

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Deck Officer Endorsements
Q300 Rules of the Road – Inland
(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following multiple-choice questions.

NO reference materials are authorized for use on this exam.

1. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which describes a head-on situation?
 - A. Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly off your starboard beam
 - B. Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly ahead
 - C. Seeing one red light of a vessel directly ahead
 - D. Seeing two forward white towing lights in a vertical line on a towing vessel directly ahead

Correct answer: B
2. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel on crossing courses. She is about one mile distant and is on your starboard bow. You believe she will cross ahead of you, but she sounds a whistle signal of five short blasts. Which action should you take?
 - A. initiate a passing signal that will allow for a half mile clearance
 - B. reduce speed slightly
 - C. answer the signal and hold course and speed
 - D. make a large course change, and slow down if necessary

Correct answer: D
3. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A traffic separation zone is that part of a traffic separation scheme which _____.
 - A. is between the scheme and the nearest land
 - B. contains all the traffic moving in one direction
 - C. separates traffic proceeding in one direction from traffic proceeding in the opposite direction
 - D. is designated as an anchorage area

Correct answer: C
4. INLAND ONLY What lights are required for a barge being pushed ahead, not being part of a composite unit?
 - A. Sidelights and a stern light
 - B. Sidelights, a special flashing light, and a stern light
 - C. Sidelights, a towing light, and a stern light
 - D. Sidelights and a special flashing light

Correct answer: D
5. INLAND ONLY Which term is NOT defined in the Inland Navigation Rules?
 - A. Vessel constrained by her draft
 - B. Seaplane
 - C. Underway
 - D. Restricted visibility

Correct answer: A

6. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which light(s) shall a vessel or object being towed astern display?

- A. forward masthead light
- B. stern light
- C. after masthead light
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: B

7. INLAND ONLY You see the lights shown in illustration D085RR below while proceeding in a channel. Where should you pass?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

Correct answer: A

8. INLAND ONLY For the purpose of the Inland Navigation Rules, the term "Inland Waters" includes which of the following?

- A. The coastline of the United States out to one mile offshore
- B. The waters surrounding any islands of the U.S.
- C. Any lakes within state boundaries
- D. The Great Lakes on the United States side of the boundary

Correct answer: D

9. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Two power-driven vessels are crossing as shown in illustration D042RR below. Vessel "A" sounds two short blasts on the whistle. You are on vessel "B" and are in doubt that sufficient action is being taken by vessel "A" to avoid collision. What action should you take?

- A. Alter course to the left and increase speed
- B. Maintain course and speed
- C. Sound five or more short and rapid blasts
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: C

10. INLAND ONLY A light used to signal passing intentions must be an _____.

- A. alternating red and yellow light
- B. all-round white or yellow light
- C. alternating white and yellow light
- D. all-round white light only

Correct answer: B

11. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When is your vessel traveling at a "safe speed" as defined in the COLREGS?

- A. when you are traveling slower than surrounding vessels
- B. when you can stop within your visibility range
- C. when no wake comes from your vessel
- D. when you can take proper and effective action to avoid collision

Correct answer: D

12. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When shall a proper look-out be maintained?

- A. only during restricted visibility
- B. only at night
- C. at night and during restricted visibility
- D. at all times

Correct answer: D

13. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND While underway in fog, you hear a prolonged blast from another vessel. Which vessel would sound this signal?

- A. A power-driven vessel making way
- B. A vessel being towed
- C. A sailboat making way
- D. Any power-driven vessel making way, towing

Correct answer: A

14. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel is required to sound a fog signal of one prolonged followed by two short blasts?

- A. A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, at anchor
- B. A vessel not under command
- C. A sailing vessel, underway
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

15. INLAND ONLY A law enforcement vessel patrolling a marine regatta may exhibit a flashing blue light or which of the following alternates?

- A. a high intensity flashing white light (strobe)
- B. a fixed green light over a red flashing light
- C. two amber lights in a horizontal line
- D. an alternately flashing red and yellow light

Correct answer: D

16. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessels do the lighting requirements in inland waters differ from those for international waters?

