Chapter 8
Intersections and Right-of-Way

8-1 INTERSECTIONS

A. Select the word or phrase that best completes each of the following sentences and write the letter in the space provided.

_____ 1. Your chance of having a collision at an intersection is:
   a. relatively small.  b. greater than at any other place.
   c. impossible.      d. unknown.

_____ 2. Which of the following is not a type of intersection?
   a. Decontrolled   b. Controlled
   c. Semicontrolled d. Uncontrolled

_____ 3. As you approach an intersection, you should:
   a. accelerate.  b. apply your parking brake.
   c. indicate your intention to pass by signaling.  d. scan ahead for controls.

_____ 4. You must come to a complete stop at a red light:
   a. at all times.  b. only during daylight hours.
   c. unless you are turning “right on red.”  d. unless there is no limit line.

_____ 5. “Rolling” through a stop is:
   a. safe only at semicontrolled intersections.
   b. dangerous and illegal.
   c. permitted only by motorcycles.
   d. safe only at controlled intersections.

_____ 6. Signs are generally used instead of signals at intersections with:
   a. a low volume of traffic.  b. multiple turn lanes.
   c. major cross streets.    d. one-way streets.

_____ 7. If you are approaching a yellow light and a vehicle behind you appears to be accelerating, you should:
   a. tap your brakes.  b. proceed through the light.
   c. pump the brakes.  d. change lanes and stop.

_____ 8. A “stale” green light is one that:
   a. has been green for a long time.  b. has been green since you noticed it.
   c. has just changed from red to green.  d. Both a and b.

_____ 9. Some signals at intersections are controlled with sensors in the roadway that trigger a light change in response to:
   a. the number of pedestrians at the corner.
   b. traffic flow.  c. the time of day.
   d. visibility.

_____ 10. As a general rule, the inner lane(s) of a traffic circle are reserved for:
    a. emergency stop  b. through traffic.
    c. left turns.    d. slower traffic.
B. What makes semicontrolled intersections dangerous?

C. What clues should you look for when approaching an intersection?

D. Why should you never try to anticipate a light change by looking at the cross traffic’s signal?

E. What can you learn about yellow lights by scanning ahead?

F. What precautions should you take when approaching a “stale” green light?

G. What is dangerous about alleys?

H. In the space provided, describe how you would apply the SAFE method to driving in large parking lots.
I. Complete each of the following sentences by writing the correct word or phrase in the space provided.

1. __________ intersections are typically found in rural and residential areas with little traffic congestion.

2. Those who run red lights are __________ times as likely as other drivers to have multiple speeding convictions on their driving record.

3. As you approach a red light, look for signs indicating __________ prohibitions.

4. If the light ahead is solid yellow, the general rule of thumb is to __________ safely.

5. Scanning ahead will help you determine whether a green light is __________.

6. Many urban intersections have DO NOT __________ INTERSECTION signs.

7. Many signal-controlled intersections have what is known as a __________ in the road that detects the presence of a vehicle at the limit line.

8. If you intend to park on the other side of an intersection, you should slow down, get into the far-right lane, and __________ after you enter the intersection.

9. __________ are typically narrow and have limited views because of walls, parked trucks, trash dumpsters, and other obstacles.

10. __________ are hard to spot among parked cars, and when traveling in groups often assume that there is “safety in numbers.”

J. CHECK IT OUT.

As a passenger, take a tour of an urban area, a rural area, and a suburban residential area. Note whether the intersections in each area tend to be controlled, semicontrrolled, or uncontrolled. When controls are used, do they tend to be signs or signals? In the space provided, write down what you discover.

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

Contact your local municipal highway department to find out what criteria they use to determine what, if any, controls are used at a given intersection. In the space provided, write down what you discover.

_________________________________________________________________________________
Go to a large shopping center during business hours and observe activity in the parking lot from a safe place. Note some of the potential hazards that drivers face as they negotiate the narrow parking lanes. Also, note things that both drivers and pedestrians do that put themselves or others at risk of a collision. In the space provided, write down what you discover.

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8-2 RIGHT-OF-WAY

A. For each of the following sentences, circle T if it is true and F if it is false.

1. T F Right-of-way is the right to use a certain part of a roadway when three or more users of the roadway want to use it at the same time.

2. T F When someone yields to you, you are giving that person first use of that stretch of roadway.

3. T F You are required by law to give up the right-of-way if you have the last clear chance of avoiding a crash.

4. T F If two vehicles reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time, they must both come to a complete stop.

5. T F If you face a YIELD sign at an intersection, you must always come to a complete stop.

6. T F When entering a roadway from a private driveway with a crosswalk, you must stop once for pedestrian traffic and a second time for vehicular traffic.

7. T F When entering a major roadway from a side road, you do not have to stop unless a sign is posted.

8. T F Pedestrians outside a marked crosswalk legally do not have the right-of-way.

9. T F You should never stop in an intersection unless specifically directed to do so by law-enforcement or emergency personnel.

10. T F Funeral processions are generally easy to identify because the lead vehicle is always black.

B. Why is understanding and obeying right-of-way laws one of the most important components of safe driving?
C. If four vehicles reach an intersection with stop signs on all the corners at the same time, who has the right-of-way?

D. If you are in the middle of an intersection waiting to turn left and the light changes from yellow to red, what should you do?

E. What should you do if a pedestrian “takes” the right-of-way away from you?

F. When are you required by law to give up the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle?

G. When are you permitted to resume travel after an emergency vehicle has passed?

H. What does it mean to “square” an intersection?
I. Select the word or phrase that best completes each of the following sentences and write the letter in the space provided.

