



Roadrunner Driving School Pre-Test Lesson

Pre-Drive Checklist (Safety Criteria)

Before you begin your driving test, the DMV examiner will ask you to locate and/or demonstrate the following vehicle and driver safety items. If an item listed in the Pre-Drive Checklist (Items 1-8 or 15-17) on your vehicle does not pass the criteria requirement (known as a “mechanical failure”), your driving test will be rescheduled.

Note: If you cannot locate and/or demonstrate the operation of 4 or more items from Items 9-14, your driving test will be counted as “unsatisfactory” (failure).

Interpreters may be used during the pre-drive inspection for the identification and use of certain controls in the vehicle, but may not accompany you during the driving test.

Only the examiner is allowed to accompany you during the driving test. Exceptions are made for training, service animals, and certain law enforcement situations.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
1. Driver Window	The window on the driver side must be open. You will be asked to open the window if the window is closed.
2. Windshield	The windshield must provide a full unobstructed field of view for you and the examiner
3. Rear-view mirrors	The vehicle must have at least 2 mirrors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 must be located outside the left side of the vehicle.• The other mirror may be located inside the center or outside on the right side of the vehicle.• Mirrors must be secure, unbroken, and provide clear visibility.
4. Turn signals	Both right and left turn signals on the front and back of the vehicle must be operational.

<p>5. Brake Lights</p>	<p>Both brake lights (1 on the right side and 1 on the left side of the vehicle) must be operational. Note: this does not include the center light (usually on the rear window).</p>
<p>6. Tires</p>	<p>Each tire must have 1/32 inch tread depth in any 2 adjacent grooves. Note: The vehicle cannot have bald tires.</p>
<p>7. Foot brake</p>	<p>There must be at least 1 inch of clearance between the pedal and the floorboard when the pedal is depressed.</p>
<p>8. Horn</p>	<p>The horn must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designed for the vehicle and in proper working condition. ● Loud enough to hear from a distance of at least 200 feet. <p>Note: The horn cannot be a bicycle horn</p>
<p>9. Emergency (Parking brake)</p>	<p>You must be able to locate and demonstrate how to use the parking brake (set and release). Note: Your driving test will be rescheduled as a mechanical failure if your parking brake does not work or if the brake does not set during the check.</p>
<p>10. Arm signals</p>	<p>You must correctly demonstrate arm signals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Left turn. ● Right turn. ● Slowing down or stopping.
<p>*11. Windshield wipers</p>	<p>You must correctly locate the windshield wiper switch and/or control.</p>
<p>*12. Defroster</p>	<p>You must correctly locate the front windshield defroster button.</p>
<p>*13. Emergency flasher (Hazard warning lights)</p>	<p>You must correctly locate the emergency flasher switch/button if the vehicle is equipped with emergency flashers.</p>
<p>*14. Headlights</p>	<p>You must correctly locate the headlight switch.</p>
<p>15 Passenger door</p>	<p>The front passenger side door must open and close properly.</p>

16 Glove box	The glove box door must be securely closed.
17. Seat (Safety belts)	All vehicles designed with seat (safety) belts must have seat (safety) belts for both you and the examiner. All seat (safety) belts must work properly and be used by the individual(s) in the car.

*During inclement weather, the driver must demonstrate that items 11-14 work properly or the driving test will be rescheduled.

Driving Performance Evaluation (DPE) Scoring Criteria

The following scoring criteria is the DMV's standard for evaluating an applicant's driving ability. All driving test examiners use these criteria to evaluate the noncommercial Class C driving tests.

A "traffic check" is both the observation of vehicle and pedestrian traffic and the proper reaction to the traffic. It is observed by the examiner in every action.

Parking Lot Driving Scoring Criteria

The criteria is used to evaluate your ability while driving through a parking lot.

Traffic Check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead and behind you
 - To the left and right.
- You yield the right-of-way to vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary for safety.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Speed

- You drive through the parking lot at a safe speed and are in control of the vehicle.



Backing Scoring Criteria

Criteria used to evaluate your ability to pull to the curb, back the vehicle in a straight line without striking the curb, and merge back into traffic

Action: Entering (E), Backing (B), and Exiting (X)

Traffic check (E/B/X)

- You observe traffic while entering or exiting:

- Ahead.
- To the right before entering and the left before exiting, and behind you.
- You check appropriate blind spots.
 - Note:** this is indicated by looking over your left or right shoulder, and using mirrors as appropriate.
- You look:
 - Over your right shoulder while backing.
 - Toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations

Signal (E/X)

- You activate the turn signal before pulling up to or away from the curb.
- You cancel the turn signal after pulling up to or away from the curb.

Speed (E/B/X)

- You pull up to and away from the curb at a safe speed.
- You back up at a smooth, safe speed.