- A. vessels pushing ahead
- B. barges being towed astern
- C. vessels not under command
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

17. INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel crossing on the Western Rivers has the right of way over which vessels?

- A. Vessels ascending the river
- B. All vessels ascending and descending the river
- C. Vessels descending the river
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: D

18. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In restricted visibility, which signal shall a vessel fishing with nets sound at intervals of two minutes?

- A. One prolonged followed by three short blasts
- B. One prolonged blast
- C. One prolonged followed by two short blasts
- D. Two prolonged blasts in succession

Correct answer: C

19. INLAND ONLY You are overtaking another power-driven vessel in a narrow channel. The other vessel will have to move to allow you to pass. You wish to overtake the other vessel on her starboard side. What should be your first whistle signal?

- A. one short blast
- B. two short blasts
- C. two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts
- D. two prolonged blasts followed by one short blast

Correct answer: A

20. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What is a "vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver"?

- A. A vessel laying revetment mats to provide bank protection along a channel
- B. A vessel fishing with a bottom trawl that must remain on course
- C. A large tanker that is being towed as a dead ship to dry dock
- D. A deep-draft vessel that can only navigate in a dredged channel

Correct answer: A

21. INLAND ONLY Which statement is TRUE concerning the Inland Navigation Rules?

- A. They require communication by radiotelephone to reach a passing agreement.
- B. They define moderate speed.
- C. They list requirements for Traffic Separation Schemes.
- D. They require the use of automatic identification systems

Correct answer: C

22. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The masthead light may be displaced from the centerline on which of the following vessels?

- A. a power-driven vessel 12 meters in length
- B. a vessel engaged in trolling
- C. an air-cushion vessel in non-displacement mode
- D. a vessel of special construction

Correct answer: D

23. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are on vessel "A" and approaching vessel "B" as shown in illustration D015RR below. You are not sure whether your vessel is crossing or overtaking vessel "B". You should take which of the following actions?

- A. consider it to be an overtaking situation
- B. consider it a crossing situation if you can cross ahead safely
- C. consider it to be a crossing situation
- D. change course to make the situation definitely either crossing or overtaking

Correct answer: A

24. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND At night you sight a vessel displaying one green light. What is indicated by this light configuration?

- A. vessel drifting
- B. small motorboat underway
- C. vessel at anchor
- D. sailboat underway

Correct answer: D

25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are involved in a crossing situation with a vessel off your port bow. The other vessel is showing a high intensity all-round flashing red light. Which action should you take?

- A. Maintain course and speed
- B. Remain clear of the vessel
- C. Alter course to starboard
- D. Reduce Speed

Correct answer: A

26. INLAND ONLY Two power-driven vessels are meeting in a narrow channel on the Great Lakes as shown in illustration D037RR below. Vessel "A" is downbound with a following current. Vessel "A" shall do which of the following?

- A. Have the right of way
- B. Initiate the maneuvering signals
- C. Propose the manner of passage
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

27. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are under sail making 5 knots. The apparent wind is broad on the port beam at 10 knots. You see another sailing vessel dead ahead on a meeting course. What action is correct?

- A. Only the other vessel must maneuver to avoid collision.
- B. You must keep out of the way of the other vessel.
- C. Both vessels must maneuver to avoid collision.
- D. You are only required to maneuver if collision cannot be avoided by maneuver of the other vessel.

Correct answer: B

28. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which lights is a vessel not under command making way at night required to show?

- A. anchor lights and sidelights
- B. two all-round white lights in a vertical line, sidelights and a stern light
- C. two all-round red lights in a vertical line, sidelights, and a stern light
- D. two all-round red lights in a vertical line

Correct answer: C

29. INLAND ONLY When two power-driven vessels are meeting on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or waters specified by the Secretary, where there is a current, which vessel shall sound the first passing signal?

- A. Either vessel
- B. The vessel that is towing regardless of the current
- C. The vessel going upstream stemming the current
- D. The vessel downbound with a following current

Correct answer: D

30. INLAND ONLY A vessel engaged in public safety activities may display an alternately flashing red and yellow light. This special light may be used by a vessel engaged in which of the following?

