

Tennessee TDOSHS

Permit Practice Test 2026

30-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Tennessee permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	30
Passing score	80% (24 of 30 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	6
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Department of Safety and Homeland Security (Driver Services Division) (TDOSHS)
Official permit name	Learner Permit (Class PD)
If you fail	24 hours (online test); online test limited to 2 attempts
Online testing	Partially - online testing is available only in some cases (see the official site).
Driver's education	No - driver education is not required for the learner permit.
Supervised practice	50 hours (including 10 hours at night), verified by a parent, legal guardian or driving instructor
Permit holding period	180 days before moving to the Intermediate Restricted License (minimum age 16)
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 30 questions, the same number as the real Tennessee TDOSHS knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 80% (24 of 30 correct).
3. Time: The TDOSHS's online knowledge test allows 60 minutes. Time yourself the same way.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/tennessee/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

Tennessee Permit Practice Test: 30 Questions

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

1. 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

2. What does a flashing red light mean?

- A) Stop, then go when it is safe
- B) Stop and wait for the light to turn green
- C) Yield, but stop only if cars are coming
- D) Slow down and proceed with caution

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 diamond-shaped orange sign indicates:

- A) A work zone ahead
- B) A slow-moving vehicle ahead
- C) A yield ahead
- D) A school zone

5. 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

6. A sign reading 'SPEED LIMIT 55' is what type of sign?

- A) Informational
- B) Warning
- C) Regulatory
- D) Guide

7. What is the safest action when you are being tailgated?

- A) Ignore them and maintain your exact speed
- B) Tap your brakes hard to warn them off
- C) Speed up well past the limit to pull away from them
- D) Move over or add space ahead and let them pass

8. A center lane has a solid yellow line and a broken yellow line on each side, plus two-way turn arrows. Who may use it?

- A) Drivers from either direction about to turn left
- B) Drivers waiting to merge into the right lane
- C) Drivers who need to pass a slow vehicle ahead
- D) Only buses and cars carrying two or more people

9. A yellow sign showing a bicycle means:

- A) A bike rental station ahead
- B) Bicyclists may be on the road
- C) Bicycles must use the sidewalk
- D) Bicycles are not allowed ahead

10. In most states, you must not park within how many feet of a fire hydrant?

- A) 30 feet
- B) 5 feet
- C) 15 feet
- D) 10 feet

11. 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

12. 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

13. A Tennessee driver under 18 receives a notice of proposed license suspension after earning how many points within 12 months?

- A) 3 points
- B) 6 points
- C) 15 points
- D) 12 points

14. 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

15. 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

16. When may a driver enter or cross a bike lane?

- A) To turn or cross to parking, yielding to cyclists
- B) To wait in it while the car ahead of you turns
- C) Never, under any circumstances
- D) To pass slower cars when traffic is heavy

17. What is the most effective way to stay alert on a long drive?

- A) Drink coffee or an energy drink each hour
- B) Take breaks every 2 hours or 100 miles
- C) Keep the window open and the air cold
- D) Turn up the radio and sing along

18. A solid white line between lanes of traffic going the same direction means:

- A) The road is one-way
- B) Lane changes are allowed when safe
- C) Lane changes are discouraged
- D) Traffic moves in opposite directions

19. What does a yellow pennant-shaped sign (a sideways triangle pointing right) on the left side of the road mean?

- A) No-passing zone begins
- B) A sharp curve
- C) Passing lane begins ahead
- D) Merge ahead

20. If a tire blows out while you are driving, the first thing you should do is:

- A) Steer hard toward the shoulder right away
- B) Brake hard to stop as quickly as you can
- C) Turn on hazard lights and stop in the lane
- D) Hold the wheel firmly and ease off the gas

21. A yellow diamond sign showing arrows that curve around in a circle indicates:

- A) A roundabout ahead
- B) A detour loop ahead
- C) A U-turn area ahead
- D) A dead-end turnaround

22. What does the 'basic speed law' require?

- A) Never drive more than 10 mph below the posted limit
- B) You may always drive at the posted limit, whatever the conditions
- C) Drive no faster than is safe for current conditions
- D) Keep up with the flow of traffic, even above the limit

23. 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

24. 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

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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

