Test 2026

40-question test with answer key · [permitpractice.us](https://permitpractice.us)

### Kentucky permit test: quick facts

|                            |                                                                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Questions on the real test | Not published by the TC                                                     |
| Passing score              | 80% correct                                                                 |
| Wrong answers allowed      | Depends on test length (not published)                                      |
| Minimum age                | 15                                                                          |
| Testing agency             | Transportation Cabinet (TC)                                                 |
| Official permit name       | Instruction Permit (Learner's Permit)                                       |
| Permit fee                 | \$15 (\$18 REAL ID)                                                         |
| If you fail                | May return the next available day to retake; no attempts limit published    |
| Online testing             | No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.                            |
| Driver's education         | Required for applicants under 18.                                           |
| Supervised practice        | 60 hours incl. 10 at night (Practice Driving Log signed by parent/guardian) |
| Permit holding period      | 180 days (ages 15-20); 30 days for applicants 21+                           |
| Under-21 alcohol limit     | 0.02% BAC or higher                                                         |

### How to use this PDF

1. The TC does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 40 questions, the length of our online mock test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 80% correct.
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Kentucky knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/kentucky/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Kentucky driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual TC exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-09-28. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 [permitpractice.us](https://permitpractice.us)

# Kentucky Permit Practice Test: 40 Questions

Circle your answer. Answer key with explanations starts on the last pages.

**1. You are on a freeway on-ramp and the ramp meter signal shows red. What should you do?**

- A) Merge carefully if the freeway looks clear
- B) Use the shoulder to go around the signal
- C) Slow down but keep rolling onto the freeway
- D) Stop at the line and wait for green

**2. Where should you stop your vehicle at a red light when there is a stop line?**

- A) Just before the stop line
- B) On the stop line
- C) Just past the stop line
- D) Where you can see cross traffic

**3. A vehicle entering a roundabout (traffic circle) must:**

- A) Yield only to traffic coming from the right
- B) Stop completely before entering, even if clear
- C) Proceed immediately since they have right of way
- D) Yield to traffic already in the roundabout

**4. Green guide signs are used to show:**

- A) Hazards on the road ahead
- B) Locations of gas and food
- C) Directions and distances
- D) Parks and historic sites

**5. When parking uphill with a curb, which direction do you turn your front wheels?**

- A) Straight ahead, parallel to the curb
- B) Either way, if the parking brake is set
- C) Toward the curb (right)
- D) Away from the curb (left)

**6. When approaching a stopped vehicle displaying a blue and red flashing light on the roadside, the safest and often legally required action is to:**

- A) Speed up to pass the scene as fast as possible
- B) Change lanes away if safe, or else slow down
- C) Keep your speed and stay in your lane
- D) Stop in your lane until the vehicle leaves

**7. What does a green light on a traffic signal that is shaped like an arrow mean?**

- A) A protected move in the arrow's direction
- B) The turn is allowed only after stopping
- C) Go that way, but yield to oncoming traffic
- D) The signal is about to turn red

**8. In states that use colored curbs, what does a red curb generally mean?**

- A) Passenger loading only
- B) No stopping, standing, or parking
- C) Loading for commercial trucks only
- D) Parking allowed if you stay with the car

**9. What score do you need to pass the Kentucky TC written knowledge test?**

- A) 70%
- B) 75%
- C) 83%
- D) 80%

**10. In Kentucky, how far before a turn at an intersection should you start signaling?**

- A) 300 feet
- B) 200 feet
- C) 50 feet
- D) 100 feet

**11. A sign reading 'YIELD' requires you to:**

- A) Always come to a full stop first
- B) Merge at the same speed as traffic
- C) Slow down, give way, and stop if needed
- D) Go first - other drivers must yield to you

**12. Under Kentucky law, you must give the right-of-way to any vehicle that is:**

- A) Driving under the posted minimum speed
- B) Flashing its four-way hazard lights
- C) Showing a flashing red or blue light
- D) Sounding its horn more than twice

