

New York DMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

20-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

New York permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	20
Passing score	70% (14 of 20 correct), including at least 2 of 4 on Road Signs
Wrong answers allowed	6 (no more than 2 of the 4 Road Signs questions)
Minimum age	16
Testing agency	Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Official permit name	Junior Learner Permit (Class DJ) for under 18; Learner Permit (Class D) for 18+
Permit fee	\$80.00-\$90.00 for ages 16-16.5 (combined learner permit + driver license fee; varies by age and MCTD residency, \$64.25-\$102.50 across all ages)
Online testing	Yes - an online knowledge test option is available.
Driver's education	No - driver education is not required for the learner permit.
Supervised practice	50 hours incl. 15 after sunset (Class DJ/MJ, certified on form MV-262 before the road test)
Permit holding period	6 months (under 18) before scheduling the road test
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 20 questions, the same number as the real New York DMV knowledge test. Like the real test, it includes 4 questions on road signs.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 70% (14 of 20 correct), including at least 2 of 4 on Road Signs.
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the New York knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/new-york/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the New York driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual DMV exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-09-28. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 permitpractice.us

New York Permit Practice Test: 20 Questions

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

1. What does a yellow traffic light mean?

- A) Proceed normally
- B) Stop at once, no matter how close you are
- C) The light is about to turn green
- D) Stop if it is safe to do so

2. In most states, how far before a turn must you begin signaling on a city street?

- A) At least 500 feet
- B) At least 20 feet
- C) At least 10 feet
- D) At least 100 feet

3. Aggressive driving behaviors such as tailgating, weaving, and excessive speeding:

- A) Are only illegal when they cause a crash
- B) Are safe for skilled drivers in light traffic
- C) Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges
- D) Save enough time to make up for the added risk

4. A small sign below a railroad crossbuck shows the number 2. What does it tell you?

- A) Trains come through here about twice a day
- B) Stop at least two car lengths from the rails
- C) There are two sets of tracks at the crossing
- D) The crossing is two miles down the road

5. A long train has just passed a crossing that has two sets of tracks. Before you cross, you should:

- A) Look for a second train on the other track
- B) Honk to warn any train and then cross quickly
- C) Cross as soon as the gates begin to rise
- D) Go at once, because the train has cleared the road

6. At what times are deer and other wildlife most active near roads?

- A) Around midday
- B) During the late morning
- C) Around dawn and dusk
- D) In the early afternoon

7. Green traffic signs provide:

- A) Guide information (directions)
- B) Warning information (hazards)
- C) Service information (gas, food)
- D) Regulatory information (laws)

8. 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

9. 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

10. A rectangular white sign reading 'KEEP RIGHT' with an arrow means:

- A) Stay in the right lane to pass
- B) Pass the divider on either side
- C) Go to the right of the divider
- D) Right turns only

11. When should you use your windshield wipers?

- A) Whenever rain, snow or spray blurs your view
- B) Only when the car's rain sensor turns them on
- C) Only once rain is heavy, to save the blades
- D) Only in rain, not for snow or road spray

12. At a roundabout, in which direction does traffic flow and who has priority?

- A) Counterclockwise; circulating traffic has priority
- B) Counterclockwise; the larger vehicle has priority
- C) Counterclockwise; entering traffic has priority
- D) Clockwise; traffic in the circle has priority

13. Which of the following is NOT a legal reason to use your horn?

- A) To warn a driver drifting into your lane
- B) To warn others on a blind mountain curve
- C) To alert a child about to run into the road
- D) To express frustration at another driver

14. 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

15. You are driving at 60 mph on a highway. How many feet does your vehicle travel per second?

- A) 100 feet
- B) 88 feet
- C) 44 feet
- D) 66 feet

16. A yellow sign showing a bump or dip in the road warns you to:

- A) Keep speed - it only affects trucks
- B) Stop and check the road ahead
- C) Slow down for a rough spot ahead
- D) Move to the shoulder to avoid it

17. Who must yield when a pedestrian is crossing at a marked crosswalk?

- A) The pedestrian, since cars cannot stop quickly
- B) The driver must yield to the pedestrian
- C) The driver, but only at a traffic signal
- D) Whoever reached the crosswalk first

18. For adult drivers (21+), what Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the legal limit in most states?

- A) 0.05%
- B) 0.02%
- C) 0.08%
- D) 0.04%

19. 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

20. 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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. D - Stop if it is safe to do so

A yellow (amber) light means the signal is about to turn red. You should stop if it is safe to do so. Only proceed if stopping would be unsafe (e.g., you are too close to the intersection).

