

Tales^{OF}THE Road

A highway code for young road users

A useful guide to keeping yourself and others safe on the road

First name:

Surname:



Remember!

- Always plan your journey
- Make sure you know where you are going
- Chose the safest route
- Leave yourself plenty of time for your journey

When the words 'must' or 'must not' appear in **CAPITAL BOLD RED AND UNDERLINED**, it means that if you do not follow that rule, you are breaking the law.

Walking

When walking...

Where there is a **pavement or footway**, use it.

Take care when crossing **cycle lanes** on the road. Cyclists may be travelling quietly but can be faster than other **traffic**.

If you are looking after someone younger than you, always hold their hand when on the road.

When there is no pavement, walk on the right hand side of the road to face the **traffic** coming towards you.

Walk one behind the other at bends in the road or at night, or if there is a lot of traffic.

Take special care if you cannot see the road very far ahead.



Be bright, be seen

Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent.

Fluorescent materials are good. They show up in daylight and at dusk.

Reflective materials are good at night.



The Green Cross Code

The steps you need to follow to cross the road safely

① First find a safe place to cross

...and where there is space to reach the **pavement** on the other side. Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a pedestrian **subway**, a **footbridge**, a **pedestrian island**, a **zebra**, **pelican**, **toucan** or **puffin** crossing, or where there is a crossing point controlled

by a police officer, a **school crossing patrol** or a traffic warden.

Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions.

Try to avoid crossing between parked cars, on a **blind bend** or close to the **brow of a hill**. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.



Watch video

Safer journeys
anthem



② Stop just before you get to the kerb

...where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching **traffic**.

③ Look all around for traffic and listen

Traffic could come from any direction.

Listen as well because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.

④ If traffic is coming, let it pass

Look all around again and keep listening.

Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain there is plenty of time.

Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.



⑤ When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run

Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly.

Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic.

Do not walk diagonally across the road.



The Green Cross Code

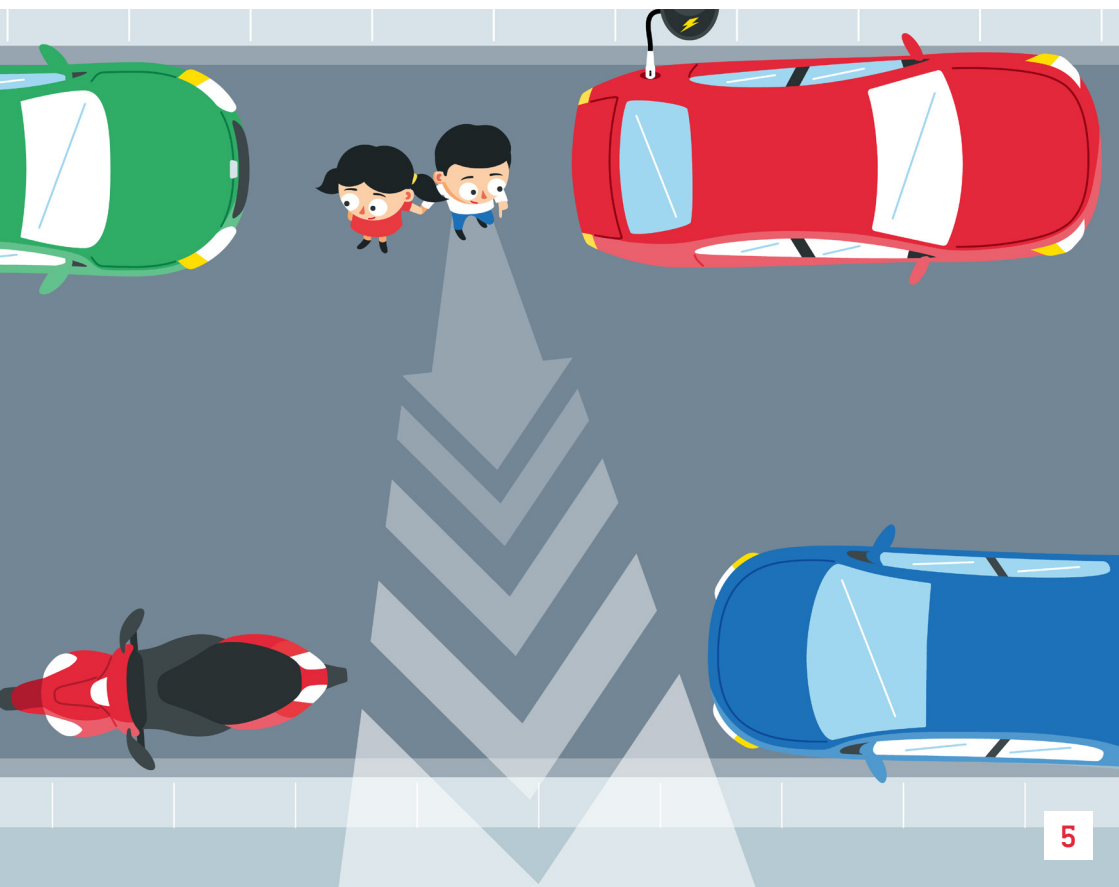
1. Find a safe place to cross
2. Stop just before you get to the kerb
3. Look all around for traffic and listen
4. If traffic is coming, let it pass
5. When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run, keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