Parallel (B)

- You back in a straight line for 3 vehicle lengths while remaining within 3 feet of the curb.
 - Note:** Turn your head over your right shoulders and look through the back windshield instead of relying on the rearview and/or side mirrors, or camera, which may not show all hazards. This will help you back up in a straight line. Technology, such as backup cameras and self-parking, cannot solely be used on a driving test.
- You perform the action with no more than 1 correction
 - Note:** A “correction” is any movement forward.

Control (B)

- You maintain control of the vehicle (includes proper gear and clutch use).

Intersections Scoring Criteria

This criteria is used to evaluate your performance at the intersections

Action: Through

Crossing through an intersection where there are traffic signals or a stop sign.

Traffic Check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead.
 - To the right and left.
- You turn your head and look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Speed

- You maintain an appropriate speed.
 - Note:** Driving 10 mph over or under the speed limit, unless justified by road/traffic/weather conditions, will be scored as a Critical Driving Error (see page 24).

Yield

- You yield the right-of-way to vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians when necessary for safety.

Unnecessary stop

- Do not stop unless required by another vehicle, bicyclist, or pedestrian, traffic sign, signal, or to avoid a collision.

Action: Stop

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead
 - To the left, right, and behind you.
Note: this may be indicated by looking over your left or right shoulder, and using your mirrors as appropriate.
- You turn your head and look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Deceleration/braking

- You decelerate and brake smoothly.
- You depress the brake pedal without depressing the accelerator (gas pedal) at the same time.
- If driving a vehicle with a manual transmission, keep the gear engaged (no coasting)

Full stop

- You bring the vehicle to a full stop
- You make no unnecessary movement forward or roll backward.

Gap or limit line

- You are able to see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you or have enough room to move around the vehicle without backing up.
- You stop about half a car length from the vehicle in front of you (no excessive gap).
- You stop within 6 feet (about half-a-car length):
 - Behind the limit line.
 - From the corner of the intersection if there is no limit line.
- You stop without the front-most part of the vehicle:
 - In an intersection
 - Over the limit line
 - Beyond the sidewalk or stop sign.

Action: Start

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead.
 - To the left and right.
Note: This may be indicated by head and/or eye movement to the left and right as appropriate.
- You look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Yield

- You yield the right-of-way to vehicles or pedestrians, when necessary for safety.
- You accept the right-of-way:
 - Without causing confusion or impeding traffic flow.
 - When it is safe to start.

Speed

- You accelerate smoothly.
Note: if your vehicle has a manual transmission, you must use the proper gear and smoothly use the clutch.

Turns Scoring Criteria

Criteria used to evaluate your performance in turning.

Action: Approach

Traffic Check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead and behind you.
 - To the left or right.
- You check the blind spot by looking over your right or left shoulder before merging into the bike lane or center left turn lane.
- You look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Signal

- You activate the turn signal at least 100 feet prior to the turn, but not so early that other drivers will not understand your intentions.

Deceleration/braking

- You decelerate and brake smoothly.
- Do not depress the brake and accelerator (gas pedal) at the same time.
- If the vehicle has a manual transmission, you change gears as necessary to:
 - Maintain power
 - Keep the gear engaged.

Yield

- You yield the right-of-way to vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians when necessary for safety.

Lane use

- You use the designated lanes for:
 - Right Turns
 - Enter the bike lane within 200 feet of the turn.
 - Enter the designated right turn lane at the opening.
 - Use the right-most part of the right lane.
 - Left turns
 - Enter the two-way center left turn lane within 200 feet of the turn and do not violate the right-of-way of any vehicle already in that lane.
 - Enter the designated left turn lane at the opening.
 - Use the left-most part of the left lane.
- Staying within the lane markings.

Unnecessary stop

- Do not stop unless required by another vehicle, pedestrian, bicyclist, traffic sign, or signal.

Action: Stop

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead and behind you.
 - To the left or right.
- You look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Full Stop

- You bring the vehicle to a full stop.

- You make no unnecessary movement forward or roll backward.

Gap or limit line

- You are able to see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you or have enough room to move around the vehicle without backing up.
- You stop about half a car length from the vehicle in front of you (no excessive gap).
- You stop within 6 feet (about half a car length):
 - Behind the limit line.
 - From the corner of the intersection if there is no limit line.
- You stop without the front-most part of the vehicle being:
 - In an intersection.
 - Over the limit line.
 - Beyond the sidewalk or stop sign.

Wheels straight (left turns only)

- The wheels of the vehicle are straight ahead when stopped.

Action: Turn/Complete

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead and behind you.
 - To the left or right.
- You look toward other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians when necessary.
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Yield

- You yield the right-of-way to vehicles or pedestrians, when necessary for safety.
- You accept the right-of-way:
 - Without causing confusion or impeding traffic flow.
 - When it is safe to start.

Steering control

- You turn the steering wheel:
- Smoothly and with full control of the vehicle.
- Only the necessary amount (do not over or under-steer).

Too wide/short

- You keep the vehicle within the lane or lane markings.

Correct lane

- You end the turn in the proper lane.
- You begin and end in the appropriate lane for multiple turn lanes.