- A. riverbank protection
- B. a pair of trawlers hauling nets
- C. law enforcement
- D. patrolling a regatta

Correct answer: D

31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A power-driven vessel has on her port side a sailing vessel which is on a collision course. What action is the power-driven vessel required to take?

- A. maintain course and speed
- B. sound one blast and turn to starboard
- C. stop her engines
- D. keep clear

Correct answer: D

32. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What is a requirement for any action taken to avoid collision?

- A. When in sight of another vessel, any action taken must be accompanied by sound signals.
- B. The action must be positive and made in ample time.
- C. The action taken must include changing the speed of the vessel.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: B

33. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You see another vessel approaching, and its compass bearing does not significantly change. What does this indicate?

- A. risk of collision exists
- B. you are the stand-on vessel
- C. a special circumstances situation exists
- D. the other vessel is dead in the water

Correct answer: A

34. INLAND ONLY You are proceeding against the current on a river in the Great Lakes System. You are meeting a downbound vessel. Both vessels are power-driven. The other vessel sounds one short blast. What action must you take if in agreement?

- A. sound three short blasts
- B. sound one short blast
- C. hold course and speed
- D. change course to port

Correct answer: B

35. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Two power-driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision. Which statement is TRUE, according to the Rules?

- A. If the give-way vessel takes action, she shall avoid changing course to starboard.
- B. If the stand-on vessel takes action, she shall avoid changing course to port.
- C. The give-way vessel should keep the other vessel to her starboard.
- D. The vessel which has the other on her own port side shall keep out of the way.

Correct answer: B

36. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel is the stand-on vessel when two vessels crossing in fog are NOT in sight of one another?

- A. The vessel which has the other on her own starboard side
- B. The vessel which hears the other vessel's fog signal first
- C. The vessel which has the other on her own port side
- D. Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel.

Correct answer: D

37. INLAND ONLY While underway during the day you sight a small motorboat showing a flashing blue light. What does the blue light indicate?

- A. law enforcement boat
- B. rescue boat
- C. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel on regatta patrol
- D. boat involved in a race

Correct answer: A

38. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Your vessel is underway in reduced visibility. You hear the fog signal of another vessel about 30° on your starboard bow. If danger of collision exists, which action(s) are you required to take?

- A. Alter course to starboard to pass around the other vessel's stern
- B. Reduce your speed to the minimum at which it can be kept on course
- C. Slow your engines and let the other vessel pass ahead of you
- D. Alter course to port and pass the other vessel on its port side

Correct answer: B

39. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are on watch in fog. Which vessel is "in sight"?

- A. A vessel that you can see from the bridge
- B. A vessel from which you can hear the fog signal
- C. A radar target of which you have determined the course and speed
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

40. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What lights, if any, would you exhibit at night if your vessel were broken down and being towed by another vessel?

- A. None
- B. Same lights as for a power-driven vessel underway
- C. A white light forward and a white light aft
- D. The colored sidelights and a white stern light

Correct answer: D

41. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When is a stand-on vessel in a crossing situation allowed to take action?

- A. the relative speed of the vessels indicates collision in less than six minutes
- B. it becomes apparent to her that the give-way vessel is not taking appropriate action
- C. the vessels will pass within one mile
- D. on a collision course

Correct answer: B

42. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which situation would be a "special circumstance" under the Rules?

- A. More than two vessels meeting
- B. Speed in fog
- C. Vessel at anchor
- D. Two vessels crossing

Correct answer: A

43. INLAND ONLY While underway and in sight of another power-driven vessel forward of your beam, more than 0.5 mile away, you put your engines full speed astern. Which statement concerning whistle signals is TRUE?
- A. You must sound one blast if backing to starboard.
 - B. You must sound whistle signals only if the vessels are meeting.
 - C. You need not sound any whistle signals.
 - D. You must sound three short blasts on the whistle.

