

New York

Last-minute permit review

A focused refresher before your written knowledge test. Car learners. Reviewed 14 October 2026. This is not the complete handbook.

Three state details worth checking

- New York City red lights: In NYC, a turn on red is prohibited unless a sign specifically allows it. Do not carry a rule from another city into NYC.
- School buses: Stop for a stopped school bus with red lights from either direction, including across a divided highway. Leave at least 20 feet.
- When to move again: After stopping for that bus, wait until it moves or the bus driver or a traffic officer directs you to proceed. Watch for children.

Five essentials to recall

- Signs and markings: Separate the sign's meaning from the action required. A YIELD sign can require a stop when there is no safe gap.
- Right-of-way: Identify every road user, including pedestrians and cyclists. Never assume another person will yield correctly.
- Speed and space: Read the posted limit, then account for weather, visibility, curves and following space. A speed limit is not a target in poor conditions.
- Distractions and impairment: Put the phone away and arrange a sober ride when alcohol or drugs could affect driving. Knowing a number is not the same as being safe to drive.
- Question wording: Read the whole situation. Look for the road type, direction of travel, signal and exceptions before choosing.



Put the rules into practice.

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Can you explain the rule?

In New York City, you face a red light and see no sign allowing a turn on red. May you turn right after stopping?

- A. Yes, if no one is coming
- B. No
- C. Yes, if the car behind honks

Answer: B. No

NYC prohibits turns on red unless a sign permits the turn. This differs from the general rule outside NYC.

Before you leave home

- Check the official appointment page for your age, permit type and testing location.
- Confirm required identity, residency, consent and course documents directly with the agency.
- Review your own missed questions and explain the rule without looking at the answer.
- Read every question calmly. Follow the instructions and options available at your actual test.

Official sources

[NY Driver Manual, Chapter 4: traffic control](#)

[NY Driver Manual, Chapter 6: passing and school buses](#)

This sheet highlights selected topics, not the entire exam syllabus. Rules and procedures can change; the current official DMV handbook and instructions take priority. No guarantee of passing.



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