Speed

- You maintain a smooth, safe speed and keep control of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle has a manual transmission, you:
 - Change gears as necessary to maintain power.
 - Keep the gear engaged.
- You make no unnecessary stops during the turn.
- You accelerate smoothly after the turn.

Signal

- You cancel the turn signal upon completion of the turn.

Business/Urban and Residential/Rural Scoring Criteria

This criteria is used to evaluate your performance while driving in a straight section of a business district or residential area.

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians):
 - Ahead and behind you.
 - To the left or right.
- You react safely to traffic situations:
 - Traffic at entrances to roadways.
 - Pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Vehicles parking.

Speed

- You maintain the appropriate speed limit without exceeding the speed limit.
- Note: Driving 10 mph over or under the speed limit, unless justified by road/traffic/weather conditions, will cause a critical driving error (see page 24).
- You slow for hazards or obstructions.

Spacing

- You maintain a safe distance to the front and sides of your vehicle.

Lane position

- You keep the vehicle in the center of the lane.

Lane Change Scoring Criteria

Criteria used to evaluate your performance when making a lane change

Traffic check

- You observe traffic (vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians).
For a:
 - Left lane change, look to the left, behind you, and at your left side blind spot (check your left hand mirror and look over your left shoulder).
 - Right lane change, look to the right, behind you, and at your right side blind spot (check your right hand mirror and look over your right shoulder).
- You react safely to traffic situations.

Signal

- You activate the turn signal before making a lane change.
- You cancel the turn signal after the lane change.

Speed

- You use an appropriate speed:
 - To change lanes without exceeding the speed limit.
Note: It is not necessary to slow your speed before a lane change.
 - For traffic conditions.

Spacing

- You wait for an adequate gap.
- You create a safe distance to the front, sides, and rear of vehicles moving in the same direction.
- You create a safe distance in front of your vehicle after a lane change.

Steering control

- You change lanes by turning the steering wheel smoothly.
- You move to the center of the lane.

Critical Driving Errors Scoring Criteria

This criteria is used to evaluate your action or inaction during a driving test that would result in a driving test failure.

Intervention by examiner

- Any action or inaction that requires physical or verbal intervention by the examiner.
 - An example of verbal intervention could be the examiner loudly stating, "Stop."
- You make 3 attempts to back your vehicle.

Strikes Object

- You make contact with another vehicle, object, bicyclist, pedestrian, or animal when it could have been safely avoided.
- You drive over the curb or on the sidewalk.

Disobeys traffic signs or signals

- You go through or exceed a brisk walking speed (4 mph) at a:
 - Stop sign.
 - Flashing red light.
 - Right turn on a red light.
- You do not stop and wait for a green signal at a:
 - Red light. (After making a full and complete stop at the red light, you may make a right turn when it is safe to do so and there are no posted signs prohibiting a right turn on a red light.)
 - Red freeway-metered ramp signal.
- You make an unnecessary stop at a green light or on a freeway-metered ramp.
- You disobey other traffic signs and/or lane marking, such as:
 - A lane drop (lane merges).
 - Painted arrows.
 - A painted island.
 - Curb markings (red, blue, etc.).
 - Traffic cones, etc.

Disobeys traffic safety personnel or safety vehicles

- You pass a school bus that has flashing red lights.
Note: Traffic in both directions must stop unless driving on a divided highway.
- You fail to pull over and stop for an emergency vehicle.
- You disobey any safety personnel, law enforcement officer, or firefighter

Dangerous Maneuvers

- You take any action or inaction that causes another driver or pedestrian to take evasive action.
- You do not move your head and eyes to make a traffic check at an uncontrolled intersection when a hazard is present.
- You make an unnecessary stop on a freeway-merge lane while entering or exiting.
- You block an intersection at anytime with your vehicle so that it impedes cross traffic.
- You do not look in your mirror(s) or over your shoulder to check the rear or blind spot when:
 - Making a lane change.
 - Merging.
 - Backing.
 - Making a right turn with a bike lane.
 - Pulling from the curb or side of the road.
- You stall the engine:
 - In an intersection
 - 3 times due to poor clutch/gear use.

Speed

- You drive 10 mph:
 - Over the speed limit.
 - Under the speed limit when the road, pedestrians, bicyclists, and/or traffic conditions do not warrant a lower speed.
- You drive too:
 - Fast for safety.
 - Slow for safety.

Auxiliary equipment use

- Failure to use the windshield wipers, defroster, or headlights when weather conditions or darkness requires the use of auxiliary equipment.

Lane violation

- You drive:
 - Further than 200 feet in a bike lane or two-way center left turn lane.
 - Straight ahead while in a designated turn lane.
 - Unnecessarily in the oncoming traffic lane at anytime.
- You turn from a designated forward (straight) lane.
- You make a turn from the wrong lane.
Note: For right turns with a bike lane, you must enter the bike lane only after ensuring there is no bicycle traffic and then make the turn.