Correct answer: C

44. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In which situation would risk of collision definitely exist?
- A. A vessel is 22 degrees on your port bow, range increasing, bearing changing slightly to the right.
 - B. A vessel is on your starboard quarter, range decreasing, bearing is constant.
 - C. A vessel is 22 degrees abaft your port beam, range increasing, bearing is constant.
 - D. A vessel is broad on your starboard beam, range decreasing, bearing changing rapidly to the right.

Correct answer: B

45. INLAND ONLY You are on vessel "A", and vessel "B" desires to overtake you on your starboard side as shown in illustration D031RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?
- A. Alter course to the right to give vessel "B" more sea room
 - B. Hold course and speed
 - C. Alter course to the left to give vessel "B" more sea room
 - D. Slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed

Correct answer: B

46. INLAND ONLY Two power-driven vessels are meeting in a narrow channel on the Great lakes as shown in illustration D029RR below. Vessel "A" is downbound with a following current. Vessel "B" should do which of the following?
- A. Take action to permit safe passage
 - B. Initiate the maneuvering signals
 - C. Have the right of way
 - D. None of the above

Correct answer: A

47. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Every vessel that is to keep out of the way of another vessel must take positive early action to comply with this obligation and must _____.
- A. alter course to port for a vessel on her port side
 - B. sound one prolonged blast to indicate compliance
 - C. avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel
 - D. avoid passing astern of the other vessel

Correct answer: C

48. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What is required of a vessel navigating near an area of restricted visibility?

- A. If she detects another vessel by radar, she shall determine if risk of collision exists.
- B. She must sound appropriate sound signals.
- C. A power-driven vessel shall have her engines ready for immediate maneuver.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

49. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which is TRUE for a fishing vessel displaying the lights shown in illustration D067RR below?

- A. the vessel is anchored
- B. it is tending a small fishing boat
- C. it is underway but not fishing
- D. the vessel is fishing by trawling

