

West Virginia DMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

25-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

West Virginia permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	25
Passing score	76% (19 of 25 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	6
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Official permit name	Level 1 Instruction Permit
Permit fee	\$7.50 per knowledge-test attempt
If you fail	7 days after failing the knowledge test; no attempts limit published. Passing score valid 6 months.
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, 10 at night (certification form required for Level 2)
Permit holding period	6 months (must hold Level 1 six months before Level 2)
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 25 questions, the same number as the real West Virginia DMV knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 76% (19 of 25 correct).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the West Virginia knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/west-virginia/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the West Virginia 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

West Virginia Permit Practice Test: 25 Questions

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

1. 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

2. An angry driver is tailgating you, honking and making rude gestures. What is the best response?

- A) Speed up to stay ahead of the angry driver
- B) Avoid eye contact and let the driver get by
- C) Tap your brakes to make the driver back off
- D) Gesture back so the driver knows you are upset

3. What is the difference between a black-on-white speed sign and a yellow speed sign below a warning sign?

- A) White is for trucks; yellow is for cars
- B) Yellow is the legal limit; white is advisory
- C) White is the legal limit; yellow is advisory
- D) They mean the same - both are legal limits

4. A front tire blows out while you are driving on the highway. When should you start using the brakes?

- A) After the car has slowed and is under control
- B) As soon as the car starts to pull to one side
- C) Right away, pressing the pedal as hard as you can
- D) Immediately, using quick hard pumps of the pedal

5. What is the minimum age to apply for a learner's permit in West Virginia?

- A) 14 years old
- B) 17 years old
- C) 15 years old
- D) 16 years old

6. West Virginia prohibits all drivers from:

- A) Talking through a hands-free headset
- B) Texting or using a handheld phone
- C) Listening to the radio while driving
- D) Using a GPS mounted on the dashboard

7. How do prescription and over-the-counter medications affect driving?

- A) Legal medicines are always safe to drive on
- B) Only if you take more than the dose listed
- C) Many cause drowsiness - check the label first
- D) Only prescription drugs can impair driving

8. 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

9. In West Virginia, a crash with injury or with property damage over \$1,000 must be reported to police within:

- A) 10 days
- B) 5 days
- C) 48 hours
- D) 24 hours

10. After you pass a large truck, how long does the West Virginia handbook say to wait before merging back to the right?

- A) Four seconds
- B) Six seconds
- C) One second
- D) Two seconds

11. 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

12. On a road with ice or snow, how far behind the vehicle ahead does the West Virginia handbook tell you to stay?

- A) At least four seconds
- B) At least three seconds
- C) At least two seconds
- D) At least six seconds

13. 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

14. Signs on a West Virginia interstate warn that a lane ahead is closed for construction. When should you move into the open lane?

- A) At the last cone before the closure
- B) As soon as you safely can
- C) Only when a flagger tells you to
- D) After traffic behind you has passed

15. A yellow diamond sign showing a deer means:

- A) A wildlife park entrance
- B) A nature trail crossing
- C) Deer may cross the road
- D) Hunting is allowed nearby

16. 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

17. During the first 6 months of West Virginia Level 2, a driver may carry how many non-family passengers under 20?

- A) Zero
- B) Two
- C) One
- D) Three

18. At a 4-way stop sign, two cars arrive at exactly the same time. Who goes first?

- A) The car going straight
- B) The car on the left
- C) The car that signals first
- D) The car on the right

19. In West Virginia, a school zone includes the street next to school grounds for how far beyond those grounds?

- A) 50 feet
- B) 500 feet
- C) 300 feet
- D) 125 feet

20. 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

21. When should you check your tire pressure?

- A) Once a year at your oil change or state inspection
- B) After driving a while, when tires are warm
- C) Monthly and before long trips, with cold tires
- D) Only when the warning light comes on

22. 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

23. Total stopping distance is made up of:

- A) Perception, reaction, and braking distance
- B) Braking distance plus one car length
- C) Reaction distance and braking distance only
- D) Perception distance and braking distance

24. A yellow sign with a black arrow bending at a 90-degree angle indicates:

- A) A lane shift ahead
- B) A side road ahead
- C) A gentle curve
- D) A sharp turn ahead

25. When should you use your high-beam headlights?

- A) In fog for maximum light
- B) When following another car at night
- C) On open roads with no vehicles close by
- D) Whenever it is dark, regardless of other traffic

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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

2. B - Avoid eye contact and let the driver get by

Do not challenge an aggressive driver. Stay calm, avoid eye contact, and move out of the way so the situation does not get worse.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](#) - p.79 (PDF p.82), Aggressive driving

3. C - White is the legal limit; yellow is advisory

A black-on-white speed sign is the legal speed limit. A yellow speed plate below a warning sign (e.g., on a curve) is an advisory speed - the safe recommended speed for that hazard.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](#) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.59

4. A - After the car has slowed and is under control

Braking hard during a blowout can make you lose control. Hold the wheel firmly, ease off the gas, let the car slow down, and brake gently only once it is under control.