Parked Vehicles

Try not to cross in between parked vehicles

But if there is nowhere else to cross:

- Choose a place where there is a space between two vehicles. Make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side of the road, so that you can reach the **pavement** on the other side.
- Make sure neither car is about to move off – look for drivers in the cars, car lights and listen for engines running. Never cross the road in front of or behind any **vehicle** with the engine running.
- Do not cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you are more likely to be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.
- Use the **Green Cross Code**. When the road is clear, cross. Remember to keep looking and listening for traffic as you go.



Using a crossing with traffic lights

Pelican crossings have a box with a red and green man, which is on the opposite side of the road to you. Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red man shows, do not cross. When a steady green man shows and the traffic has stopped, you can start to cross. Remember to keep looking and listening while you cross. When the green man begins to flash, you **should not** start to cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely.

Puffin crossings are slightly different, as the red and green man are above the control box on your side of the road and the green man does not flash

When the green man disappears, there could be:

- a red man signal
- no signal

Do not start to cross if the steady green man is not showing.



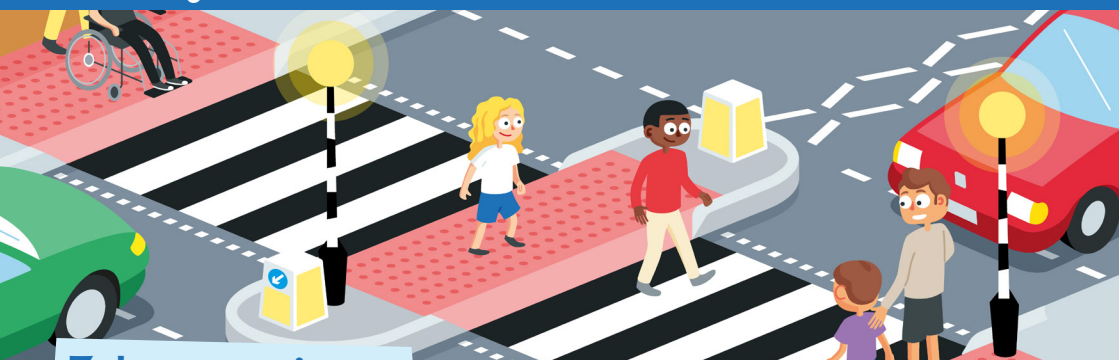
This is a
puffin crossing

Remember!

- Some green men will only work if a **pedestrian** pushes the control button.
- You may have to wait. Be patient.
- Cross the road quickly between the white stud marks.
Do not run.

- Some crossings have an island in the middle of the road. Treat each half of the crossing as a separate crossing; press the control button and wait for the green man.





