

# Montana MVD

## Permit Practice Test 2026

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

### Montana permit test: quick facts

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Questions on the real test | Not published by the MVD                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Passing score              | Not published by the MVD (our practice tests use 74%)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Wrong answers allowed      | Depends on test length (not published)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Minimum age                | 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Testing agency             | Motor Vehicle Division (Montana Department of Justice) (MVD)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Official permit name       | Learner License (MCA 61-5-106); a separate instructor-issued Traffic Education Permit exists for students enrolled in traffic education                                                                                    |
| Permit fee                 | \$5.00 per year (learner license/Class D license fee; +3% MVD administrative fee since 2018)                                                                                                                               |
| If you fail                | No specific waiting period published; the license receipt (valid 1 year) allows 3 attempts to pass all required exams, after which you must re-apply                                                                       |
| Online testing             | No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Driver's education         | Learner license at 15 with an approved traffic education course, or at 16 without one; 14 1/2 while enrolled (Traffic Education Learner License). Statute (MCA 61-5-132) makes a course a condition of a license before 18 |
| Supervised practice        | 50 hours incl. 10 at night with traditional traffic-ed course; 75 hours incl. 15 at night with an alternative (DOJ-approved) course (MCA 61-5-132)                                                                         |
| Permit holding period      | 6 months for applicants under 18 (MCA 61-5-132(1)(a)); no statutory hold for 18+                                                                                                                                           |
| Under-21 alcohol limit     | 0.02% BAC or higher                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

### How to use this PDF

1. The MVD does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 33 questions, the length of our online mock test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need Not published by the MVD (our practice tests use 74%).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Montana knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/montana/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Montana driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual MVD exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-10-19. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 [permitpractice.us](https://permitpractice.us)

# Montana Permit Practice Test: 33 Questions

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

**1. 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

**2. The maximum speed limit on Montana rural interstates is:**

- A) 80 mph
- B) 70 mph
- C) 75 mph
- D) 65 mph

**3. In most states, which left turn may you make on a steady red light after a full stop, if no sign forbids it?**

- A) From a one-way street onto another one-way street
- B) From a two-way street onto another two-way street
- C) From a two-way street into a store's driveway
- D) From any street when no oncoming car is in sight

**4. A warning sign showing a truck on a downgrade indicates:**

- A) A steep downhill grade ahead
- B) A runaway truck ramp ahead
- C) A truck weigh station ahead
- D) A truck crossing ahead

**5. What must you do when you see or hear an emergency vehicle with lights and/or siren on?**

- A) Pull to the left lane and slow down
- B) Pull to the right edge and stop
- C) Stop immediately where you are
- D) Slow down but stay in your lane

**6. A red circle with a red slash through a symbol means:**

- A) Caution for the action shown
- B) The action shown is prohibited
- C) The action is allowed after stopping
- D) The action is required ahead

**7. A deer runs across the road ahead of you and disappears into the trees. What should you expect next?**

- A) More deer may follow close behind
- B) Deer never cross the same road twice
- C) The road is now clear of animals
- D) The deer will turn back toward you

**8. A motorcycle coming toward an intersection has its turn signal blinking. What should you do before pulling out in front of it?**

- A) Go - a blinking signal means it will turn
- B) Flash your headlights and then pull out
- C) Wait until you are sure it is really turning
- D) Pull out quickly before it reaches you

**9. Even when no signal is flashing at a railroad crossing, Montana law requires you to stop if an approaching train is within:**

- A) 1,000 feet of the crossing
- B) 2,500 feet of the crossing
- C) 1,500 feet of the crossing
- D) 500 feet of the crossing

**10. Your brake lights are not working. Which hand signal tells drivers behind you that you are slowing or stopping?**

- A) Left arm held straight out
- B) Right arm waved out the window
- C) Left arm out and bent downward
- D) Left arm out and bent upward

**11. A round (circular) sign indicates:**

- A) A stop ahead
- B) A one-way street
- C) A speed limit change
- D) A railroad crossing

**12. 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

**13. In Montana, when you meet or come up behind a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing, you must stop at least how far from the bus?**

- A) 10 feet
- B) 30 feet
- C) 20 feet
- D) 50 feet

**14. In Montana, you may not park within how many feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal?**

- A) 30 feet
- B) 20 feet
- C) 50 feet
- D) 15 feet

**15. What is the only real cure for drowsiness while driving?**

- A) Turning the radio up loud
- B) Drinking strong coffee
- C) Getting sleep or rest
- D) Opening a window for cold air

**16. What is the purpose of an anti-lock braking system (ABS)?**

- A) To let you pump the brakes faster in a skid
- B) To brake for you when a car ahead stops
- C) To keep wheels from locking so you can steer
- D) To stop your vehicle faster by automatically pumping brakes

**17. What does a downward-pointing triangle sign mean?**

- A) Merge
- B) Do not enter
- C) Yield
- D) Stop ahead

**18. What driving speed does the Montana manual give for roundabouts?**

- A) 15 mph or less
- B) 25 mph or less
- C) 30 mph or less
- D) 35 mph or less

**19. During which period are studded tires not allowed in Montana?**

- A) June 1 through September 30
- B) July 1 through October 31
- C) May 1 through August 31
- D) April 15 through October 15