**13. If your headlights go out at night while driving, you should:**

- A) Pull over immediately and turn on hazard lights
- B) Switch to parking lights and continue slowly
- C) Stop right in your lane and wait for help
- D) Keep driving slowly and follow the car ahead closely

**14. At an uncontrolled T-intersection, vehicles on the through road have right of way over:**

- A) Pedestrians in a marked crosswalk
- B) Vehicles on the terminating road
- C) Emergency vehicles using sirens
- D) Vehicles already in the intersection

**15. Traffic ahead of you is moving slowly. May you use the shared center left-turn lane to drive around it?**

- A) No - the lane is only for vehicles turning left
- B) Yes, if no oncoming vehicle is using it
- C) Yes, as long as you signal left first
- D) Yes, but only for a distance of one block

**16. The Kentucky manual says to dim your high beams when an oncoming vehicle comes within:**

- A) 500 feet
- B) 200 feet
- C) 300 feet
- D) 1,000 feet

**17. Without good cause, Kentucky permit holders under 18 may not drive between midnight and:**

- A) 4:00 a.m.
- B) 6:00 a.m.
- C) 5:00 a.m.
- D) 7:00 a.m.

**18. When turning left at a green light (not a green arrow), you must:**

- A) Turn first - oncoming traffic must yield to you
- B) Wait for oncoming traffic to stop
- C) Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians
- D) Turn immediately - green means go

**19. Kentucky's 'Zero Alcohol Tolerance' law means a driver under 21 is in violation at a BAC of:**

- A) 0.10
- B) 0.08
- C) 0.05
- D) 0.02

**20. Heavy rain or fog limits your view to about 100 feet ahead. According to the Kentucky manual, what is the fastest you can safely drive?**

- A) 35 mph
- B) 15 mph
- C) 45 mph
- D) 25 mph

**21. Before getting an Intermediate License in Kentucky, teen drivers must record their practice in a:**

- A) DMV phone app only
- B) Personal diary
- C) Practice Driving Log
- D) School attendance form

**22. Blue signs along a highway typically indicate:**

- A) Parks and recreation areas
- B) Gas, food, and lodging services
- C) Rules such as speed limits
- D) Exits and distances to nearby cities

**23. Your brake pedal suddenly sinks to the floor. Which action may build up brake pressure again?**

- A) Turning the engine off at once
- B) Pumping the brake pedal quickly
- C) Shifting the car into neutral
- D) Holding the pedal on the floor

**24. Police are stopped on the shoulder of a two-lane highway. Under Kentucky's move-over rules, you should:**

- A) Approach slowly and pass with caution
- B) Stop fully until the officer waves you on
- C) Speed up to clear the area quickly
- D) Keep your speed and sound your horn

**25. When driving at night, you should:**

- A) Look straight at oncoming headlights to judge them
- B) Keep your daytime speed and following distance
- C) Slow down and leave more following distance
- D) Use parking lights so you do not dazzle others

**26. When two lanes merge and there are 'zipper merge' signs, you should:**

- A) Use both lanes to the merge point, then take turns
- B) Merge early - as soon as you see the sign - to be polite
- C) Let all vehicles in the other lane go first
- D) Stop and wait for all traffic to clear

**27. In many areas a curb is painted yellow. What should you understand from this?**

- A) It is reserved for motorcycles
- B) You may park there for as long as you like
- C) Stopping or parking is restricted there
- D) It shows a spot reserved for disabled drivers

**28. When driving in heavy rain, you should:**

- A) Use cruise control to keep a steady, safe speed
- B) Use low beams and leave more following distance
- C) Turn on hazard lights and drive at normal speed
- D) Use high-beam headlights to see better

**29. Kentucky's doubled work zone fines apply when signs announce the double fines and:**

- A) Orange cones close at least one lane
- B) At least one worker is present
- C) The posted limit is 45 mph or less
- D) The work zone is longer than one mile

**30. Which of these will sober up a person who has been drinking?**

- A) Eating a big meal
- B) Taking a cold shower
- C) Drinking strong coffee
- D) Only time