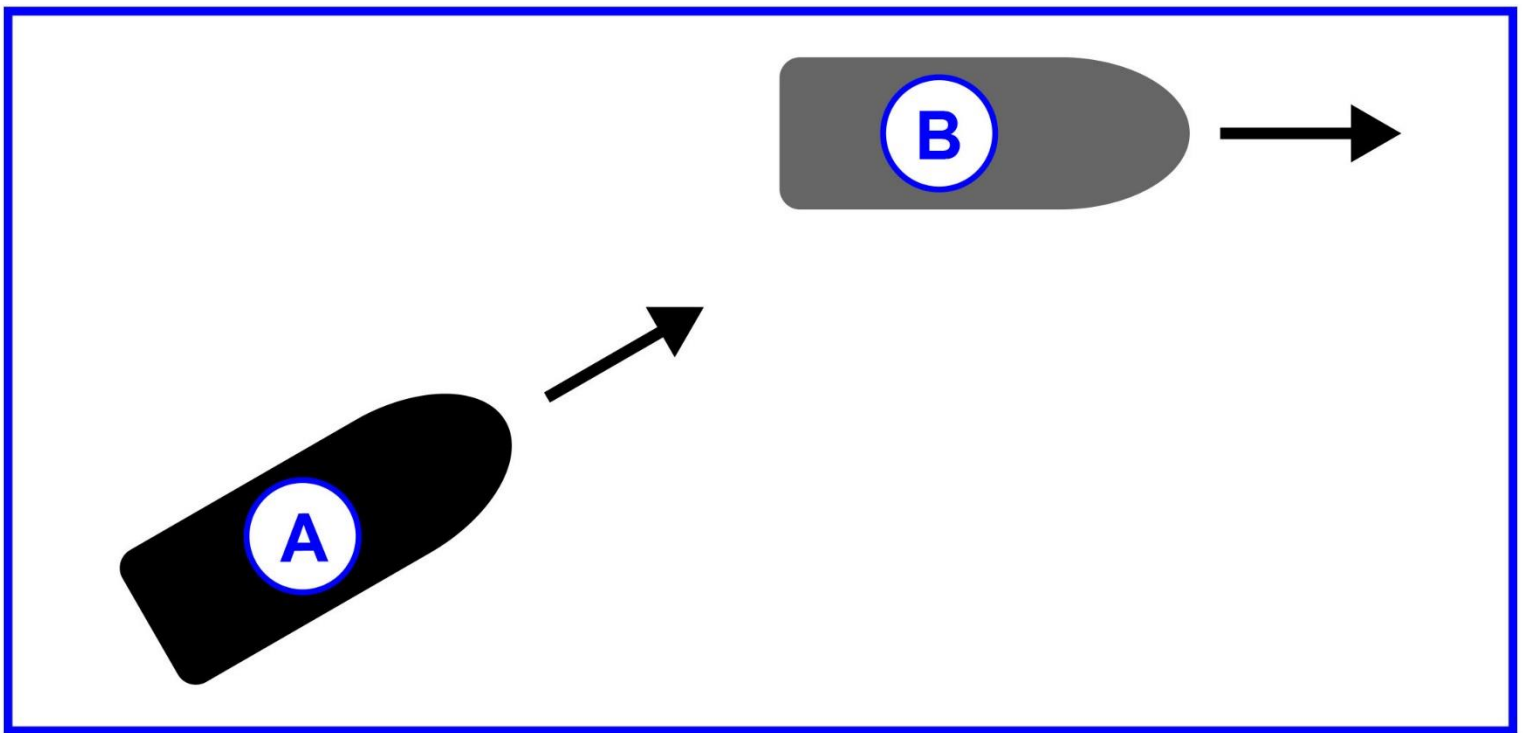
Correct answer: D

50. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which signal, other than a distress signal, can be used by a vessel to attract attention?

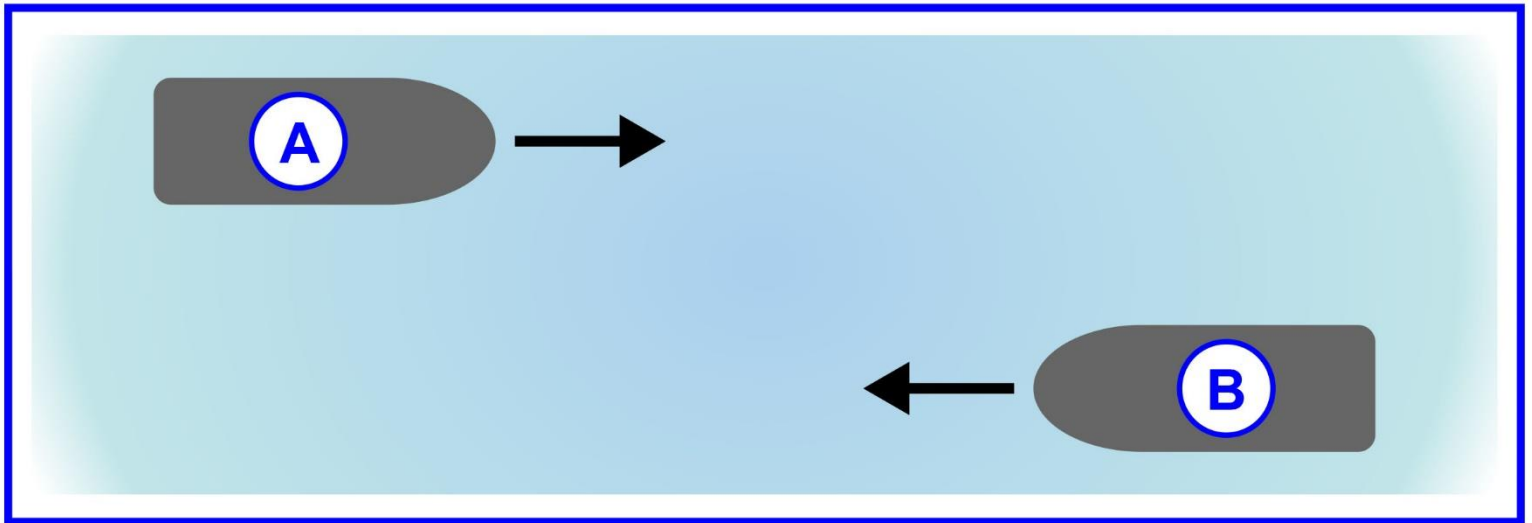
- A. Searchlight beam
- B. Flames from a burning barrel
- C. Continuous sounding of a fog signal apparatus
- D. Orange smoke signal

