

Unit 2: Section 2

Negotiating Intersections

Unit Overview

Intersections can be a very dangerous place, especially for new drivers. You need to know how to act and how to react in an intersection. Vehicles are constantly entering and leaving the intersection. You need to know when to go, when to stop, and when you have the right of way.

Sign Starter Question

Every lesson has a reading assignment. There is an interactive portion that you need to complete to get credit for your reading assignment. The first section of the interactive portion asks you to identify the sign. There will be a sign identification portion on your written test that you will take at the BMV. You must pass this portion in order to get your license. ***If you are not sure about the name of a sign, then check Indiana Driver's Manual Chapter 4.**



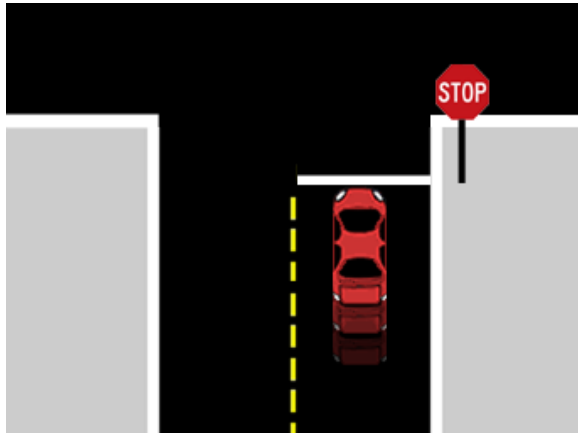
What is this sign?

Right of Way

One of the most difficult and confusing things for new drivers is intersections. One of the confusing issues is right-of-way. Whenever you're at an intersection someone has the right-of-way, and therefore should be able to proceed through the intersection with caution.

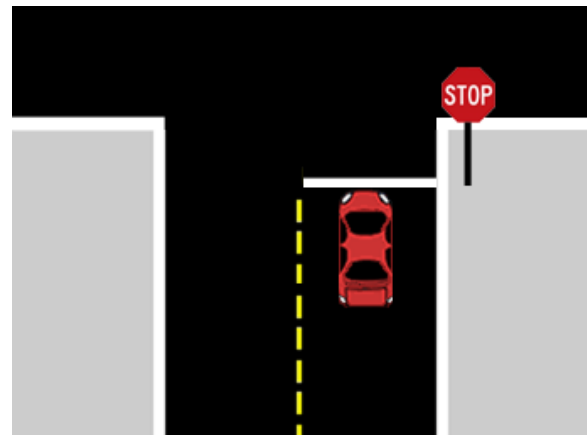
Who has the right-of-way at an intersection?

There are always three steps when approaching a stop sign.



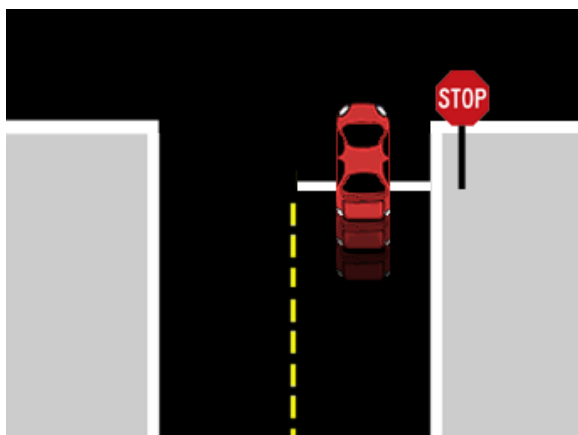
Step 1 (Stop)-Come to a full and complete stop. Make sure that your stop is behind the stop line. If there is no stop line, then you should stop before the crosswalk. If you overrun the crosswalk, then you could run over a pedestrian.

Step 2 (Wait)-Assess the situation after stopping. Determine when you are going to have the right-of-way.

