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BTT Traffic Rules in Numbers

Many BTT questions come down to one number: a speed limit, a distance, a time or a number of demerit points. These are the figures to know, from the Basic Theory of Driving handbook. Learn them and a large share of the Traffic Rules and Code of Conduct questions become easy marks.

Key numbers

50 km/h
speed limit when no sign says otherwise
p.52

40 km/h
school zones (with the sign) and Friendly Streets
p.18

3 s
minimum gap behind the vehicle in front
p.61

3 s
signal at least this long before you move
p.60

5–10 s
check your mirrors while driving
p.60

1.5 m
gap when passing cyclists, and pedestrians facing away
p.62

2×
stopping distance on a wet road
p.65

20 m
warning triangle behind a broken-down vehicle
p.56

Speeding: demerit points

Over the limit by	Points	Fine (car)
up to 20 km/h	6	$200
21 to 30 km/h	8	$300
31 to 40 km/h	12	$400
41 to 50 km/h	18	court
more than 50 km/h	24	court

Running a red light: 12 points, $400. In School and Silver Zones and Friendly Streets: **2 more points and $100 more**. Keep to the lower of the road's and your vehicle's limit. p.7, 52

Parking and stopping

- No parking within **6 m** of a junction, **9 m** of a bus stop, **3 m** of a fire hydrant. p.56
- **Single yellow line**: no parking 7am-7pm, except Sundays and public holidays. **Double yellow**: no parking at any time. p.38
- **Double yellow zig-zag**: no stopping at any time (points and a fine). p.38
- Vehicles over **4.5 m** high need a police escort. p.58

Alcohol, phones, seat belts, lights

- Legal limit: **80 mg** of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, or **35 µg** per 100 ml of breath. p.58
- Drink driving, first time: **$2,000-$10,000** and/or up to 12 months' jail. Repeat: $5,000-$20,000 and up to 2 years. p.58
- Phone: an offence when you hold it, use it, and the vehicle is moving. **12 points**; in court, up to **$1,000** and/or 6 months' jail. Hands-free is allowed. p.7, 59
- Everyone wears a seat belt; passengers under **1.35 m** need a child restraint or booster. Not wearing one: 3 points and a $150 fine. p.7, 57
- Headlights on from **7pm to 7am**, and whenever it rains or visibility is poor. p.57-58

Licence and demerit points

- Minimum age **18**. A Provisional Driving Licence is valid for **2 years**. p.3-4
- New drivers: **1 year** on probation with P plates. **13 points** in that year revokes the licence. p.5
- **24 points in 24 months**: first suspension, 12 weeks. After any suspension: **12 points in 12 months** suspends again. p.5
- 2nd suspension 24 weeks; from the 3rd (1 year or more) the licence is revoked. p.5-6
- Points are cleared after **12 months** with no offence. p.6

Test traps

- **3 seconds, not 2**: the following-gap rule used to be two seconds. It applies to all vehicles at any speed. p.61
- **Phone**: all three together make the offence: a hand holding it, using any function, the vehicle moving. p.59
- **Seat belts** are for everyone in the vehicle, whatever their age. p.57
- **13 points** on probation: the licence is revoked and all tests must be taken again, no earlier than 1 year later. p.5
- **Single yellow line on a Sunday** or public holiday: you may park. p.38

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Based on the official *Basic Theory of Driving* handbook, pages 3-7 and 50-65; page numbers are the handbook's. The drawings are our own simple versions. An unofficial study aid by sgdriving.net, not a Traffic Police publication: where anything differs, the official handbook prevails. The handbooks are free from the Traffic Police Online Learning Portal.