Correct answer: A

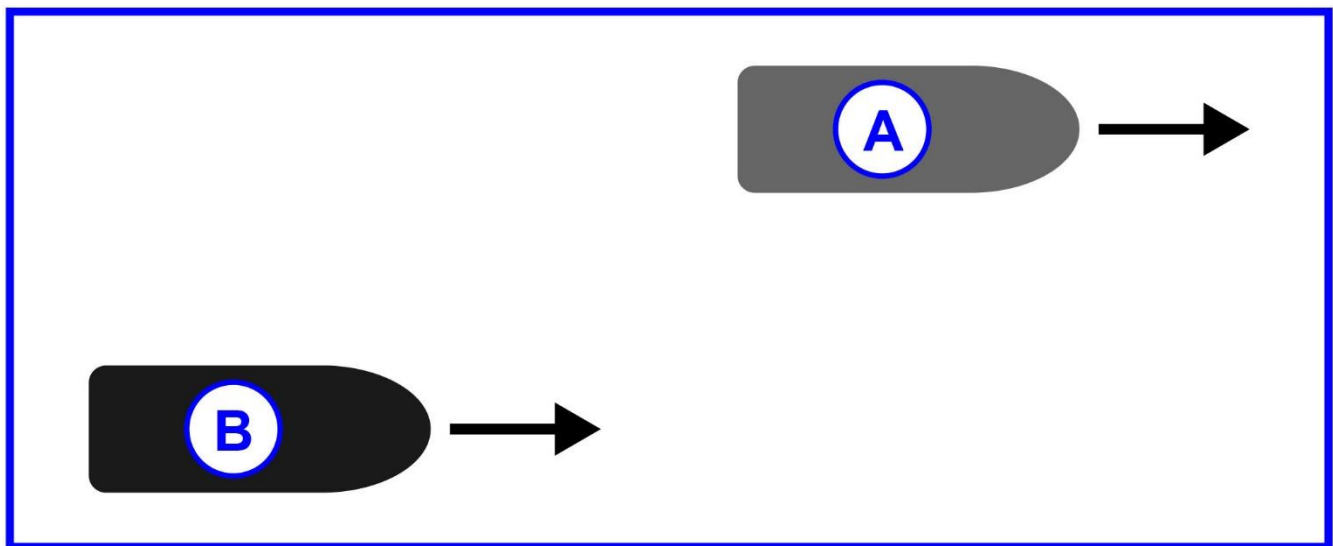
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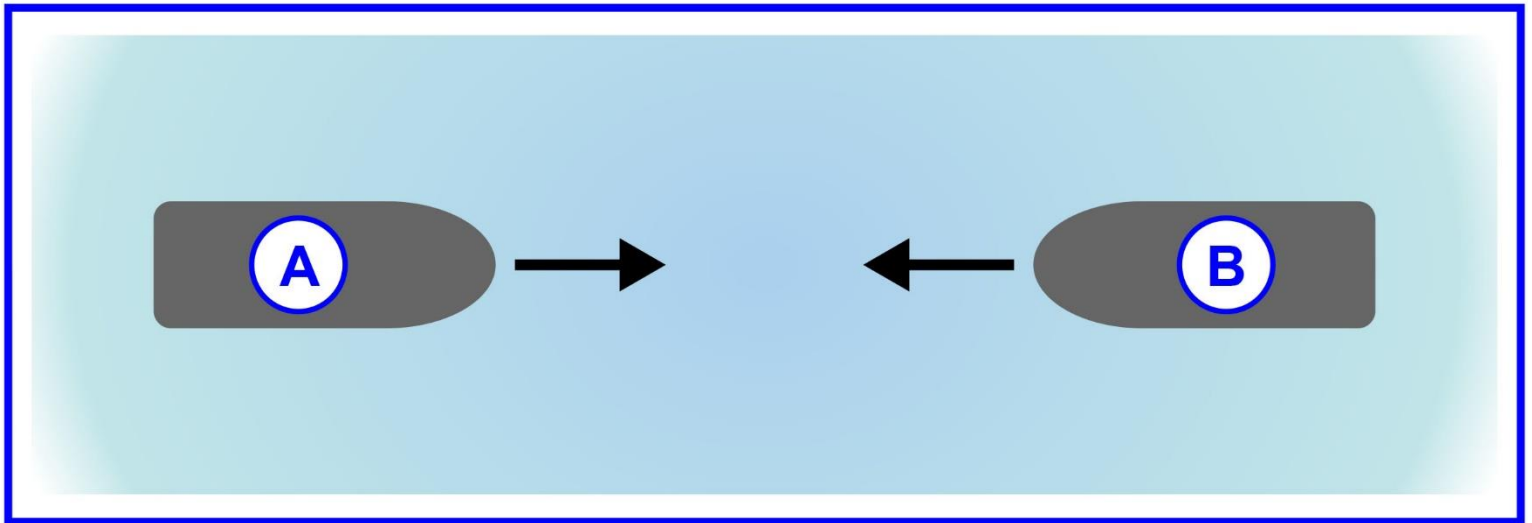