Zebra crossing

Crossing at a zebra crossing

- If there is a **zebra crossing**, use it.
- Wait on the pavement near the kerb and give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross.
- Drivers need plenty of time to slow down, especially in wet weather when the road is slippery.
- After traffic has stopped from both directions, walk across on the black and white stripes.
- Keep looking all round and listening in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a **vehicle** that has stopped.

Crossing where there is an island in the middle of a zebra crossing

Use the Green Cross Code to cross to the **island**. Stop there and use the code again to cross the second half of the road. Remember to look all around and listen. Watch out for

drivers or riders who have not seen you and attempt to overtake the vehicle that has stopped.

If there is an island then treat each half of the crossing as separate crossings. Do not assume that vehicles will stop. Check that they have stopped before crossing.

Parallel crossings

Parallel crossings are for people walking and people cycling, with black and white stripes for people walking and white square markings for people cycling. When crossing, people driving will stop for people waiting to cross by foot or cycle.

Crossing at a junction

If you have to cross at a road **junction**, look out and listen for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you. Traffic turning in or out of a **junction** should stop to let you cross. Do not start to cross the road until the traffic has definitely stopped.

Crossing one-way streets

Use the **Green Cross Code** when crossing one-way streets. Check which way the traffic is moving. If there is more than one **lane** of traffic, do not cross until it is safe to cross the whole road without stopping.

School crossing patrols, police or traffic wardens

When school crossing patrols or police officers or traffic wardens are controlling the traffic, wait until they signal to you to cross the road. Always cross in front of them.

Pedestrian safety barriers

Where there are barriers, cross the road only at the gaps provided for pedestrians and use the **Green Cross Code**. Do not climb over the barriers or walk between them and the road.

Tramways

Take extra care where tramways run along the road. These may run through **pedestrian** areas. Trams move quietly and cannot steer to avoid you. Cross at designated crossings where provided.

Crossing bus lanes

In **bus lanes**, buses may go faster than other traffic and sometimes they go in the opposite direction to the other traffic. Cyclists, motorcyclists and taxis may also be using the **bus lane** so take special care when crossing them.



Railway level crossings

There are many kinds of crossings:

- They may have gates, full barriers, half barriers or none of these.
- There may also be warning lights, yodel or alarms.

You **MUST NOT go past the lights** when the red lights are flashing. Also, do not cross if an alarm is sounding or the barriers are being lowered.

Always stop behind the STOP line. Never go past a barrier that is down.



Remember, if the lights continue to flash or the alarm sound/spoken warning continues after a train is gone, another train is coming. It is not safe to cross until the lights go out.

If there are no lights showing, alarm sounds or barriers, you should still stop, look and listen to make sure it is safe to cross.

Look out for these signs:



1. Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead.



2. Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead.



3. level crossing without gate or barrier.

Remember!

Plan each journey

- Where do you want to go?
- What is the safest way to get there?

Make sure that drivers can see you

- What sort of clothes should you wear?
- Are you standing somewhere that is safe and visible to drivers?

Use the Green Cross Code when you are crossing the road

- What are the three most important things to do when crossing a road?
- Stop, look, listen

Rollerblading, scooting or skating

When rollerblading, scooting or skating...

Make sure you do so safely and without causing a nuisance to others.

- Use the **pavements**, and where possible use playgrounds, parks or special areas provided.

- Avoid busy areas and always take care near other pedestrians, particularly young children and the elderly.
- Look out for signs – rollerblading, skating or scooting may be banned on certain pavements and in certain areas.

Do not rollerblade, scoot or skate across the road. If you need to cross the road hold onto your scooter or skateboard and walk across the road. Always use the **Green Cross Code** when crossing.



Remember!

Respect other road users.

Cycling

Your bike – check it out

Make sure your cycle is safe to ride – You **MUST** ensure your brakes are efficient and tyres should be working well. Make sure your front and back lights work well, and your back reflector is clean.

When you have to carry anything on your cycle, use a bike bag or basket. Make sure you do not wear any loose clothing so that nothing can get caught in the chain or wheels.

It is recommended that you fit a bell to your cycle.