**20. When are you required to use headlights?**

- A) Only at night on roads without streetlights
- B) At night and when visibility is reduced
- C) Only on highways at night, not on city streets
- D) Only when it is fully dark, not in bad weather

**21. A flashing yellow arrow on a traffic signal means:**

- A) Turn freely - oncoming traffic is stopped
- B) Wait - the arrow is about to turn red
- C) Stop fully, then turn ahead of the oncoming cars
- D) Turn after yielding to traffic and pedestrians

**22. Your regular brakes have failed and pumping did not help. How should you use the parking (emergency) brake?**

- A) Only after the car has stopped
- B) Apply it and release it rapidly
- C) Apply it slowly and gradually
- D) Pull it on as hard as you can

**23. When you reach an intersection with a flashing red light in your direction and a flashing yellow in the cross direction, you must:**

- A) Stop, then go first - cross traffic must yield
- B) Stop, then go when safe - cross traffic won't stop
- C) Slow down and go - the cross traffic has to stop
- D) Stop and wait until your light turns solid green

**24. On an undivided two-lane road, a school bus stops with its red lights flashing and stop arm out. What must drivers do?**

- A) Stop, then pass slowly if no children are seen
- B) Slow down and pass on the left with caution
- C) Stop in both directions until the lights stop
- D) Wait until children reach the curb, then pass

**25. A sign that reads 'DO NOT ENTER' on a red and white background means:**

- A) Enter only after a full stop
- B) Only local traffic may enter
- C) Enter only if no cars are coming
- D) You may not enter the road ahead

**26. What does the Move Over Law require?**

- A) Keep your lane and speed, but use flashers
- B) Stop your vehicle when you see emergency lights
- C) Move over a lane, or slow down if you cannot
- D) Move over only if a police car is stopped

**27. What does an orange-colored sign indicate?**

- A) A work zone ahead
- B) A railroad crossing ahead
- C) A hospital zone ahead
- D) A school zone ahead

**28. What color are warning signs?**

- A) Yellow or orange
- B) Blue or green
- C) White with black letters
- D) Red

**29. A diamond-shaped sign is used to indicate:**

- A) A regulation you must obey
- B) A route number for a highway
- C) A warning of a hazard ahead
- D) A recreation or park area

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

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

**31. A yellow sign showing a traffic signal symbol means:**

- A) An emergency vehicle signal
- B) A traffic light is ahead
- C) The signal ahead is broken
- D) A railroad signal ahead

**32. A yellow sign showing a person walking indicates:**

- A) A sidewalk ends ahead
- B) Pedestrians may be crossing
- C) A walking trail starts here
- D) No pedestrians allowed ahead

**33. Double solid yellow center lines mean:**

- A) No passing from either direction
- B) Passing is allowed if the road ahead is clear
- C) A center lane for left turns only
- D) Passing is allowed from both directions

# Answer Key & Explanations

## 1. 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

## 2. A - 80 mph

Montana posts speeds up to 80 mph on rural interstates. Always obey the posted limit, which may be lower.

Source: [mvdmt.gov](http://mvdmt.gov) - PDF p.48 (manual p.38), 'Speed Limits' table, cars day/night

## 3. A - From a one-way street onto another one-way street

Most states allow a left turn on red from a one-way street onto another one-way street that carries traffic to the left. You must stop fully and yield to pedestrians and traffic first.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - p.66 (PDF p.69), Left turn on red

## 4. A - A steep downhill grade ahead

A sign showing a truck on a slope warns of a steep downhill grade. Trucks should use a lower gear; all drivers should check brakes and control speed.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.14

## 5. B - Pull to the right edge and stop

When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights or siren, you must immediately pull to the right edge of the road and stop. Remain stopped until the vehicle has passed.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Yield Right-of-Way to Emergency Vehicles

## 6. B - The action shown is prohibited

A red circle with a diagonal slash means the action depicted inside is prohibited - for example, no left turn, no U-turn, or no trucks.

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

## 7. A - More deer may follow close behind

Deer usually travel in groups, so one deer crossing often means others are close behind. Slow down and be ready to stop.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - p.84 (PDF p.87), Watch out for deer

## 8. C - Wait until you are sure it is really turning

Many motorcycle turn signals do not cancel by themselves, so a rider may have forgotten one. Wait until the motorcycle actually starts to turn.

Source: [publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov) - Section 9 - Sharing the Road, Motorcyclists

## 9. C - 1,500 feet of the crossing

You must stop for a train that is within 1,500 feet of the crossing, or one that is plainly visible and an obvious hazard, even without signals, gates or a flagger.

Source: [mvdmt.gov](http://mvdmt.gov) - p.33 (PDF p.43), Railroad Crossing Warning Signs/Signals

## 10. C - Left arm out and bent downward

An arm extended out and bent down signals slowing or stopping. Arm bent up is a right turn and arm straight out is a left turn.

