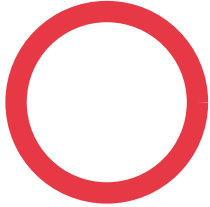


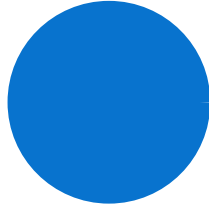
The visual grammar

Decode shape and colour before the symbol

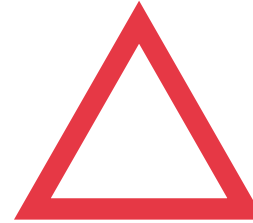
Four shortcuts remove most of the memorisation load

**RED CIRCLE**

Usually prohibits

**BLUE CIRCLE**

Usually instructs

**TRIANGLE**

Warns of danger

**RECTANGLE**

Informs or directs

How to use this guide

PASS 1 Scan each page by shape and colour

PASS 2 Cover the caption and name the meaning

PASS 3 Compare the lookalikes on page 10

ANY TIME Search the full catalogue on the site

The reading loop

1. Name the family

2. Read the symbol

3. State the action

4. Check the closest lookalike

The cards are concise summaries. Use the searchable site whenever you need the complete official caption or context.

Prohibitions

A red ring usually tells you what you must not do

QUICK MEANING



No entry for vehicular traffic

QUICK MEANING



No vehicles

No vehicles except pedal cycles being pushed by hand

QUICK MEANING



No pedestrians

QUICK MEANING



No ridden or accompanied horses

QUICK MEANING



Riding of pedal cycles prohibited

QUICK MEANING



No overtaking

QUICK MEANING



No U-turn

QUICK MEANING



No right turn

QUICK MEANING



No left turn

QUICK MEANING



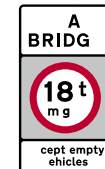
No vehicles over maximum width shown
(width shown in metric and imperial units)

QUICK MEANING



No vehicles or combinations of vehicles
over maximum length shown

QUICK MEANING

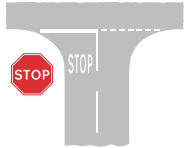


No vehicles over the maximum gross
weight shown

Mandatory and priority signs

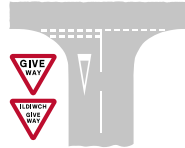
Blue circles instruct; STOP and GIVE WAY control priority

QUICK MEANING



STOP: stop before the line and make sure the way is clear

QUICK MEANING



GIVE WAY: give way to traffic on the major road

QUICK MEANING



Keep left (right if symbol reversed)

QUICK MEANING



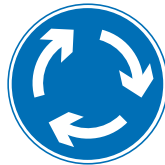
Turn left ahead (right if symbol reversed)

QUICK MEANING



Vehicles may pass either side to reach the same destination

QUICK MEANING



Mini-roundabout (give way to traffic from the immediate right)

QUICK MEANING



One-way traffic

QUICK MEANING



Give priority to traffic from the opposite direction

QUICK MEANING



Route for pedal cycles only

QUICK MEANING



Route for buses and pedal cycles only

QUICK MEANING



Shared route for pedal cycles and pedestrians only

QUICK MEANING



Separated track and path for pedal cycles and pedestrians

Junction and road-layout warnings

A triangle warns: identify the layout before reaching it

QUICK MEANING



Crossroads

QUICK MEANING



T-junction

QUICK MEANING



Side road

QUICK MEANING



Roundabout

QUICK MEANING



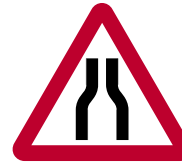
Bend to right (left if symbol reversed)

QUICK MEANING



Double bend first to the left (right if symbol reversed)

QUICK MEANING



Road narrows on both sides

QUICK MEANING



Road narrows on right (left if symbol reversed)

QUICK MEANING



End of dual carriageway

QUICK MEANING



Two-way traffic

QUICK MEANING



Two-way traffic on route crossing ahead

QUICK MEANING



Traffic signals ahead

Hazards, people, animals and cycles

Name the hazard, then decide what could enter your path

QUICK MEANING



Slippery road

QUICK MEANING



Uneven road

QUICK MEANING



Risk of falling or fallen rocks

QUICK MEANING



Traffic queues likely ahead

QUICK MEANING



Risk of ice. 'Ice' may be varied to 'Snowdrifts'

QUICK MEANING



Quayside or river bank

QUICK MEANING



Tunnel

QUICK MEANING



Pedal cycle route crossing or joining the road ahead

QUICK MEANING



Frail pedestrians likely to cross

QUICK MEANING



Children going to or from school

QUICK MEANING



Accompanied horses or ponies likely to be in or crossing the road

QUICK MEANING



Wild animals

Speed, bridges and crossings

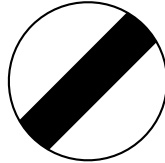
A red ring is a limit; a triangle is advance warning

QUICK MEANING



Maximum speed is 40 mph when it is safe to travel at that speed

QUICK MEANING



The national speed limit for the type of road and class of traffic applies

QUICK MEANING



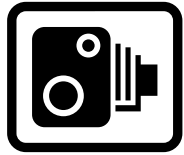
Minimum speed is 30 mph unless it is unsafe or impracticable

QUICK MEANING



Part-time advisory 20 mph speed limit at or near a school

QUICK MEANING



Reminder that traffic enforcement cameras are in use

QUICK MEANING



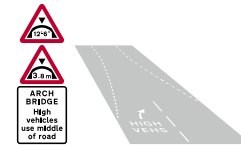
No vehicles over the height shown may pass

QUICK MEANING



Warning: maximum headroom under an overhead obstruction

QUICK MEANING



Maximum safe headroom at an arch bridge; road markings guide high vehicles

QUICK MEANING



Open level crossing without gates, barriers or road traffic signals

QUICK MEANING



Flashing pedestrian signal: stop; it is not safe to cross

QUICK MEANING



Zebra crossing: give way to people waiting and to anyone on the crossing

QUICK MEANING



Parallel crossing: zebra crossing with a cycle route alongside

Road markings, studs and traffic lights

Read the line nearest you and check that your exit is clear

QUICK MEANING



Lane line separating traffic travelling in the same direction

QUICK MEANING



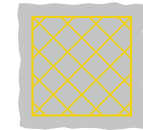
Hazard warning line; also used on approaches to hazards and junctions

QUICK MEANING



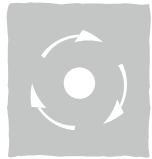
If the line nearest you is solid, do not cross or straddle it except where permitted

QUICK MEANING



Do not enter a yellow box unless your exit is clear

QUICK MEANING



Mini-roundabout: give way to the right and keep left of the white circle

QUICK MEANING



Keep this area clear of stationary traffic

QUICK MEANING



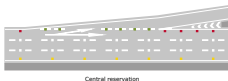
Direction pedestrians should look before crossing

QUICK MEANING



Vehicles must not pass this marking. May be used with the upright 'no entry' sign

QUICK MEANING



Road studs: white lanes; red left edge; amber central reservation; green slip roads and lay-bys

QUICK MEANING



RED means STOP. Wait behind the stop line on the carriageway until GREEN shows

QUICK MEANING



Amber means STOP, unless stopping safely is no longer possible

QUICK MEANING

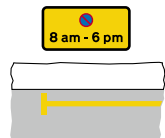


Green means go only if the way is clear; give way to pedestrians crossing

Parking, waiting and loading

The symbol, kerb marks, road lines and time plate work together

QUICK MEANING



Waiting prohibited between times shown on the sign

QUICK MEANING



Double yellow lines: no waiting at any time

QUICK MEANING



Loading prohibited between times shown on the sign

QUICK MEANING



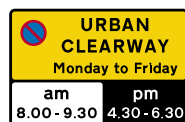
No loading at any time throughout the year

QUICK MEANING



Red cross: no stopping, even to pick up or set down passengers

QUICK MEANING



Urban clearway: no stopping at shown times except to pick up or set down

QUICK MEANING



Double red lines: no stopping at any time

QUICK MEANING



Single red lines mean no stopping during the days and times shown on the upright

QUICK MEANING



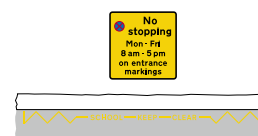
No waiting in taxi rank during the times shown

QUICK MEANING



No stopping in a taxi rank during the times shown

QUICK MEANING



School zig-zags: do not stop; an upright plate makes shown times mandatory

QUICK MEANING



Parking for electric vehicle recharging only during shown times

Motorway, bus, cycle and temporary signs

Background colour, lane symbols and temporary instructions matter

QUICK MEANING



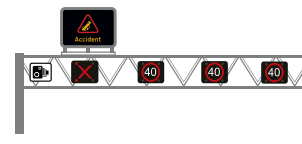
Start of motorway regulations

QUICK MEANING



Motorway exit countdown; each bar represents about 100 yards

QUICK MEANING



Red X: lane closed. Do not drive in that lane

QUICK MEANING



Emergency: use an emergency area or hard shoulder and stop near a telephone

QUICK MEANING



With-flow bus lane ahead; permitted users and operating times are shown

QUICK MEANING



Contraflow bus lane; upward arrows show the other traffic lanes

QUICK MEANING



Mandatory cycle lane: do not drive or park in it during operating times

QUICK MEANING



Advisory cycle lane: other vehicles should avoid it unless necessary

QUICK MEANING



Blue panel with motorway symbol: motorway or slip road begins at the junction

QUICK MEANING



Portable traffic light signals for the control of vehicular traffic

QUICK MEANING



Keep right of the road-works vehicle

QUICK MEANING



End of road works and associated temporary restrictions

Confusing pairs

Finish by explaining the difference aloud

NO ENTRY OR NO VEHICLES?



No entry for vehicular traffic



No vehicles except pedal cycles being pushed by hand

NO WAITING OR NO STOPPING?



Waiting prohibited between times shown on the sign



Red cross: no stopping, even to pick up or set down passengers

MAXIMUM OR MINIMUM SPEED?



Maximum speed is 40 mph when it is safe to travel at that speed



Minimum speed is 30 mph unless it is unsafe or impracticable

HEIGHT BAN OR HEIGHT WARNING?



No vehicles over the height shown may pass



Warning: maximum headroom under an overhead obstruction

ONE BEND OR TWO?



Bend to right (left if symbol reversed)



Double bend first to the left (right if symbol reversed)

NARROWS BOTH SIDES OR ONE?



Road narrows on both sides



Road narrows on right (left if symbol reversed)

FINAL CHECK: Can I name the family? | Can I state the action? | Can I distinguish the nearest lookalike in three seconds?