30. 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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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 - p.53 (PDF p.56), Railroad crossing safety

2. A - Stop, then go when it is safe

A flashing red light must be treated exactly like a stop sign. Come to a complete stop, check for traffic and pedestrians, then proceed when safe.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Flashing Red Light

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. A - A work zone ahead

Orange diamond-shaped signs indicate construction or work zones. Speed limits are often reduced and fines are doubled in work zones. Slow down and stay alert.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

5. 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 - p.93 (PDF p.98), Hand signals

6. C - Regulatory

Speed limit signs are regulatory - they state the maximum legal speed under ideal conditions, which you are legally required to obey.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.21 Paragraph 13

7. D - Move over or add space ahead and let them pass

When tailgated, do not brake-check. Move to another lane if possible or increase the gap to the vehicle ahead so you have more room to stop gradually - this gives both you and the tailgater more reaction time.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Space: tailgaters

8. A - Drivers from either direction about to turn left

This is a two-way left-turn lane. Drivers from both directions share it, entering it only just before they turn left. It is not a travel or passing lane.

Source: publicsafety.ohio.gov - Section 4 - Rules of the Road, Two-way Left Turn Only Lane

9. B - Bicyclists may be on the road

A bicycle symbol warns that bicyclists may be on or crossing the roadway. Share the road, slow down, and give cyclists adequate space when passing.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.54

10. C - 15 feet

Most states (including California, Texas, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania) prohibit parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Some use a shorter distance (for example 10 feet in Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon), so check your state handbook.

Source: portal.ct.gov - CT handbook - Parking restrictions

11. 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

12. 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 - (PDF p.116), Signs - Shared center lane left turn only

13. B - 6 points

Drivers under 18 get a notice of proposed suspension at 6 or more points in 12 months, and an advisory letter at 1 to 5 points. Adults reach the suspension notice at 12 points.

Source: [tn.gov](https://www.tn.gov) - p.86 (PDF p.100), Driver Improvement Program

14. 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

15. 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 - MN handbook - Pavement markings

16. A - To turn or cross to parking, yielding to cyclists

Bike lanes are for bicyclists. You may enter or cross one only when needed to turn, enter or leave a driveway or alley, or park where allowed, and you must yield to bicyclists first. States differ on details: California lets you merge into the bike lane before a turn, while Connecticut and Hawaii only let you cross it.

Source: portal.ct.gov - CT handbook - Bicyclists

17. B - Take breaks every 2 hours or 100 miles

The only real cure for drowsiness while driving is sleep. Take breaks at least every 2 hours or 100 miles. Coffee provides temporary relief but is not a substitute for rest.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Drowsy driving

18. C - Lane changes are discouraged

A solid white line discourages or prohibits lane changes. A broken (dashed) white line means lane changes are permitted when safe. White lines separate traffic moving in the same direction.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Pavement markings

19. A - No-passing zone begins

A yellow pennant-shaped sign on the left side of the road marks the beginning of a no-passing zone. It supplements the solid yellow line on the pavement.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.53

20. D - Hold the wheel firmly and ease off the gas

During a blowout, hold the steering wheel firmly to keep the vehicle straight, ease your foot off the accelerator, and let the car slow gradually. Hard braking can cause a spin. Pull off the road only after you have control.

Source: ksrevenue.gov - KS handbook - Tire blowout

21. A - A roundabout ahead

The Circular Intersection sign (a yellow diamond showing arrows curving counterclockwise in a circle) warns of a roundabout ahead. Slow down, yield to traffic already in the circle, and enter when there is a safe gap. Round signs are used only for railroad crossing advance warnings.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) Section 2A.05, Table 2A-1 and Section 2C.02

22. C - Drive no faster than is safe for current conditions

Every state has a basic speed rule: never drive faster than is reasonable and safe for traffic, weather, visibility and road conditions. You can be cited for driving too fast for conditions even while under the posted limit.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Basic speed law

23. 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

24. 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 - TX handbook - Myths about Drinking Alcohol

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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 - CA handbook - Broken White Lines

28. 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

29. 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

30. 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 - CA handbook - Roundabouts

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

Official TDOSHS website: <https://www.tn.gov/safety/>

Official Tennessee driver's handbook: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/safety/documents/DL_Manual.pdf