Before you set off

Always wear a cycle helmet that is the correct size and securely fastened – it will help to protect your head if you fall off.

Help other road users to see you. Wear light coloured or **fluorescent** clothing in daylight and at dusk, and something reflective at night.

Do not ride a bike that is too big or small as it can affect your balance.

Cycling in the dark

Wear reflective clothing and/or a reflective backpack or accessories (belt, arm or ankle bands) in the dark.

Before setting off make sure your lights are clean and are working. The lights **MUST** be lit at night.

At night your cycle MUST have a white front light and a red rear light, and they MUST be lit. Your cycle MUST be fitted with a red reflector at the back.



Remember if you have a dynamo on your bike your lights can go out when you stop.

On your bike

When you get on your bike look all around for traffic. Before starting off, turning right or left, overtaking, or stopping, you must look behind and make sure it is safe and then give a clear arm signal to show other road users what you intend to do (see page 23). When it is safe to move off, cycle away.

Always keep both hands on the handle bars unless you are signalling or changing gears.

Be particularly careful near large vehicles like lorries and buses. The drivers may not be able to see you.

Do not ride in the space between the vehicle and the **kerb**, because they may be going to turn left and you could be hurt.

When turning from one road into another, pedestrians who are crossing the road have **priority**, so **give way**.

? When you are next out in a car, look at the cyclists. Are there times when you cannot see them?
Which ones are easier to see and why?

Remember!

Use your eyes and ears all the time.



You **MUST** obey traffic light signals and road signs and the signals made by police officers, traffic wardens or school crossing patrols.

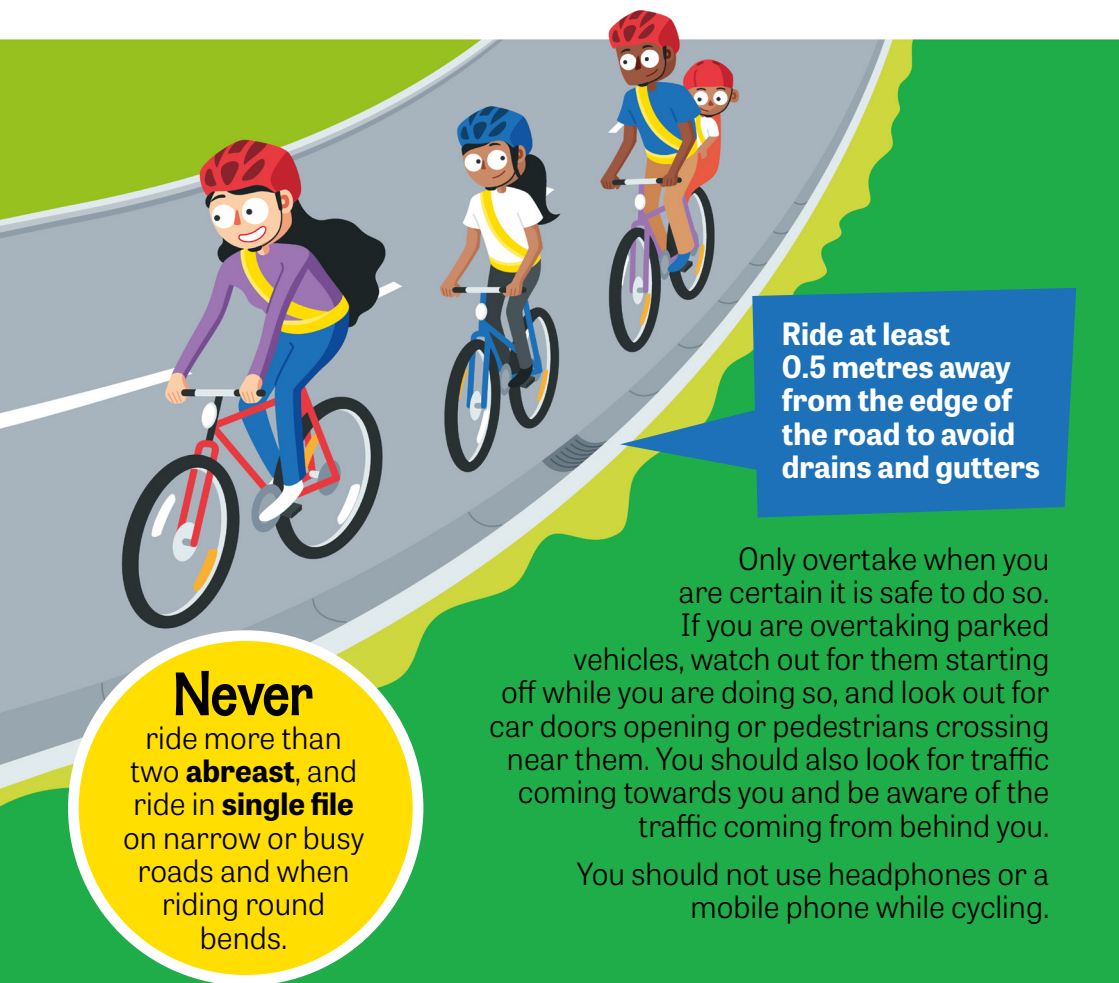
You **MUST NOT** hold on to a moving vehicle or trailer.