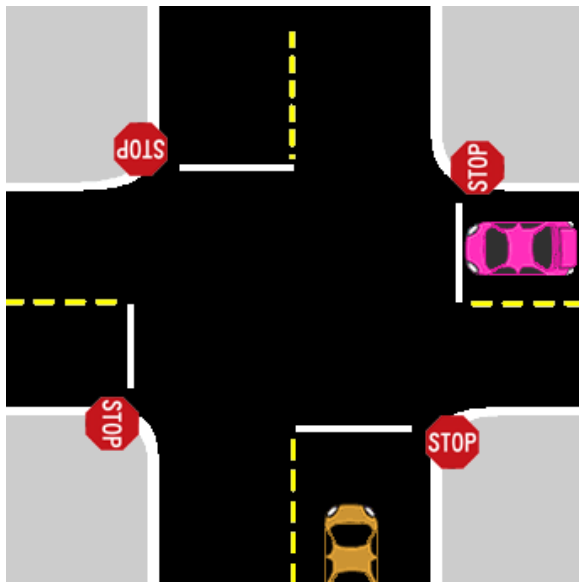


Step 3 (Go)-When you have the right-of-way, proceed with caution.

Step 3 requires some knowledge about right-of-way. Determining right-of-way can be done by using the following rules.



Right of Way at an All Way Stop

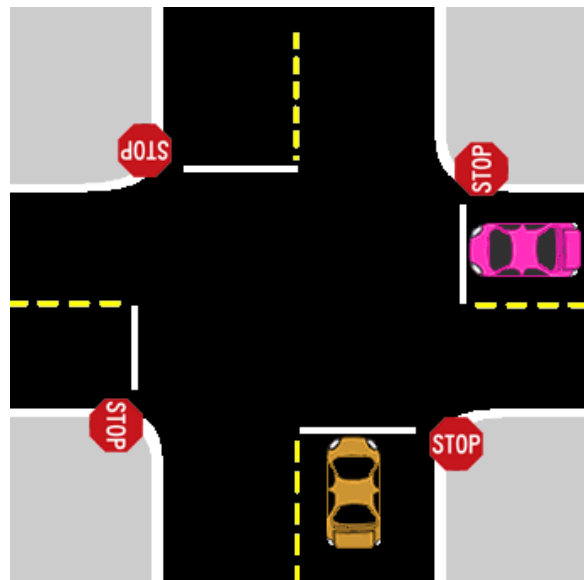


1. At an all way stop, the driver who stopped first should have the right-of-way.

A pink car is stopped at the sign and going straight. A tan car is approaching the sign. This means that the pink car has the right of way, because the pink car was stopped at the intersection first. Therefore, the pink car should go first.

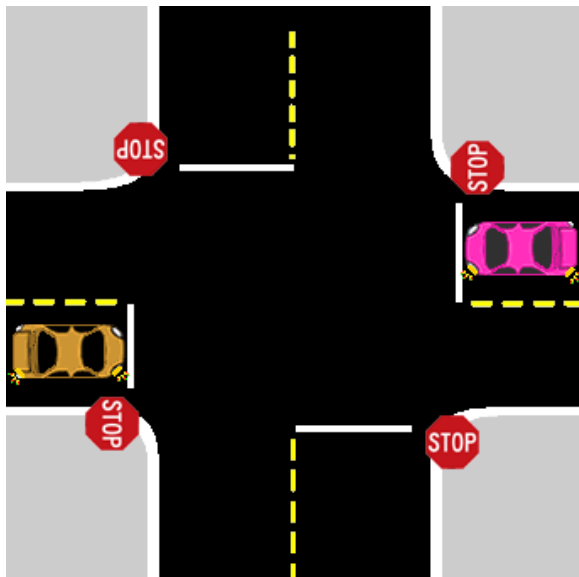
2. At an all way stop, if two drivers get to an intersection at the same time, then the driver to the right should have the right-of-way.

A pink car and a tan car both stop at approximately the same time. Both cars are going straight. The pink car should have the right of way, because the pink car is to the right of the tan car. Therefore, the pink car should go first.