Source: [public.powerdms.com](http://public.powerdms.com) - p.93 (PDF p.98), Hand signals

## 11. D - A railroad crossing

A round, yellow sign with a black X and two R's warns of a railroad crossing ahead. The circular shape is used exclusively for railroad advance-warning signs.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) Section 2A.05 and Table 2A-1 (W10-1)

## 12. 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

## 13. B - 30 feet

Drivers from either direction must stop at least 30 feet from a stopped school bus showing flashing red lights and wait until the red lights are turned off.

Source: [mvdmt.gov](http://mvdmt.gov) - p.40 (PDF p.50), Right-of-Way, School Buses

#### **14. A - 30 feet**

Montana bans parking within 30 feet of a traffic signal, stop sign or yield sign, so parked cars do not hide the sign or signal from other drivers.

Source: mvdmt.gov - p.46 (PDF p.56), No Parking Zones

#### **15. C - Getting sleep or rest**

Coffee, cold air and loud music may help for a short time, but they do not last. Only sleep or rest fixes fatigue, so stop and rest when you are tired.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.91 (PDF p.94), Drugs and fatigue

#### **16. C - To keep wheels from locking so you can steer**

ABS prevents wheels from locking during hard braking, allowing you to maintain steering control. When ABS activates, you may feel pulsing in the brake pedal - this is normal. Press firmly and steer.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Anti-lock brakes

#### **17. C - Yield**

An inverted (downward-pointing) triangle is always a YIELD sign. Slow down, be ready to stop, and give the right of way to traffic and pedestrians.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2A.05, Table 2A-1 Use of Sign Shapes

#### **18. A - 15 mph or less**

Montana roundabouts are built for slow travel: 15 mph or less. Slow down, yield to traffic already in the circle, and keep to the right of the center island.

Source: mvdmt.gov - p.32 (PDF p.42), Roundabouts in Montana

#### **19. A - June 1 through September 30**

Studded tires can damage the road, so Montana does not allow them from June 1 through September 30.

Source: mvdmt.gov - p.60 (PDF p.70), Slippery Roads

#### **20. B - At night and when visibility is reduced**

Every state requires headlights at night and when visibility is reduced. The exact period varies: some states say sunset to sunrise, many say 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Many states also require headlights whenever your wipers are on or you cannot see a set distance (often 500 or 1,000 feet) ahead.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 9, Headlights

#### **21. D - Turn after yielding to traffic and pedestrians**

A flashing yellow arrow means you may turn in that direction after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. It is an unprotected turn - proceed only when safe.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 4A.04 Paragraph 01 B.2

#### **22. C - Apply it slowly and gradually**

Setting the parking brake too hard or too fast can lock the wheels and throw the car into a skid. Apply it slowly while you steer to a safe place.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.84 (PDF p.87), Brake failure

#### **23. B - Stop, then go when safe - cross traffic won't stop**

A flashing red light works like a stop sign: stop completely, then go when safe. The cross traffic with a flashing yellow only needs to slow and proceed with caution - they do not stop, so you must yield to them.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Flashing lights

#### **24. C - Stop in both directions until the lights stop**

On an undivided road, traffic in both directions must stop for a school bus showing flashing red lights and a stop arm, and stay stopped until the lights stop. Rules for the opposite side of a divided highway differ by state (New York requires you to stop even then), so check your handbook.

Source: dmv.ny.gov - NY handbook - School buses

#### **25. D - You may not enter the road ahead**

A 'Do Not Enter' sign means you must not enter the road or ramp ahead - usually because it is one-way or an exit ramp. Entering would put you in oncoming traffic.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.46

#### **26. C - Move over a lane, or slow down if you cannot**

All 50 states have Move Over laws requiring drivers to move over at least one lane away from stopped emergency, police, and maintenance vehicles. If changing lanes is unsafe, slow to well below the speed limit.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Move Over Law

### **27. A - A work zone ahead**

Orange signs indicate construction and maintenance work zones. Reduce speed, watch for workers and equipment, and be prepared for changed traffic patterns. Fines are often doubled.

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

### **28. A - Yellow or orange**

Warning signs are yellow (standard warnings) or orange (construction/work zones). They alert drivers to potential hazards ahead such as curves, intersections, or pedestrians.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](https://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

### **29. C - A warning of a hazard ahead**

Diamond-shaped signs are warning signs. They alert you to hazards or changes in road conditions ahead, such as curves, intersections, or pedestrian crossings.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.02

### **30. 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](https://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Chapter 5, Table 17: Signs by Shape

### **31. B - A traffic light is ahead**

A signal-ahead warning sign tells you a traffic light is coming up, often where it may be hard to see in time. Be prepared to slow and stop.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.35

### **32. B - Pedestrians may be crossing**

A pedestrian symbol on a yellow or yellow-green sign warns that pedestrians may be crossing. Slow down and yield to anyone in or entering the crosswalk.

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

### **33. A - No passing from either direction**

Double solid yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions. Crossing them to pass is prohibited from both directions.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](https://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Pavement markings

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

Official MVD website: <https://dojmt.gov/driving/>

Official Montana driver's handbook: <https://mvdmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/25-0100M-Montana-Driver-Manual-English-05.26.pdf>

