You **MUST NOT** carry a passenger on your cycle unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one.

You should never lead an animal while cycling.

Traffic can be unpredictable, so watch out for vehicles doing unexpected things.

If you want to turn right from a busy road, it may be safer to stop on the left hand side before or after the road junction and wait for a safe gap in the traffic before walking with your cycle across the road.



Ride at least 0.5 metres away from the edge of the road to avoid drains and gutters

Never ride more than two **abreast**, and ride in **single file** on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.

Only overtake when you are certain it is safe to do so. If you are overtaking parked vehicles, watch out for them starting off while you are doing so, and look out for car doors opening or pedestrians crossing near them. You should also look for traffic coming towards you and be aware of the traffic coming from behind you.

You should not use headphones or a mobile phone while cycling.

Parking your cycle

Always park your cycle thoughtfully so that it is not in the way of other people. It is best to use a cycle stand if there is one. Secure it well so that it will not fall over and become an obstruction or hazard.

Lock it to prevent it being stolen and have the frame marked with your postcode.

Cycling near animals

Be careful when cycling near animals. Give them plenty of room as you go by.

Do not scare them by sounding your bell or horn – they could injure someone.

Cycling routes and crossings

Where available, always use routes away from busy roads. In some areas special cycle routes, tracks and **lanes** are provided.

Parallel crossings

Parallel crossings often join cycle routes together. They allow people walking and cycling to cross the road.

When crossing you do not need to dismount, give **traffic** plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Remember to look all around and listen.

Pedestrian Crossings

You **MUST** **stop for pedestrians at zebra crossings.**

You **MUST** **stop for the red light at traffic lights, including those at crossings.**

These signs show the different routes:



Recommended route for pedal cycles



Route to be used by pedal cycles only



Route for pedestrians and pedal cyclists only



Segregated pedal cycle & pedestrian routes



With-flow pedal cycle lane

Bus lanes

Only cycle in **bus lanes** if there is a cycle shown on the sign.



Watch out for people getting on or off a bus. Be very careful when overtaking a bus or leaving a bus lane as you will be entering a busier traffic flow. Do not pass between a **kerb** and a bus when it is at a stop or signalling.

Tram tracks

Cyclists should take extra care when cycling close to or crossing **tram** tracks, especially if the rails are wet. It is safest to cross the tracks directly at a right angle.

Roundabouts

At **roundabouts** get off your cycle and walk on the **pavement** or verge if you feel unsafe. If you decide to ride round, you should **give way** to traffic coming from your right, and keep to the left hand lane. Be aware that drivers might not easily see you.

Take extra care when cycling across exits, you may need to signal right to show you are not leaving the roundabout. Watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout.

Give plenty of room to long vehicles on the roundabout as they need more space to manoeuvre. Do not ride in the space they need to get round the roundabout. It may be safer to wait until they have cleared the roundabout.



Remember!

Look after your bike and make sure it is safe. Make sure you are dressed in the right clothes:

- Light, bright, **fluorescent** reflective clothes
- A correctly fitted helmet

Make sure you can always see clearly and hear well.

Riding in cars



Seatbelts

Seatbelts **MUST** be worn at all times.

Children under the age of 12 and under 135cm in height **MUST** use the correct child seat, booster seat or booster cushion suitable for their weight and fitted to the manufacturer's instructions.

Riding in the car

- Do not block the driver's view in the mirror.
- Never lean or wave out of the window or throw or hang anything out.
- Only open doors or windows if it is safe.
- Keep your hands away from door handles while the car is moving.

Getting in or out of the car

When you get in and out of the car, use the door on the pavement side. Only get out when you are sure it is safe.

Using buses and trams

When you wait for a bus or **tram**, stand on the **pavement**, well back from the traffic. It is dangerous to play around at bus or tram stops.

Wait for people to get off the bus or tram before you get on.

Always do what the driver tells you and do not distract them.

If you do need to cross the road after getting off the bus or tram, wait for it to move away first so that the driver can see you, and you can see approaching traffic.

Remember!

- Always try to think about what might be happening around you.
- Make sure you can be seen.
- Drivers need to concentrate on what they are doing. Make sure that you do not distract the driver, no matter what **vehicle** you are travelling in.
- Where there are seatbelts always use them.



Animals on the road

Riding horses or ponies

All horses and ponies should be properly shod. Check that the saddle and bridle fit well and are in good condition.

Make sure you can control your horse. If your horse is nervous in traffic always ride with other, less nervous horses. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and a bridle.

Before riding off or turning, always look left, right and behind you to see if it is safe. Then give a clear arm signal and move off with both hands on the reins.

Avoid **roundabouts** wherever possible. If you have to use one, you should keep to the left and watch out for **vehicles** crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout. Signal right when riding across exits to show that you are not leaving. Signal left before you leave the roundabout.

When you lead a horse, always keep yourself between it and the traffic.

Make sure other road users can see you in the day and at night. Fit a **fluorescent** or reflective tail guard and leg bands to your horse and wear light coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility.

It is safer not to ride at night or in poor visibility. But if you do, a light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with bands to the rider's right arm and/or leg/riding boot. When leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand.



If you are under 14 years old you **MUST** wear an approved safety helmet, which **MUST** be fastened securely. Other riders should also wear a helmet. You should wear boots or shoes with hard soles and heels.



Taking care of dogs

Do not let your dog out on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the **pavement**, road or paths shared with cyclists or horse riders. Keep yourself between the dog and the traffic.

If you have a dog (or any other animal) in the car, make sure it is restrained so it cannot distract the driver or cause injury to you or themselves if there is a **collision**. Put the animal on a lead before getting out of the car.

Remember!

- Make sure you and your animal are safe.
- Be aware of other road users.
- Do not take your animal somewhere that will frighten it.

Road signs

Always obey traffic light signals, road signs and the signals given by police officers, traffic wardens and **school crossing patrols**.

Learn the meaning of all road signs and markings. Circular signs usually give orders, triangular signs give warnings, and rectangular signs give information.

Signs giving orders

These signs are mostly circular.

Those with blue circles usually tell you what you **MUST** do:



Keep left



Keep right



Turn left ahead



Turn right ahead



Ahead only



Mini roundabout (give way to traffic from the right)

Signs with red circles tell you not to do something:



No cycling



No right turn



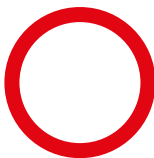
No entry to vehicles



No motor vehicles



No pedestrians



No vehicles

No vehicles except pedal cycles being pushed.