Source: [in.gov](#) - p.60 (PDF p.65), Vehicle Equipment Failures - Tire Blowout

5. C - 15 years old

In West Virginia you can apply for a learner's permit at 15 after passing the DMV knowledge test and a vision screening.

6. B - Texting or using a handheld phone

West Virginia's Electronically Distracted Driving Act bars all drivers from holding a wireless device, texting, or making calls unless they use a voice-operated or hands-free feature.

Source: [code.wvlegislature.gov](#) - W. Va. Code 17C-14-15(e); bill history 2012 SB211, 2013 HB2108, 2023 HB2218

7. C - Many cause drowsiness - check the label first

Many legal medications - including antihistamines, sleep aids, and pain relievers - can cause drowsiness, dizziness, or slowed reactions. Always read warning labels and avoid driving if a medication may impair you.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](#) - TX handbook - Drugs

8. 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](#) - p.84 (PDF p.87), Watch out for deer

9. B - 5 days

Report such a crash by the quickest means within five days: to city police inside a municipality, otherwise to the county sheriff or the nearest State Police office.

Source: [webapps.transportation.wv.gov](#) - PDF p.26, Crashes

10. D - Two seconds

Give two seconds after passing a truck before you merge right, so you do not cut in close in front of it. Trucks need much more distance to stop than cars.

Source: [webapps.transportation.wv.gov](#) - PDF p.63, Sharing the Road with Heavy Trucks

11. 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](#) - p.75 (PDF p.77), Stuck accelerator pedal

12. D - At least six seconds

Ice and snow greatly increase stopping distance, so West Virginia advises staying at least six seconds behind the vehicle in front.

Source: [webapps.transportation.wv.gov](#) - PDF p.57, Following Distance

13. 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

14. B - As soon as you safely can

Lane closures are signed well in advance. The handbook tells drivers to move to the open lane as soon as possible instead of waiting until the last minute.

Source: webapps.transportation.wv.gov - PDF p.70, Construction Zones

15. C - Deer may cross the road

A deer symbol warns that animals frequently cross this stretch of road. Be especially alert at dawn and dusk, scan the roadsides, and slow down.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.55

16. 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

17. A - Zero

For the first six months of Level 2, West Virginia drivers may not carry any non-family passengers under the age of 20.

Source: webapps.transportation.wv.gov - PDF p.21, Level 2 GDL intermediate driver's license

18. D - The car on the right

When two vehicles arrive at a 4-way stop simultaneously, the driver on the LEFT must yield to the driver on the RIGHT. This is the standard right-of-way rule.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Right-of-Way at Intersections

19. D - 125 feet

West Virginia defines a school zone as all school property plus any street or highway next to it for 125 feet beyond the school grounds. Slow to the school zone limit there when children are present.

Source: webapps.transportation.wv.gov - PDF p.52, Speed Limits

20. 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 - FL handbook - Entering a limited-access highway

21. C - Monthly and before long trips, with cold tires

Check tire pressure monthly and before long trips, using a gauge when tires are cold (not recently driven). Proper inflation improves fuel economy, tire life, and braking performance.

Source: sd.gov - SD handbook - Vehicle maintenance

22. 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

23. A - Perception, reaction, and braking distance

Total stopping distance = perception distance (seeing the hazard) + reaction distance (moving your foot to the brake) + braking distance (the vehicle physically stopping). All three increase with speed, which is why higher speeds are far more dangerous.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Total Stopping Distance

24. D - A sharp turn ahead

A sharp-angle arrow warns of a sharp turn (not a gentle curve) ahead. Slow down significantly before the turn - the recommended speed is often posted below.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.07 Paragraph 02

25. C - On open roads with no vehicles close by

Use high beams on open roads when there is no oncoming traffic and no vehicle close ahead. Dim them within 500 feet of oncoming traffic and 200-300 feet when following. High beams reflect off fog, rain, and snow, reducing visibility.

Source: wisconsin.gov - WI handbook - High beams

Ready for the real West Virginia test?

Take the free interactive West Virginia DMV practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 25-question exam simulator.

<https://permitpractice.us/west-virginia/>

Official DMV website: <https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/>

Official West Virginia driver's handbook: https://webapps.transportation.wv.gov/TWS/DMV/Drivers_Licensing_Handbook.pdf