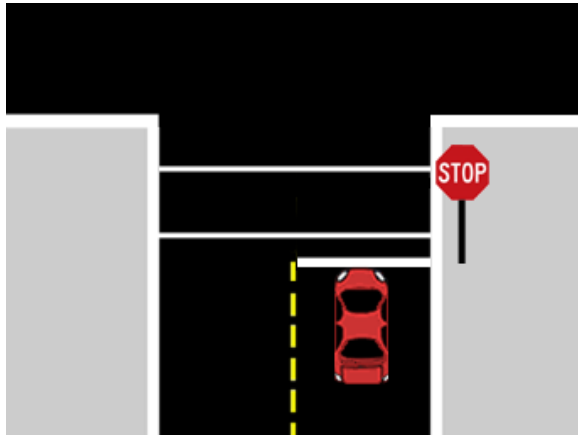


3. At an all way stop, if two drivers get to an intersection at the same time, then the driver turning left should yield to the driver going straight or right.

A pink car and a tan car stop at an intersection at approximately the same time. The tan car is turning right and the pink car is turning left. The tan car should have the right of way, because the tan car is turning right. Therefore the tan car should go first. Most of the time you should yield the right of way when turning left.



Poor Visibility at a Stop Sign

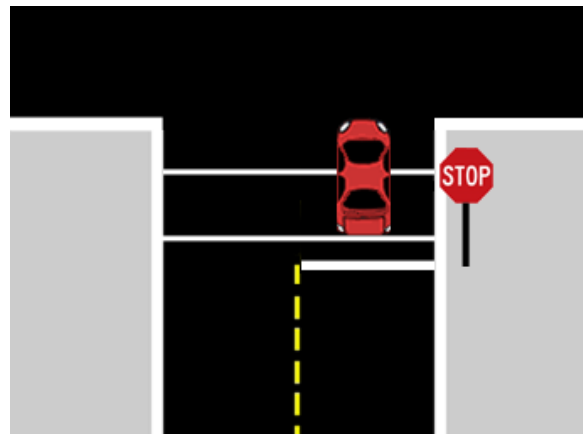


Note that sometimes you may not be able to see clearly from the stop line. Often this is because of the presence of a crosswalk. The figure to the left shows a typical city stop sign.

In this situation, you may not be able to see cross-traffic very well because you are so far away from the road.

You will still need to make a complete stop behind the stop line and crosswalk, but then you can safely pull forward until you can fully see traffic.

If you don't make an initial stop before the stop line and crosswalk, then you may be endangering pedestrians that are crossing at the crosswalk.

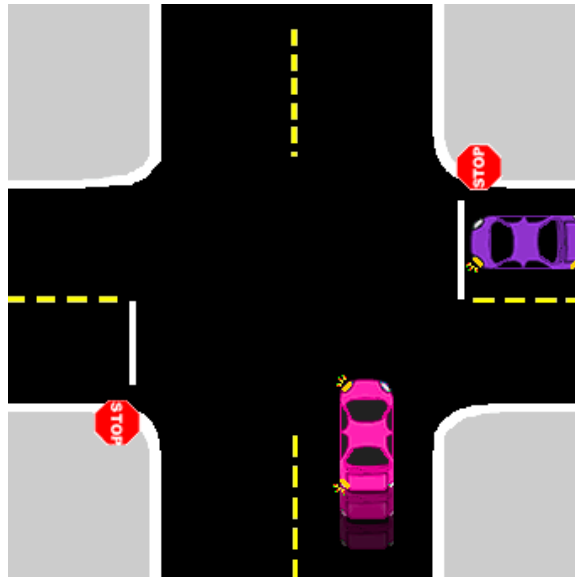


Ask Your Parents

Stop signs can be tricky, especially 4-Way stops. Ask your parents if they have any advice for negotiating 4-Way stops.

Right of Way Quiz

Every lesson has a reading assignment. There is an interactive portion that you need to complete to get credit for your reading assignment. Each interactive portion has a question about the Right of Way Quiz. To get credit for this question you must identify the color of the car that has the right of way in the following example.



A pink car is turning left and a purple car is turning left from a stop sign. Who has the right of way?