



Fact Sheet

Driving and Being Road-Wise

Can you read the road? You may be surprised at what you don't know! Test your road IQ and skills for sharing the road:

1. True or False? Yellow lines on the road separate traffic traveling in the same direction.

Answer: False. Yellow lines on the highway, whether solid or dashed, generally separate traffic going in opposite directions.



2. Do you know what a yellow EXIT ONLY panel below a green freeway guide sign means?

Answer: A yellow EXIT ONLY panel below a green freeway sign means that the lane under the panel becomes the exit ramp. If you remain in the lane, you must exit the freeway.



3. What does the flashing DON'T WALK signal tell you?

Answer: The flashing DON'T WALK signal tells pedestrians already in the street that they should continue across, and it tells pedestrians still on the curb not to start walking. Pedestrians should not be in the roadway when the signal stops flashing and shows a steady signal.

4. When can you cross a double solid yellow line?

Answer: The only time you should cross a double solid yellow line is when you are making a left turn into a driveway or business entrance.



5. What does a five-sided (pentagon-shaped) sign mean?

Answer: The pentagon-shaped sign with the point to the top warns us to watch for schoolchildren. The optional fluorescent yellow-green color for these signs is much easier to see in low light, fog or rain.



6. What do the familiar red, white, and blue shield signs tell drivers?

Answer: Shield signs tell drivers they are traveling on an interstate highway. Even-numbered roads with two digits run east-west, odd-numbered interstates with two digits run north-south, and interstate routes with three digits are beltways, loops, or spur routes.



7. What is the purpose of green-and-white mile markers?

Answer: Green-and-white mile markers can be used to determine your location in case of an emergency. They also help gauge how far you've driven or how many miles are left to drive through a U.S. state.



8. What are orange diamond signs used for?

Answer: Orange diamond signs warn drivers about construction and work-zone activity. Remember that in a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a warning sign, meaning you can be cited for disobeying the flagger's directions. Don't forget to slow down around road crews.

9. In a "weaving section" where traffic is entering and exiting a freeway, who must yield the right of way?

Answer: One of the most hazardous lane-management situations occurs when freeway traffic is exiting and entering in the same lane. Vehicles entering the freeway must yield the right of way to all other traffic.

10. Where should you stop when you approach a rail crossing with flashing-light signals?

Answer: Flashing red horizontal signals mean a train is approaching or is present at a highway-rail grade crossing. You should stop your vehicle no closer than 15 feet or farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail. Never drive around, under, or through a crossing gate when it is closed, being closed, or being opened.

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