

What do each of these signs mean?

Are any of them unfamiliar to you?



1. **What do I do when my car has been towed by the City Government?**
 - a. Look for parking signs with information to understand why your car might have been towed
 - b. Go to the Post Office because that's where the city takes all the towed cars
 - c. Call Portland Parking at 207-874-8443 to get information on your vehicle
 - d. A and C

2. **How much will it cost if the City of Portland tows my car?**
 - a. \$200, plus \$50 a day if I don't pick it up
 - b. \$100, plus \$30 a day if I don't pick it up
 - c. It's free when the City tows a car. It only costs money if you park in a private lot and get towed
 - d. \$500, but they will bring the car back to your house

3. **Why would the City of Portland tow my car?**
 - a. You have three or more parking tickets
 - b. You parked in front of a fire hydrant
 - c. You parked in a zone where you do not have permission to park
 - d. All of the above

4. **What clues should you look for to know if it's okay to park somewhere?**
 - a. Look for signs with parking information
 - b. Look for a meter or parking kiosk nearby
 - c. Other cars are also parked there (If yours is the only car in the lot, it may not be okay to park there)
 - d. All of the above

TRUE OR FALSE

1. You can pay to get your car back with cash or a credit card. T / F
2. It's cheaper to pay \$8.00 an hour than to get towed. T / F
3. You can get towed for not paying your parking tickets. T / F
4. Don't worry if you are the only car in a parking lot. T / F
5. It's very important to read all signs when you park your car. T / F
6. There are three ways to tell if you can park on the street if it is snowing or after it snows. T / F

DISCUSSION:

- Should businesses allow people to park in the parking lots when the businesses are closed? Why or why not?
- **What is your opinion:** “There are too many rules about cars in the United States. Some are not necessary.” If you agree, which rules do you think are not necessary?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:
List of tickets and reasons for getting them from www.portlandmaine.org

The screenshot shows the Portland, Maine website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'PAY & APPLY', 'GOVERNMENT', 'SERVICES', 'BUSINESS', and 'COMMUNITY'. Below the menu is a large banner image of a park with a fountain and the text 'WELCOME TO PORTLAND'. Below the banner is a section titled 'Violations' which lists various parking rules.

Violations

It is unlawful to park:

- In front of or within 5 feet from either side of a public or private driveway.
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 20 feet of the center of a crosswalk
- Within 25 feet of an intersection
- At any place where official signs prohibit parking
- Double parked, or obstructing traffic
- More than 18 inches from the curb
- You have 24 hours to remove a vehicle that is inoperable and/or under repair on any city street
- Any unlicensed vehicle on any city street (expired tags or plate)
- Against the flow of traffic
- Overtime parking in a timed parking zone;
- In loading zones restricted for vehicles with commercial or combination plates
- Prolonged parking at a meter including feeding parking meters or, at expired meters
- On a sidewalk, sidewalk area, or street planting strip (esplanade)
- In a disabled zone without a special license plate or hang tag and you must be able to present your identification card if requested
- Taking up more than one metered space
- At a bus stop, taxi stand, city lot or property where a permit is required
- Vehicle storage: vehicles cannot be parked in the same spot for more than 10 consecutive days.

Other City Parking Hazards to consider:

