

MASTERING ROAD SIGNS GUIDE

Introduction

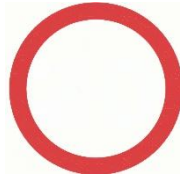
Road signs are one of the most failed subjects on the UK theory test, they are also a cause of confusion on UK roads. This guide is designed to help you understand what UK road signs mean, which will help you on your UK driving test as you can respond to the road signs correctly, meaning a less chance of failing.

SUNDERLAND
DRIVING

The different types of road signs

There are three different basic types of road signs, each type has a different shape and colour, the different colour and shapes usually mean it has a different function. The three types of signs are:

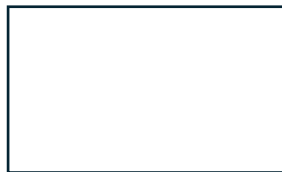
- Signs that give orders:



- Signs that give a warning:



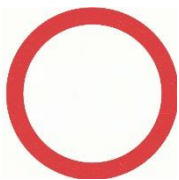
- Signs that give information:



There are a few exceptions (different shapes) to the road signs above, which give the sign greater prominence. I will go into these further in the guide.

Circle signs - different colours

So now we know that circle signs are to give orders, you can get circle signs which are with a red border, or blue circle signs. The meaning of these slightly change, but they are still orders.



Red Circle: A red circle sign is a sign that tell what you must not do. See below for examples, don't exceed 30 mph signs, no U-turns etc.



Red circle = Means you must not + Picture in the centre is of motor vehicles = So this sign means No motor vehicles.



Red circle = Means you must not + picture of a pedestrian = So the sign means NO pedestrians.

Can you see the common theme here, to work out what a sign means, you take the meaning and colour of the shape (Red circle) and the picture inside the shape, then this is the meaning of the sign itself.

This will enable you to understand what the sign is trying to tell you. For example, a red circle with a number 30 inside, means you must not (red circle) exceed 30 (30 image inside the red circle).



Blue Circle:

Blue circle signs have a slightly different meaning, they tend to give you a positive mandatory instruction, they also can indicate a route is available to a certain type of vehicle. When there is an arrow or shape in the blue circle, this is a positive mandatory instruction (examples below), when there is an image of a certain vehicle, this indicates the type of vehicle allowed along the route.

Some examples of these are below:



Blue circle: A mandatory instruction + a left arrow = You must turn left.



Blue circle: A mandatory instruction + a left downward arrow = You must keep to the left. This is a positive instruction telling you that to keep within your side of the road, you must keep left. This sign can be reversed and show a right downward arrow. This means the same but keep to the right.



Blue Circle: The blue circle also means a route available for a certain type of vehicle + picture of a tram in the middle = Route ahead for trams only.

Can you see the common theme here? A blue circle with shapes means a mandatory positive instruction like the examples above, and a blue circle with a picture of a certain vehicle in the middle, means a route only for vehicle show in the blue circle.

Rectangle signs: A rectangle is a sign that is giving you information, this could include something like directions to a certain route/area. The different colours have different meanings, these are outlined below.



White rectangle signs: White rectangle signs are used for direction signs on a non-primary route (not a main route/road). They can also be used to give further information partnered with other signs, such as warning or order signs.



Green rectangle signs: A green rectangle sign is used for direction signs on a primary route (a main route to somewhere).



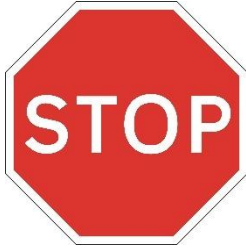
Blue rectangle signs: Blue rectangle signs are used for information signs. Except on motorways, where blue signs are used for direction signs.



This is an example of where blue signs are used for information signs.

Different shape signs for greater prominence

As mentioned earlier on in the guide, there are a few signs that are different to the usual shapes to give the sign more prominence. See below for these.



Stop sign: A stop sign is the only sign that is shaped like an octagon. This is to give the sign greater prominence, in certain weather conditions if the sign was to be covered for any reason you would still know what the sign's meaning was due to the shape.



The stop sign is covered by snow, but as it is the only sign that is an octagon, you can still understand its meaning.



Give way sign: A give way sign is an upside down triangle, this gives the sign greater prominence so when you are approaching and see the upside down triangle, you know you are approaching a give way sign.

Signs for tourist destinations

A sign for a tourist destination may be shown on a separate sign, usually with brown backgrounds, or incorporated into other road signs. See below for some examples.