**31. When should you use your vehicle's emergency hazard lights?**

- A) When you plan to change lanes or make a turn
- B) To thank a driver who let you merge
- C) When your car is disabled on or near the road
- D) When parking briefly in a no-parking zone

**32. The single most effective way to avoid an alcohol-related crash is to:**

- A) Not drive at all after drinking any alcohol
- B) Drink coffee and wait 30 minutes before driving
- C) Stay under 0.08% by counting your drinks
- D) Drive slowly and stay in the right lane

**33. Which of these is a warning sign that you are too drowsy to drive safely?**

- A) Your passengers start talking more loudly
- B) You feel hungry and want to stop for a snack
- C) You cannot remember driving the last few miles
- D) You notice more traffic signs than usual

**34. What shape is a stop sign?**

- A) Pentagon (5-sided)
- B) Octagon (8-sided)
- C) Hexagon (6-sided)
- D) Triangle (3-sided)

**35. Traffic is backed up just past a railroad crossing. When should you start across the tracks?**

- A) Whenever the crossing lights are not flashing
- B) Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks
- C) When the car ahead of you has started to cross
- D) Right away, since no train is in sight now

**36. When entering a highway from an on-ramp, who has the right of way?**

- A) The larger vehicle, such as a truck
- B) The merging vehicle
- C) Whoever reaches the merge point first
- D) Traffic already on the highway

**37. What is the purpose of a broken white line between lanes?**

- A) Lanes are one-way only
- B) You may not change lanes or pass here
- C) Lane changes are permitted when safe
- D) Traffic moves in opposite directions

**38. If your vehicle's accelerator sticks while driving, you should:**

- A) Shift to neutral, brake, and steer to safety
- B) Keep driving and call for help on your phone
- C) Switch off the engine and remove the key
- D) Shift into park and pull the parking brake

**39. Your gas pedal is stuck and you switch off the engine to slow the car. What should you expect?**

- A) The car will speed up for a few seconds
- B) Steering and braking will take more effort
- C) The car will come to a stop almost at once
- D) The brakes will stop working completely

**40. If your right wheels drift off the pavement onto the shoulder, you should:**

- A) Ease off the gas and steer back gently
- B) Jerk the wheel left to get back at once
- C) Speed up and steer back on right away
- D) Brake hard and steer back onto the road

# Answer Key & Explanations

## 1. D - Stop at the line and wait for green

A ramp meter works like a traffic light. Stop at the stop line on red and go when it turns green, then speed up to merge.

Source: [dol.wa.gov](https://dol.wa.gov) - (PDF p.113), Freeway ramp meters

## 2. A - Just before the stop line

Stop before the stop line - not on it or beyond it. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk. If no crosswalk, stop before the intersection.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](https://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Stop signs / stop lines

## 3. D - Yield to traffic already in the roundabout

When entering a roundabout, yield to all vehicles already circulating inside. Enter only when there is a safe gap in traffic. Drive counterclockwise around the circle.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Roundabouts

## 4. C - Directions and distances

Green signs provide guidance: route numbers, directions, distances, and destination names. They help you navigate to where you are going.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 1D.05 Color Code

## 5. D - Away from the curb (left)

When parking uphill with a curb, turn your wheels away from the curb (left). If the car rolls backward, it hits the curb and stops. Downhill: turn toward the curb.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Parking on a hill

## 6. B - Change lanes away if safe, or else slow down

Move Over laws require drivers to change lanes away from stopped emergency and service vehicles when safe. If you cannot move over, slow down well below the speed limit and pass with extreme caution.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Emergency vehicles

## 7. A - A protected move in the arrow's direction

A green arrow gives a protected movement: you may go in the direction of the arrow while conflicting traffic is stopped by a red signal. You must still yield to pedestrians lawfully in the crosswalk and to vehicles still lawfully in the intersection.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 4A.03 Paragraph 01 A.2

## 8. B - No stopping, standing, or parking

Where curb colors are used, red means no stopping, standing or parking; it is often used for fire lanes and near hydrants. White usually means passenger loading, green limited-time parking and blue disabled parking. Curb rules vary by state and city, so obey posted signs.

