



Figure. ZimRoadWise crest: a shield containing a stylised road curving toward the horizon, with the ZimRoadWise wordmark set beneath in navy. Cover mark of the ZimRoadWise study library.

OFFICIAL STUDY RESOURCE

Learner's Licence Study Guide

A structured, plain-language companion to passing the VID learner's test — first time.

First Edition · 2026

Aligned with the Zimbabwe Highway Code and VID learner examination.

Accessible edition · Screen-reader friendly · Tagged headings · Described images.

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Chapter 1 • Before You Start

This guide is written for first-time learners preparing for the Vehicle Inspection Department (VID) learner's licence. Every chapter follows the same rhythm: what the rule is, why it matters on Zimbabwean roads, and how the examiner phrases it.

Who must hold a learner's licence

- Any driver operating on a public road who does not yet hold a full class licence.
- Class 4 (light motor vehicle) is the most common learner class.
- You must be at least 16 years old for a Class 4 provisional licence.

Documents required at the depot

- National ID (original) and one clear photocopy.
- Two recent passport photos.
- Proof of residence, dated within three months.
- Application form CVR2 completed in black ink.

Chapter 2 • The Highway Code in Plain Language

The Highway Code is Zimbabwe's rulebook for every road user. Learn the spirit of the rules first; the exact wording follows more easily.

The five pillars

- Keep left, pass right — the default flow of Zimbabwean traffic.
- Speed to conditions — the legal limit is the ceiling, not the target.
- Signal every intention early, clearly, and only when needed.
- Yield to vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, animals.
- Never assume — confirm with mirrors and a shoulder check.

Speed limits at a glance

Table 1. Chart of Zimbabwean default speed limits by driving environment. Four rows compare built-up areas at 60 km/h, roads outside built-up areas at 80 km/h, highways at 120 km/h unless posted, and heavy vehicles over 2 300 kg capped at 80 km/h.

Environment	Limit
Built-up area	60 km/h
Outside built-up area	80 km/h
Highway (unless posted)	120 km/h
Heavy vehicles > 2 300 kg	80 km/h maximum

Chapter 3 • Road Signs You Must Know

Signs use shape and colour to communicate before you have time to read them. Recognise the shape first, colour second, glyph third.

Regulatory signs — you must obey

- Round with red ring: prohibition (e.g. No Entry, No Overtaking).
- Round with blue fill: mandatory action (e.g. Turn Left, Roundabout).
- Octagon in red: STOP — full stop at the line, every time.
- Inverted triangle: YIELD — give way to traffic on the main road.

Warning signs — a hazard is ahead

- Red-bordered triangle, point up: general warning, ~150 m ahead.
- Yellow diamond: temporary hazard, often at roadworks.
- Common examples: sharp curve, dip, pedestrian crossing, cattle.

Information & guidance signs

- Blue rectangle: services and route information.
- Green rectangle: highway destinations and distances.
- White with black text: street names and local direction.

Chapter 4 • Road Markings

Longitudinal lines

- Solid white line: do not cross or straddle.
- Broken white line: overtaking permitted when safe.
- Double solid lines: absolute no-overtaking zone.
- Yellow edge line: marks the outer edge of the carriageway.

Transverse markings

- STOP line: front wheels must not cross until safe.
- Yield triangles: give way to the flow you are joining.
- Zebra crossing: pedestrians have absolute right of way.

Chapter 5 • Right of Way & Intersections

Right of way is given, never taken. When in doubt, yield.

Uncontrolled intersections

- Vehicle on your right has priority.
- A vehicle already in the intersection completes its move first.
- Turning traffic yields to oncoming through traffic.

Roundabouts

- Yield to traffic already circulating from your right.
- Signal left only when you are about to exit.
- Stay in the outer lane for the first exit; inner lane for further exits.

Chapter 6 • Defensive Driving Habits

The three-second rule

Pick a fixed point ahead. When the vehicle in front passes it, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three". You should not reach the point before you finish. Double the count in rain.

Mirror-Signal-Manoeuvre

- Mirror: check interior and side mirrors.
- Signal: indicate for at least three flashes before moving.
- Manoeuvre: check the blind spot, then act smoothly.

Night driving

- Dip headlights within 200 m of oncoming traffic.
- Never overdrive your headlights — you must stop within their beam.
- Keep the windscreen clean inside and out to cut glare.

Chapter 7 • The Oral Examination

The VID oral test is a short spoken interview. Answers must be precise, in complete sentences, and delivered calmly.

How to answer

- Repeat the key noun from the question in your answer.
- Give the rule, then a short reason.
- Never guess — say "I do not know" and move on if unsure.

Sample questions

- What is the meaning of a solid white line? — It separates lanes and must not be crossed.
- When may you overtake on the left? — Only when the vehicle ahead is turning right and there is room.
- What is the stopping distance at 60 km/h in the dry? — About 27 metres.

Chapter 8 • A One-Week Study Plan

Table 2. Seven-day study schedule. Each row pairs a day of the week with the chapters and activities to focus on, from Monday orientation through Sunday's full mock exam and review.

Day	Focus
Monday	Chapters 1–2 • orientation and Highway Code pillars
Tuesday	Chapter 3 • road signs, drill by shape
Wednesday	Chapter 4 • road markings and quick quiz
Thursday	Chapter 5 • right of way, walk-through diagrams
Friday	Chapter 6 • defensive driving + first mock test
Saturday	Chapter 7 • oral rehearsal aloud
Sunday	Full mock exam, review weak areas

Chapter 9 • On Test Day

Before you leave home

- Original ID, appointment letter, and payment receipt.
- Arrive 30 minutes early. Dress neatly.
- Have breakfast; nerves burn energy.

During the test

- Read every question twice before answering.
- Do not leave any answer blank.
- If you finish early, review — do not rush out.

After the test

Collect your provisional immediately. Book practical lessons within the week while theory is fresh in your mind.

Colophon

Published by ZimRoadWise. Content aligned with the Zimbabwe Highway Code and the current VID learner syllabus. This edition is structured for screen-reader navigation: every chapter and section is a tagged heading in the document outline.