

Washington Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

40 Scored questions	— Time limit	80% (32 of 40) Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	Washington State Depart... Governing body	— Pass rate

The Numbers to Remember

- The test has 40 questions total.
- You need 32 correct to pass — that's the 80% passing standard.
- That means you can afford up to 8 wrong answers and still pass — but don't plan on using all 8.
- Scoring is one overall percentage, not broken out by topic, so a weak spot in one area can be balanced by strength in another.
- There's no separate signs-only sub-score to track — one test, one combined score, 32-of-40 to clear it.

Sign Shapes at a Glance

- Red octagon = stop, no exceptions.
- Red-and-white triangle (point down) = yield.
- Yellow diamond = general warning ahead.
- Orange = construction / work zone.
- White rectangle = regulatory rule (speed, one-way, parking).
- Green rectangle = guide/direction sign.
- Pentagon = school zone or crossing.
- Round sign = railroad crossing warning.
- When in doubt, shape and color tell you the category before you even read the words.

Right-of-Way in One Breath

- No signs? First to arrive goes first; tie goes to the driver on the right.
- Pedestrians in a crosswalk beat turning or through traffic, marked or not.
- Already in a roundabout beats trying to enter one.
- Merging traffic yields to the lane it's merging into.
- Lights-and-siren emergency vehicles always win — pull right, stop.
- At a four-way stop, first stopped is first to go; right beats left on a tie.

Top Traps

- "Posted limit is a max, not a target" — rain, fog, or traffic means slow below the limit, and going the limit in bad conditions can still be unsafe driving.
- Reduced zones apply even when empty — a school or work zone limit is enforced whether or not anyone's visible.
- Shape before words — if you can't read a sign in time, its shape and color already tell you stop, yield, warning, or rule.
- Fatigue counts as impairment — drowsy driving slows reactions similarly to alcohol, and test questions treat it that way.
- Distraction is broader than phones — eating, adjusting controls, or a heated conversation all count.
- Following distance grows in bad weather — wet or icy roads call for a longer gap than the good-conditions baseline.
- 32 of 40, not more, not less — don't overthink the score you need; just clear it with margin by reviewing every

practice-test miss before test day.

Official sources

- Washington State Department of Licensing — Driver license application, ages 16-17 | Washington State Department of Licensing:
<https://dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/get-your-first-license-or-permit/driver-license-application-ages-16-17>
- Washington State Department of Licensing — Get your learner permit | Washington State Department of Licensing:
<https://dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/get-your-first-license-or-permit/get-your-learner-permit>
- Washington State Department of Licensing — Do I need to take a test? | Washington State Department of Licensing:
<https://dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/driver-training-and-testing/do-i-need-take-test>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/driving/washington-road-signs