Source: [mvdmt.gov](https://mvdmt.gov) - MT handbook - Colored curb markings

## 9. D - 80%

To pass the TC test you need 80% correct.

## 10. D - 100 feet

The manual tells drivers to signal 100 feet before turning at an intersection, which gives others time to react.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](https://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.42 (PDF p.50), Turning and Turnabouts

## 11. C - Slow down, give way, and stop if needed

A yield sign requires you to slow down and give the right of way to traffic and pedestrians. You must stop if necessary, but a full stop is not always required when the way is clear.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.05

## 12. C - Showing a flashing red or blue light

Kentucky law requires drivers to yield to any vehicle with a flashing red or blue light or a siren. Pull to the right side or curb, clear of intersections, and stop until it passes.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](https://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.64 (PDF p.72), Emergency Vehicles

## 13. A - Pull over immediately and turn on hazard lights

If your headlights fail at night, immediately activate your hazard lights, signal, and safely pull completely off the road. Do not continue driving without headlights as it is extremely dangerous and illegal.

Source: [portal.ct.gov](https://portal.ct.gov) - CT handbook - Headlight Failure

#### **14. B - Vehicles on the terminating road**

At a T-intersection (where one road ends and meets another), vehicles on the through road (the top of the T) have the right of way over vehicles on the terminating road (the bottom of the T).

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Right-of-way rules

#### **15. A - No - the lane is only for vehicles turning left**

A shared center lane is reserved for left turns by traffic from both directions. Using it for through travel or to pass other vehicles is not allowed.

Source: [dol.wa.gov](http://dol.wa.gov) - (PDF p.116), Signs - Shared center lane left turn only

#### **16. A - 500 feet**

Dim your lights within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle so you do not blind the other driver. The distance is 300 feet when you are following a vehicle.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.68 (PDF p.76), Night Driving

#### **17. B - 6:00 a.m.**

Permit holders under 18 may not drive from midnight to 6:00 a.m. unless they can show good cause. Intermediate license holders have the same hours.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.5 (PDF p.13), Permit Driving

#### **18. C - Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians**

A green ball (not arrow) allows a left turn only after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. A green arrow means you have a protected turn and oncoming traffic is stopped.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Flashing Yellow Arrow / left turns

#### **19. D - 0.02**

Kentucky's zero-tolerance law makes it illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - Section One, p.6, Intermediate License Driving

#### **20. D - 25 mph**

When you cannot see farther than about 100 feet, the manual says you cannot safely drive faster than 25 mph. Use low beam headlights too.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.50 (PDF p.58), Visibility

#### **21. C - Practice Driving Log**

Kentucky requires teens to document their 60 supervised practice hours in an official Practice Driving Log.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - Section One, p.5, Requirements for the Road Test

#### **22. B - Gas, food, and lodging services**

Blue signs indicate motorist services - gas stations, food, lodging, hospitals, and rest areas - available at or near an exit.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 1D.05 Color Code

#### **23. B - Pumping the brake pedal quickly**

Pumping the pedal can restore enough pressure for the brakes to work. If it does not, shift to a lower gear and apply the parking brake slowly.

Source: [oregon.gov](http://oregon.gov) - p.85 (PDF p.93), Brakes Fail

#### **24. A - Approach slowly and pass with caution**

On two-lane highways, Kentucky drivers must approach slowly and pass with caution. On four-lane highways, move into the left lane if it is safe.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.66 (PDF p.74), Kentucky Move-Over Laws

#### **25. C - Slow down and leave more following distance**

At night your visibility is reduced, so reduce speed and increase following distance. Do not overdrive your headlights - be able to stop within the distance you can see. Avoid staring at oncoming lights; glance to the right edge of your lane.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Night driving

#### **26. A - Use both lanes to the merge point, then take turns**

Where zipper-merge signs are posted, stay in your lane until the merge point, then take turns with the other lane like the teeth of a zipper. Merging early leaves one lane empty and makes the queue longer; the Minnesota Department of Transportation reports that the zipper merge can cut the length of a backup by as much as 40 percent.