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Traffic Signals, Solid Yellow Light

2. D - At least 100 feet

Most states require a signal at least 100 feet before turning (CA, TX, NY, FL, MN and many others). Some require more on faster roads (200-300 feet) and Tennessee sets 50 feet, so check your own handbook. Always signal, even if you see no one around.

Source: tn.gov - TN handbook - Turning / signaling

3. C - Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges

Aggressive driving dramatically increases the risk of a crash and can lead to reckless driving citations, points, and higher insurance. The time saved is minimal compared to the danger created.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Aggressive driving

4. C - There are two sets of tracks at the crossing

When a crossing has more than one track, a sign under the crossbuck shows how many tracks there are. Be ready for a train on any of them.

Source: alea.gov - p.39 (PDF p.41), Railroad Crossbuck

5. A - Look for a second train on the other track

One train can hide another coming from either direction on a second track. Wait until you can see clearly both ways and all signals have stopped.

Source: oregon.gov - p.64 (PDF p.72), Railroad Crossings

6. C - Around dawn and dusk

Wildlife moves most at dawn and dusk, when light is also poor for your eyes. Scan both sides of the road and watch for eyes reflecting your headlights.

Source: public.powerdms.com - p.104 (PDF p.109), Animals

7. A - Guide information (directions)

Green signs provide guidance information such as highway route numbers, exit numbers, destinations, distances, and directions. They help drivers navigate.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

8. 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

9. 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 - CA handbook - Flashing Yellow Arrow / left turns

10. C - Go to the right of the divider

A 'Keep Right' sign directs you to pass to the right of a traffic island, median, or obstruction. It keeps traffic flowing correctly around the divider.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.39

11. A - Whenever rain, snow or spray blurs your view

Use your wipers whenever precipitation or road spray reduces your view. Many states also require your headlights to be on whenever your wipers are in use because of weather.

Source: dmv.virginia.gov - VA handbook - Bad weather

12. A - Counterclockwise; circulating traffic has priority

In the United States, traffic in a roundabout flows counterclockwise, and vehicles already circulating in the roundabout have the right of way. Entering drivers must yield and merge into a safe gap.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Roundabouts

13. D - To express frustration at another driver

Horns are safety devices used to warn others of danger. Using your horn out of frustration or anger is not a legal use and can be considered aggressive driving in many states.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Horn

14. 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 - p.85 (PDF p.93), Brakes Fail

15. B - 88 feet

At 60 mph, a vehicle travels about 88 feet per second ($60 \times 5,280 / 3,600 = 88$). Understanding stopping distances is critical - at 60 mph you need approximately 300 feet to stop.

Source: nj.gov - NJ handbook - Stopping distance

16. C - Slow down for a rough spot ahead

Bump and dip signs warn of an abrupt change in the road surface. Slow down to maintain control and protect your vehicle's suspension.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.26

17. B - The driver must yield to the pedestrian

Drivers must always yield to pedestrians who are crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Pedestrian safety is the highest priority.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Pedestrians / Crosswalks

18. C - 0.08%

In most US states, a BAC of 0.08% or higher is legally considered driving under the influence (DUI) for drivers 21 and older. Always check your state's specific laws.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - California Driver Handbook - Alcohol and drug limits

19. 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 - MN handbook - Weather: rain

20. 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 - CA handbook - Emergency vehicles

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<https://permitpractice.us/new-york/>

Official DMV website: <https://dmv.ny.gov/>

Official New York driver's handbook: <https://dmv.ny.gov/brochure/mv21.pdf>