These two signs **MUST** also be obeyed:



Give way to traffic on major road



Stop and give way

Warning signs

These are mostly triangular



Road works



Slippery Road



Danger – words describe the danger



Children going to or from school



Steep hill downwards



Crossroads



Roundabout



Uneven road



Cycle route ahead



Road narrows on both sides



Traffic signals



Zebra crossing



Two way traffic straight ahead

Information signs

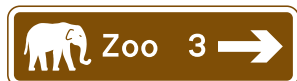
These are usually rectangular



One way street



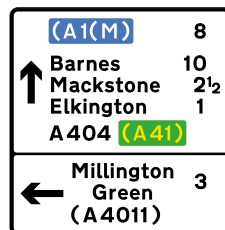
Recommended route for pedal cycles to place shown



Tourist attraction



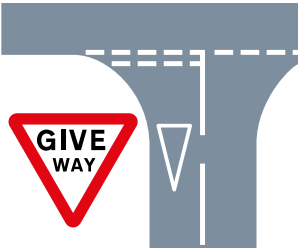
Route for pedestrians to place shown



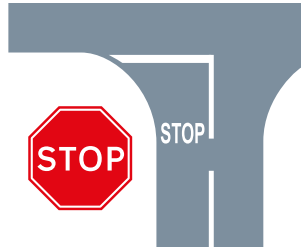
On approaches to junctions

Road markings

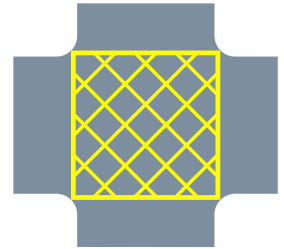
Across the road



Give way to traffic on the major road



STOP at the STOP line



Do not enter the box unless your exit road or lane is clear, except to turn right

Along the road



Lane line



Centre line



Hazard warning line



Drivers and riders **MUST NOT** cross double white lines



Drivers and riders **MUST NOT** cross solid line if it is on your side



Drivers and riders should not enter marked area unless it is necessary and safe to do so

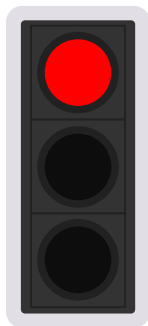


Pedestrian crossing zig zag lines. Vehicles **MUST NOT** overtake, wait or park in the zig zag areas. Pedestrians should not cross on the zig zag areas – they should always use the crossing itself.

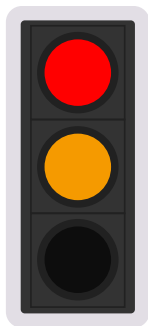


Vehicles **MUST NOT** stop on markings.

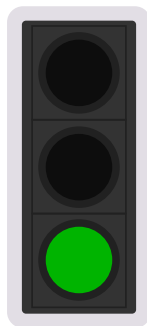
Traffic lights



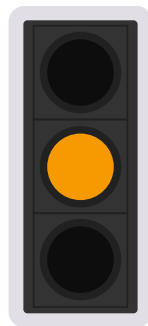
RED means 'Stop'. Wait behind the stop line on the carriageway.



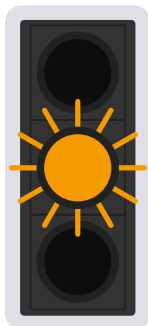
RED AND AMBER also means 'Stop'. Do not pass through or start until GREEN shows.



GREEN means you may go on if the way is clear. Take special care if you intend to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing.



AMBER means 'Stop' at the stop line.

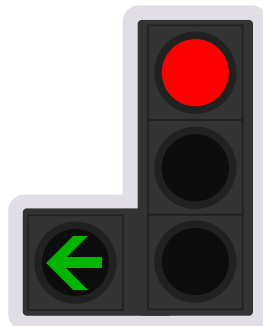


Flashing amber

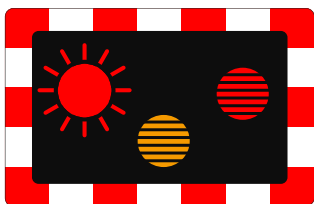
You **MUST** give way to **pedestrians** on the crossing. You may continue if there is nobody on the crossing.

