

Chapters 9 and 10: references and resources

The final two chapters tell you how to get and keep your driver's licence, and where you can find additional information. These chapters are for your reference only. You will not be tested on this material.

- **Chapter 9, your licence**, outlines the steps you need to take to get your driver's licence.
- **Chapter 10, need to know more?**, lists places to go for more information.

Design features

This guide is designed to be easy to use. Different kinds of information appear in different locations on the page. Understanding the type of information you'll find in each location will help you use this guide most effectively. Here are two sample pages with items you'll find displayed in the sidebar on the left side of the page.

developing your smart driving skills

driving tip

If there is any doubt about who has the right-of-way, or if there is any chance of a crash, it's always better to give the right-of-way to the other person.

four-way stops — when there are stop signs at all corners:

- The first vehicle to arrive at the intersection and come to a complete stop should go first.
- If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the one on the right should go first.
- If two vehicles are facing each other and have arrived at the intersection at about the same time, the one making a left turn should yield to the one going straight through.

Intersections controlled by yield signs

A yield sign means that you must let the traffic on the through road have the right-of-way. You may enter the intersection without stopping if there are no pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles on the through road. But you must slow down (and stop if necessary) wait for a safe gap if there is traffic on the through road.

Traffic circles and roundabouts

These are found in some areas to help traffic get through an intersection safely without necessarily stopping the flow of traffic.

Traffic circles

Traffic circles are mostly found in residential neighbourhoods.

When you're using a traffic circle:

- Slow down as you approach the circle.
- Obey any posted traffic control signs, such as "Yield" or "Stop" signs. If there are no traffic control signs, treat it as an uncontrolled intersection.
- Yield to any traffic in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.
- Go around the traffic circle to the right (that is, in a counter-clockwise direction).

You must turn right to enter a traffic circle and right again to leave it. Yield to vehicles that are already in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.

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chapter 5 — see-think-do

crash fact

In B.C. in 2007:

- Speed was a factor in about 38 per cent of all reported fatal collisions.
- 4,162 people were injured and 161 died in collisions involving speed.

Source: B.C. Traffic Collision Statistics, 2007

You are using the tools of speed control — the accelerator and the brake. If you drive a vehicle with a standard transmission, you'll also use the gear to help you control your speed. Good speed control means maintaining appropriate and steady speeds based on the driving conditions.

Appropriate speeds

Speeding is risky, but the safest speed isn't always the slowest speed. If you drive much slower than surrounding traffic, other drivers might get frustrated and try to pass you.

Aim for a speed that's appropriate for the conditions in which you are driving. The posted speed is the maximum for ideal conditions only. Choose a slower speed if the conditions are not ideal — for instance, if the roads are slippery or visibility is limited.

Unless a sign tells you otherwise, speed limits are:

- 50 km/h within cities and towns
- 80 km/h outside cities and towns
- 20 km/h is the maximum speed limit in a lane or alleyway within municipalities unless otherwise posted.

driving tip

Driving at a steady speed saves fuel. Suddenly changing your speed or driving over the speed limit will increase your fuel consumption.

Steady speeds

To keep a steady speed, use your brake and accelerator smoothly. Driving up to a stop sign quickly and then hitting the brake isn't good for your passengers or your vehicle. It can also cause the driver behind to crash into the rear of your vehicle.

To keep your driving speed smooth and steady, you need to anticipate. When you see a stop sign, start to slow down. Scan for hazards ahead, and use your brakes to gradually slow your vehicle.

Prepare yourself when you see a hazard ahead. Take your foot off the accelerator and cover the brake by resting your foot lightly on the brake pedal without activating the brake. Your vehicle will slow slightly and you will be able to respond more quickly if you must stop.

Physics and driving

You need to pay attention to the laws of physics when you drive:

Traction — this is the grip your tires have on the road.

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Sidebar

Main column