Source: [dmv.colorado.gov](http://dmv.colorado.gov) - CO handbook - Zipper Merge

### **27. C - Stopping or parking is restricted there**

Curb colors are not uniform across states. In California and Nevada yellow means a loading zone; in Florida, Tennessee and several other states a yellow curb means no parking. In every case it signals a restriction, so read nearby signs and follow state and local rules.

Source: [dmv.nv.gov](http://dmv.nv.gov) - NV handbook - Colored Curb Markings

### **28. B - Use low beams and leave more following distance**

In rain, use low-beam headlights (high beams reflect off rain), reduce speed, and increase following distance to at least 4-6 seconds. High beams can reduce visibility in rain.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Weather: rain

### **29. B - At least one worker is present**

Fines can be doubled in a highway work zone when signs warn of the work zone and the double fines, and at least one worker is present.

Source: [wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov](http://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov) - p.69 (PDF p.77), Work Zones

### **30. D - Only time**

Only time removes alcohol from the body. Coffee, food and a cold shower do not lower blood alcohol, so the person is still impaired.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Myths about Drinking Alcohol

### **31. C - When your car is disabled on or near the road**

Hazard lights warn others that your vehicle is stopped, disabled or a hazard. Rules for using them while moving (for example in heavy rain) differ between states, so follow your state handbook.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Using Your Emergency Flashers

### **32. A - Not drive at all after drinking any alcohol**

There is no safe way to drive after drinking. The only sure prevention is to not drive at all after consuming alcohol - arrange a designated sober driver, taxi, or rideshare instead.

Source: [flhsmv.gov](http://flhsmv.gov) - FL handbook - Alcohol

### **33. C - You cannot remember driving the last few miles**

Not remembering the last few miles, heavy eyelids, missing exits or signs, and drifting out of your lane all mean you should pull over and rest.

Source: [dol.wa.gov](http://dol.wa.gov) - (PDF p.75), Fatigue

### **34. B - Octagon (8-sided)**

Stop signs are always octagonal (8-sided) and red. This unique shape allows drivers to recognize them even when covered in snow or seen from behind.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Chapter 5, Table 17: Signs by Shape

### **35. B - Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks**

Never stop on railroad tracks. Wait behind the crossing until there is enough space on the other side for your whole vehicle.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - p.53 (PDF p.56), Railroad crossing safety

### **36. D - Traffic already on the highway**

Traffic already on the highway has the right of way. The merging driver must adjust speed to safely enter the flow of traffic - do not force other drivers to slow down.

Source: [flhsmv.gov](http://flhsmv.gov) - FL handbook - Entering a limited-access highway

### **37. C - Lane changes are permitted when safe**

Broken (dashed) white lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. You may change lanes when it is safe to do so.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Broken White Lines

### **38. A - Shift to neutral, brake, and steer to safety**

Shift to neutral (to disconnect engine power), then apply brakes steadily to slow the vehicle. Steer to a safe location. Only turn off the ignition if other methods fail - as this can lock the steering column in older cars.

Source: [ksrevenue.gov](http://ksrevenue.gov) - KS handbook - Accelerator Failure

### **39. B - Steering and braking will take more effort**

With the engine off you lose power steering and power brake assist, so the wheel and pedal feel much heavier. They still work - push harder and steer to a safe stop.

Source: [alea.gov](http://alea.gov) - p.75 (PDF p.77), Stuck accelerator pedal

#### **40. A - Ease off the gas and steer back gently**

If your wheels drift onto the shoulder, do not brake hard or jerk the wheel. Ease off the accelerator, keep a firm grip, and steer back onto the pavement gently once your speed has decreased - this prevents loss of control.

Source: [ksrevenue.gov](http://ksrevenue.gov) - KS handbook - Vehicle leaves the pavement

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<https://permitpractice.us/kentucky/>

Official TC website: <https://drive.ky.gov/>

Official Kentucky driver's handbook: [https://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Kentucky-Driver-Manual\\_Updated\\_7-23-26.pdf](https://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Kentucky-Driver-Manual_Updated_7-23-26.pdf)





