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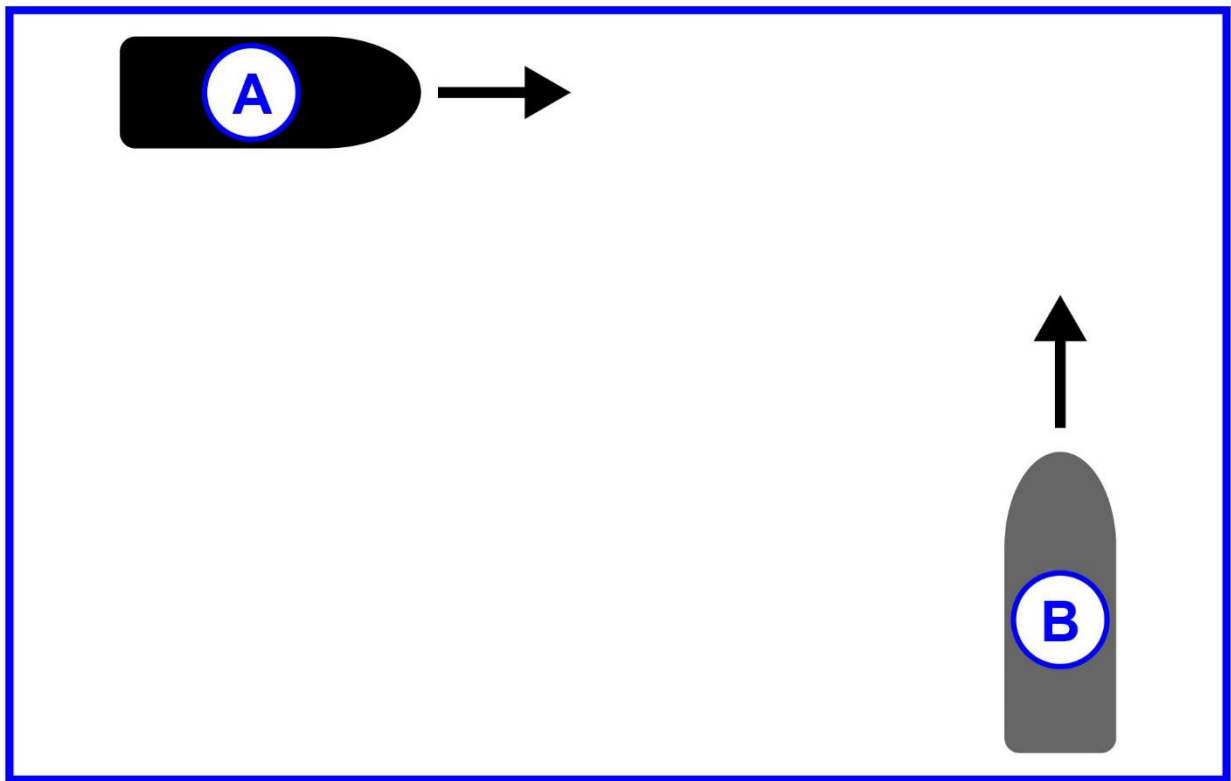
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