Green arrow

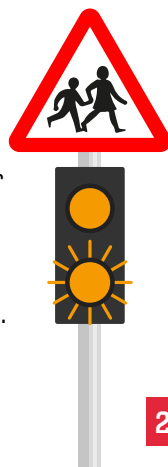
You can go in the direction shown, if it is safe to do so. You can do this with any other lights showing.



Flashing lights



Flashing lights mean you **MUST stop**. **Level crossings**, lifting bridges, airfields and fire stations are some of the places they appear.



Flashing amber lights tell you there could be school children crossing ahead.

Signals

School crossing patrols



Not ready
to cross
pedestrians



Barrier to stop
pedestrians
crossing



Ready to cross
pedestrians,
vehicles **MUST**
be prepared to
stop



All vehicles
MUST stop

Signals given by motor vehicles



I intend to
move out to
the right or
turn right.



I intend to
move in to
the left, turn
left or stop to
the left.



I am slowing
down or
stopping.



I am going to
reverse.

Arm signals



I intend to
move out to
the right or
turn right.



I intend to
move in to
the left or
turn left.



I intend to
slow down
or stop
(particularly
useful
at zebra
crossings).

Questions

Walking

QUESTION 1

Where is the safest and best place to walk if there is one?

QUESTION 3

Can you list the 5 things that you need to do to cross a road safely?

QUESTION 2

To help other road users see you, what should you wear?

Cycling

QUESTION 1

What should you always wear when riding a bike?

QUESTION 3

Can you list the 4 things you **MUST NOT** or should not do while you are cycling?

QUESTION 2

What colour should the front and rear lights on your bike be?

Rollerblading, scooting or skating

QUESTION 1

Where should you never rollerblade?

Riding in cars

QUESTION 1

What do you need to wear all the time that you are in the car?

QUESTION 2

Can you list at least three things you should not do while in the car?

Using buses and trams

QUESTION 1

Who do you need to listen to and not distract on the bus?

QUESTION 2

What things do you need to do while waiting at the bus or tram stop?

Animals on the road

QUESTION 1

What should you keep your dog on when walking on the pavement or road?

QUESTION 2

Where should you not take your animal?

Road signs and marking

QUESTION 1

What shape are warning signs?

QUESTION 2

Which sort of sign tells you not to do something?

QUESTION 3

Talk to at least one other person about which road markings you have seen near your school or home — what do they mean you should do?

Traffic lights

QUESTION 1

Which coloured light means you can go if it is safe to do so?

QUESTION 2

Which three colours or colour combinations mean you should STOP?

Signals

QUESTION 1

Who might use hand signals to help direct traffic or pedestrians?

Walking answers

- Q1. The pavement or footpath.
- Q2. Something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent. Something reflective when it's dark.
- Q3. 1) Find a safe place to cross.
2) Stop just before you get to the kerb.
3) Look all around for traffic and listen.
4) If traffic is coming let it pass.
5) When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run.

Rollerblading, scooting or skating answers

- Q1. On the road.

Cycling answers

- Q1. A helmet.
- Q2. A white front light and a red rear light.
- Q3. 1) You **MUST NOT** hold on to a moving vehicle or trailer.
2) You **MUST NOT** carry a passenger on your cycle unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one.
3) You should never lead an animal while cycling.
4) You should not use headphones or a mobile phone while cycling.

Riding in cars answers

- Q1. Your seatbelt.
- Q2. 1) Do not block the driver's view in the mirror.
2) Do not lean out of the window.
3) Do not throw or hang anything out of the window.
4) Keep your hands away from the door handles while the car is moving.
5) Do not get out of the car until you are sure it is safe.

Using buses answers

- Q1. The bus driver.
- Q2. Stand on the pavement well back from the traffic, and not play around. Make sure that you are easily going to be seen.

Road signs and marking answers

- Q1. A triangle.
- Q2. Signs with red circles.
- Q3. Answers here depend on your local area – check with a grown up if you're not sure.

Traffic lights answers

- Q1. Green.
- Q2. Red, red and amber, and amber.



Signals answers

- Q1. A police officer or traffic warden.

Well done



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