_____ 1. Right-of-way laws:
   a. are founded on common sense.
   b. rely on patience and courtesy.
   c. rely on drivers to insist on taking the right-of-way.
   d. Both a and b.

_____ 2. The right-hand rule applies to:
   a. uncontrolled intersections.
   b. signal-controlled intersections.
   c. intersections with YIELD signs on all the corners.
   d. Both a and b.

_____ 3. If your lane ends and you have to merge with traffic in an adjoining lane:
   a. you must yield to vehicles passing you.
   b. you have the right-of-way.
   c. you must pull over and stop until the way is clear.
   d. you must back up.

_____ 4. Blind pedestrians:
   a. always have the right-of-way.
   b. must have guide dogs.
   c. must have white canes.
   d. Both a and b.

_____ 5. The driver of the leading vehicle in a funeral procession:
   a. always has the right-of-way.
   b. must obey all traffic controls.
   c. must use FUNERAL flags.
   d. must be escorted by police.

J. CHECK IT OUT.

Observe an intersection with STOP signs on all the corners from a safe location. Note whether drivers observe the right-hand rule. What do drivers do when three or four vehicles reach the intersection from different directions at the same time? In the space provided, write down what you discover.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Interview the driver of an emergency vehicle. Is a “preemption” system used to turn traffic lights from red to green along the route? In general, do other drivers properly yield the right-of-way when the vehicle is responding to a call? In the space provided, write down what you discover.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
8-3 RAILROAD CROSSINGS

A. Complete each of the following sentences by writing the correct word or phrase in the space provided.

1. It takes a 150-car freight train going 30 miles per hour (50 km/h) ________ to stop.
2. Most train-car collisions are caused by ________.
3. A motorist is ________ times more likely to die in a collision with a train than with another car.
4. Most railroad crossings have some type of sign, usually a ________.
5. If you ever encounter an uncontrolled railroad crossing, treat it as if you were approaching a ________ sign at a regular intersection.
6. Do not assume that the ________ will sound a warning horn or bell when a train passes a crossing.
7. A locomotive’s large size makes it appear to be traveling ________ than it really is.
8. Never ________ another vehicle, no matter how slow it is going, at a railroad crossing.
9. Depending on its speed, it can take up to ________ minutes for an average freight train to clear a crossing.
10. Railroad tracks converge toward the ________, making it appear that a train is farther away than it really is.

B. What are the major causes of train-car collisions?

C. Where are you most likely to encounter an uncontrolled railroad crossing?

D. What precautions should you take when approaching a railroad crossing?
E. What should you do if your car stalls on railroad tracks?

F. What types of vehicles should you be especially careful following across railroad tracks and why?

G. If a train is approaching and there is no gate or pavement marking to indicate a stopping point, where are you required by law to stop?

H. Why is it important not to rush forward across railroad tracks after a train has passed?

I. If you are driving a vehicle with a manual transmission, what gear should you shift to when crossing railroad tracks?

J. CHECK IT OUT.

Use the Internet to find a couple of articles from on-line newspapers about collisions between trains and cars. In the space provided, briefly describe what happened and who was responsible for the crashes.
Go to the library or use the Internet to find out what technological advances traffic engineers are implementing or testing to make railroad crossings safer. In the space provided, write down what you discover.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE: INTERSECTIONS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY

Across
8. Intersections with signs on one street
9. Turn commonly allowed at red light
10. Light that has just changed from red to green
11. What you should do to intersections
13. Converge toward the horizon
15. Roadway not designed for high-speed travel

Down
1. Signals controlled with sensors in roadway
2. Never _______ through a stop
3. Common hazard in parking lots
4. Give the right-of-way
5. Never _______ an intersection
6. Light that has been green for a while
7. Most common control at railroad crossing
8. What you should do, if possible, at yellow light
12. Never _______ a red light
14. Most railroad crossings are ______
## DRIVER'S LOG: INTERSECTIONS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>What Happened?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approached controlled intersection w/o limit line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observed driver “roll” through stop</td>
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<td>Observed driver run a red light</td>
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<td>Observed driver watching cross-street signal</td>
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<td>Observed right-on-red prohibition</td>
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<td>Failed to get into proper lane before intersection</td>
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<td>Noticed length of yellow lights down road</td>
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<td>Forced to go through yellow because of car behind</td>
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<td>Encountered flashing red lights at intersection</td>
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<td>Encountered broken signals at intersection</td>
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<td>Observed red-light cameras</td>
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<td>Blocked intersection</td>
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<td>Observed driver race forward at green light</td>
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<td>Close call w/vehicle at uncontrolled intersection</td>
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<td>Close call in alley</td>
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<td>Close call in traffic circle</td>
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<td>Close call in parking lot</td>
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<td>Gave up right-of-way to be courteous</td>
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<td>Gave up right-of-way to be safe</td>
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<td>Encountered multiple vehicles at four-way stop</td>
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<td>Stopped for pedestrian while entering roadway</td>
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<td>Pedestrian “took” right-of-way</td>
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<td>Pulled over for emergency vehicle</td>
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<td>Yielded to motorcade</td>
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<td>Yielded to funeral procession</td>
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<td>Encountered fully controlled railroad crossing</td>
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<td>Encountered railroad crossing w/only crossbuck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encountered uncontrolled railroad crossing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saw two trains from opposite directions pass</td>
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<td>Heard train’s warning whistle</td>
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<td>Caught in heavy traffic while train passed crossing</td>
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<td>Had to wait long time for train to pass</td>
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