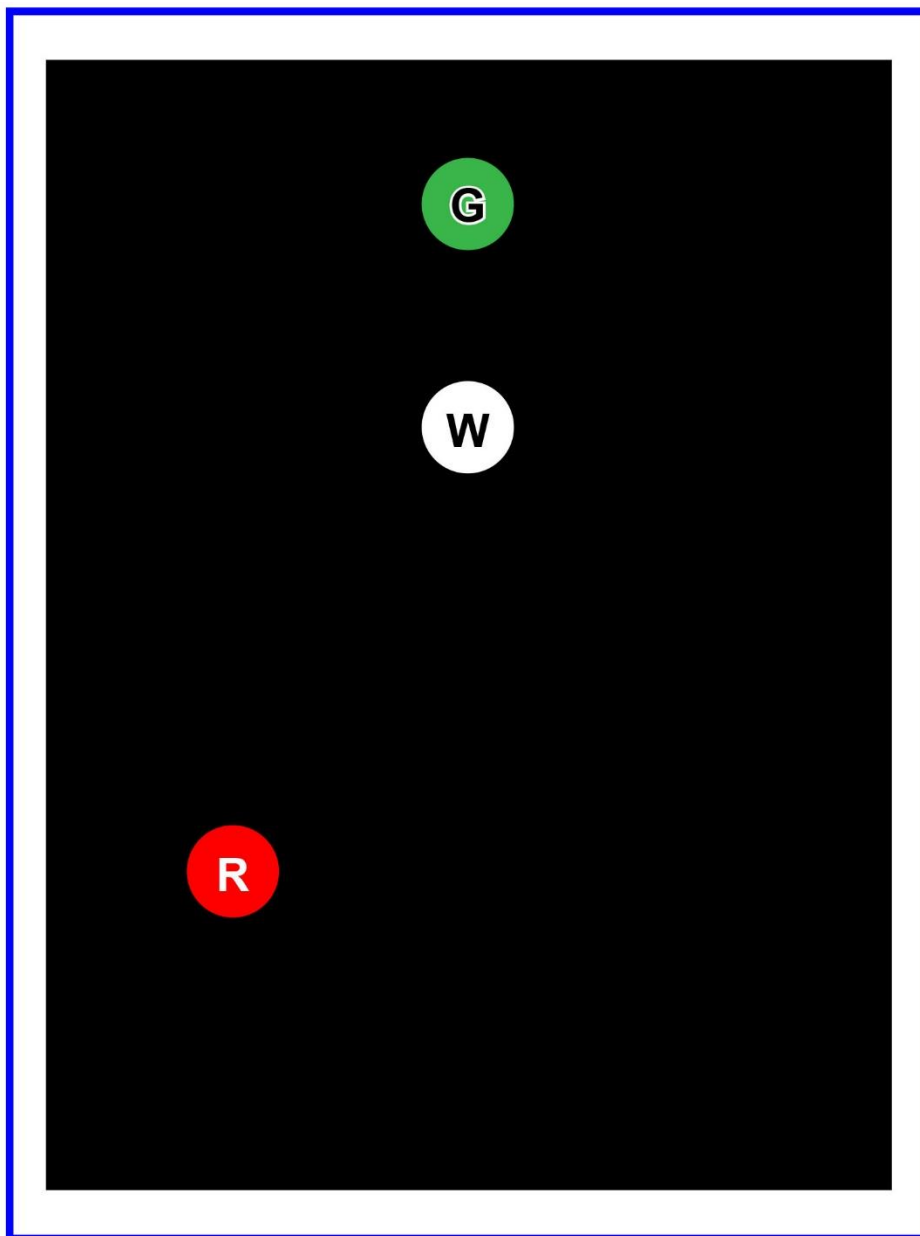
D037RR



D042RR



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D085RR

